



## NEWSLETTER JULY - AUGUST 2016

Hello MG's,

Summer has finally arrived and I love the warmth. Sure would love some rain though! Remember to water all of your gardens and have someone do it if you are gone for two days, you won't have anything left otherwise! Watch out for the weeds that grow three times faster than the flowers/veggies!

Thank you gardeners and your helpers, who have made Suncrest Display Gardens beautiful again for the Tea and residents.

Thank you also to the Bakers, Fruit Cutters, Food Donators and the wonderful table Hostesses, and ALL the volunteers for all of your help for the Tea. I am sure it will be another SUCCESS, with all your help.

Please remember to enter your volunteer hours, when you finally sit down in the evening to rest. Enjoy the summer, it is always the shortest season, take advantage while it's here.

Blessings to all!  
Georgia Ellis  
Co-President

Dear Master Gardeners,

Well summer is finally here. But boy it is dry out there. I didn't plant a vegetable garden this year because I wanted the ground to replenish itself. I did a pot garden this year on my deck; the tomatoes, peppers and spices are doing just great.

The Tea is coming up this weekend and as of now the weather for the Sunday Tea is looking very promising. As I write this I have twelve pounds of pecans waiting to be candied. I wish everyone who will be working the Tea will have a great time. This is a good cause.

Happy Gardening!  
Ron Gotowicki  
Co-President

## **June Meeting**

The June meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on June 1, 2016, 6:30 PM at the Suncrest Display Garden Pavilion. Co-President Georgia Ellis opened the meeting with stacks of pizza, salads and desserts for the 40 members in attendance.

The minutes of the April meeting were published in the last newsletter with no corrections or additions. Mary Paine gave a detailed treasurer report, the Rummage Sale made \$800.00. Use the green Reimbursement sheets available from Mary or online.

Carol Skiba reported on the Tea. June 15, 2:30 PM is a Tea meeting to wrap door prizes. Following is a Display Garden workday and meeting. Sign-up sheets are available for the raffle, food, cleaning the garden and kitchen help. Rose has tickets left for the Tea.

Georgia introduced our newest members, Arlene and Lynne.

Help is needed for planting the flower boxes in downtown Lapeer on Saturday, June 4, meet at 9:00 AM at the Sherwin Williams building.

Saturday, June 18 is the S.W. Ontario Hosta Society visit to the Display Garden from noon until two-ish.

The extended registration deadline date for the Master Gardener College is June 12.

Carl Kern brought in tomatoes to share and passed out the free Garden Plastic Recycle cards.

Mary Ann McDonald reported on the Rummage Sale. The weather was great, lots of great items were sold, and leftovers went to Seven Ponds. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale.

Ken Mitchell gave a report on the Eastern Michigan State Fair. Tables are needed again this year, and volunteers are needed to help in the children's area. The work shifts are from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is available. Donations of gift baskets and plants are needed for the Silent Auction. The next Fair meeting is June 8, 1:30 PM at the fairgrounds. Call Ken for any questions. There are still LCMGA hats, visors, aprons and shirts available for purchase.

Pam Frampton reported on the Bigelow's Plant Sale, which made \$1,378.00. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the sale, and Walt Meyer and Mary Paine for taking the orders.

Co-President Ron Gotowicki introduced Jim Sillers who gave an interesting talk on end-of-life difficulties. He brought in grasses to share. There is a 1-hour education credit for attending this meeting.

The gift cards were awarded to Herb Hampel and Georgia Ellis.

Linda Ladoski  
Secretary

## Treasurers Report - July 2016

The Treasurer Activity is read at every LCMGA meeting and Display Garden Meeting and is reviewed at every Board meeting; each Board member receives a hard copy monthly. There is a hard copy available at every Association meeting for your review and questions. We had a very successful Tea Thyme in the Garden, I am still processing expenses. More info at the August Meeting.

Mary Paine  
Treasurer

## Volunteer Management System

Please continue entering your hours, if you need help let me know. Don't forget you may "clump" your hours for the week, the month or for an event. I will include the information on how much your personal items count for volunteer hours.

The website to enter your hours is: <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>  
If you need help with your password, call or email me: [justoveredge@charter.net](mailto:justoveredge@charter.net)

Mary Paine, VMS Ambassador for Lapeer County

## LCMGA Hours Tracking guidelines for VMS: What Counts and Doesn't?

Here are clarifications and reminders about our volunteer and education commitments.

Your hours are entered into the new VMS system. Hours prior to 2013 were transferred into VMS so you haven't lost past hours. These are **not** new guidelines, just summarized for you.

**Meeting credits:** If you are not an officer you do not get volunteer time for attending Master Gardener Association meetings. You do not count drive time to meetings. You can count the actual time a speaker spent talking for educational credits. Those of you who are MG Association officers can count association meetings for volunteer credit - any time that they do not count as education hours - you cannot count the same time period for both education and volunteer credit.

If you attend a **planning committee** meeting for any MG project you can count the time as volunteer time and also take volunteer credit for drive time. This includes Tea meetings, Display Garden, Eastern Michigan Fair, Children's Garden Classes, etc.

If you are attending a MG event - 2 hours of volunteer time for **each dish you bake** or cook, no travel time. Purchased items don't get credit, but everyone enjoys your treat.

If you need to bring a dish to a location and make a trip just for that purpose, 5 hours of volunteer time per dish. You cannot count extra time for travel.

There will be a **limit each year of 10 hours credit** for dish donations of all types. We don't want volunteer hours consisting of entirely of your cooking.

**Recipes** for a new cookbook would count 1 hour per recipe up to 10 hours per person. For trainees working on their first 40 hours only 5 hours will count. We want you to concentrate on things that involve learning and doing. No travel time for recipes. (NO new 2013 cookbook is planned.)

If you **hand make a raffle item** or item as a prize etc. for a MG event, count your actual hours spent making it up to 10 hours per item as volunteer time. If you bring that item to a location other than a meeting you planned to attend, you can count travel time. Trainees are limited to 10 hours.

Purchased items donated for fundraising, for prizes or projects for MG events that cost more than \$5 will count for 1 volunteer credit per item. Limit 10 credits for this. If an exceptionally large purchase and donation is proposed there may be some exception to this. Please discuss with Board members.

If you **grow plants** for the Eastern Michigan State Fair exhibits you can count 3 credits for each pot you care for up to 12 credits for trainees not working any other fair hours and 50 credits for everyone else. The plants must be things requested by those planning exhibits.

Also needed for the **fair** are people who can haul things in trucks or vans. You will get volunteer time for it. It may mean picking up stuff at people's homes and bringing it to the chairperson or the fairgrounds. For 2016 call Ken Mitchell and tell him what you can do.

**Silent auction items** are needed. These can be handmade or new or a gift you did not use. Small baskets or trays of small garden themed items would be great. If you donate an item you will get 1 hour of volunteer time for purchased items and the time it took to make a handmade item up to 10 hours. If you have an exceptional item that took a lot more time see the fair chairman for hours. Silent auction items can be given to the chairman or a board member.

More ways to get volunteer hours: folding banquet type tables - 3 hours for each table you bring to Fairgrounds. 2 hours credit if someone else picks up.

New **Master Gardener Classes** require volunteers to set up and cleanup the facility before and after the class and Assist the MG Facilitator. You may want to audit the class for educational credit; you may not count the hours as volunteer and education, pick one. Individual facilitators may have other requirements and these will be communicated to the Master Gardener Volunteers.

Updated 7/12/16 MCP

## **JULY**

### Newsletter

- 7/8 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Tea Prep  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/9 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Tea Prep  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/10 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - "Tea"  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/13 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 7/23-25 9:00 AM - E. MI State Fair  
Setup / Imlay City Fairgrounds
- 7/26-30 E. Michigan State Fair  
Imlay City Fairgrounds
- 7/31 9:00 AM - E. MI State Fair  
Teardown / Imlay City Fairgrounds

## **AUGUST**

- 8/3 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 8/6 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Mich Honey Fest  
Harvey Kern Pavilion / Frankenmuth
- 8/10 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/17 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

## **SEPTEMBER**

### Newsletter

- 9/14 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/21 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/21 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

## **OCTOBER**

### Garden Receipts Due October 1, 2016

- 10/4 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM - Project Red  
E. Michigan State Fairgrounds
- 10/5 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Township Hall / Bring Snacks
- 10/12 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/19 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools

- 10/19 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 10/22 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Fall Cleanup / Bring Tools

## **NOVEMBER**

### Newsletter

- 11/5 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Final Fall Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 11/16 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Activities Room

## **DECEMBER**

- 12/2 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Annual Holiday Awards Dinner  
Garden Gift Exchange / Mayfield Hall

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please send all newsletter articles and  
information for printing before the deadline on  
Sept. 6, 2016 to: Linda Ladoski:  
[tladoski@greatlakes.net](mailto:tladoski@greatlakes.net)

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Lakeshore Garden Club of Lexington, MI  
"Artful Garden Tour"  
Saturday, July 23, 2016 - 10:00 AM - 4:00

*“Like Wildflowers; You must allow yourself to grow  
in all the places you never would.” E. V.*

**2016 Eastern Michigan State Fair**

Fair Set-up: July 23 - 25 Saturday through Monday  
Fair Days: July 26 - 30 Tuesday through Saturday  
Fair Tear Down: July 31 Sunday

If you would like to work the Fair, please call Ken to find out what shifts are available. Shifts run from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

Help is greatly needed on Saturday, July 30.

We need donations of Garden Baskets, Plants and Homemade items for the Silent Auction. Please bring them to the fairgrounds on any of the set-up days.

Plants are also needed for displays. Plants grown for display but not for sale should be marked and can be dropped off on any of the set-up days.

We may need more tables, so if you have any we can use, please call Ken.

Please bring your Fairy Gardens on set-up days.

If you are unable to bring your items on set-up days, please call to make other arrangements.

See you at the Fair!

Ken Mitchell  
Fair Chairman

## **Project RED 2016 . . .**

. . . will be held at the Eastern Michigan State Fair Grounds (formerly known as the Imlay City Fair grounds) on Tuesday, October 4. All volunteers are asked check in at 8 AM, we should be done by 3:30 PM – more on time and details to come.

This is a project sponsored by Farm Bureau with the help of Ed Tech and Lapeer County Master Gardeners. You will be asked to lead groups of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to various stations where they will learn about farming.

A meeting is planned for Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> for those who would like to walk through the stations ahead of time to be better prepared for the Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> event.

**Let me know if you are interested in helping AND, if so, whether you have a *RED*, Project Red shirt or, if you DO NOT have one, - what SIZE.**

**Contact: Carole Billig**

**[carolebillig@yahoo.com](mailto:carolebillig@yahoo.com)**

*NOTE: You may take up to 3 hours as MG Education and the rest as MG Volunteer hours OR ALL as MG Volunteer hours.*

*You MAY NOT use the same hours for both (NO double-dipping!)*



## Display Garden on Suncrest - July 2016

I know I say it all the time but here it is again - if you haven't been there you should stop by and take a good long look. The Garden is more beautiful than ever even with the heat. In case you also don't know there are only about 20-22 volunteers and sometimes their family members who manage this beautiful, educational jewel, plus the 4 dedicated volunteers who are mowing regularly.

The construction does not seem to impact our activity and we have had their support when we ask. The facility maintenance crew assists when we ask and help with some of our heavier tasks.

All of the water features are running smoothly, Ron Klocek corrected whatever electrical problem we had.

We have had a good number of brick donations this year and private donations from resident's families to fund our new updated Japanese Garden.

We entertained the Canadian bus tour even though it was quick and somewhat disappointing because of their scheduling issues.

If you haven't seen them yet, there have been numerous Pokemon Go players walking through the garden looking for "the turtle, the dragon" and I'm not sure what else. I may have to try that.

MY biggest concern is that we do not have enough volunteers to maintain what we have now. My first thought is to fill in our beautiful water garden and then start turning beds into lawn.... WE obviously need more help and we are working on that. If you have an hour or two call me and I can suggest where you could help out. Please don't ask me to call you, that takes a lot of time I could be getting things done in the garden. If you have solutions, please tell me or any Board member. I look forward to enjoying what we have as long as we can keep it together.

Mary Paine  
Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest

We had a very Beautiful Tea Thyme last week and everyone praised our work and enjoyed the birds, bees, plants and other outstanding features. I thank those who work so hard and diligently to maintain the beds.



**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016 - 6:30 PM**

**SUNCREST / DISPLAY GARDEN PAVILION**

**\* BUSINESS MEETING \*  
\* SPEAKER \***

**\* SNACKS AND DESSERTS ARE WELCOME \***

**(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**