



NEWSLETTER – MAY / JUNE

Hello Master Gardeners

Well, spring is finally here (where?). It's been cool and wet out there. My grass is green, but my yard is a flood plain. It's too wet to cut. Between raindrops I did manage to get the branches cleaned up from the ice storm last year. Hopefully it will warm up so we all can get outside and get our work done.

The rummage sale went pretty well, considering it was raining. There was a large selection of items to be sold.

Don't forget the June meeting will be at the pavilion at Suncrest. There will be a pizza dinner and plant exchange. Please identify the plants you bring to exchange. Feel free to bring a dish to pass or dessert. Hope to see you there.

Happy Gardening

Ron Gotowicki
Co-President

Hi MG's

I am sitting looking out at the water from the Grand Hotel. Our weather at home is 32 degrees warmer and you have spring flowers blooming. Be happy! The Island will not have flowers for another 2 weeks. So we do have it good at home!

Please think of wonderful ideas for an awesome fundraiser that no one else has, to add to our depleting funds. All of the ideas we have are quite nice but we need more for the general fund not just Suncrest. The Rummage sale was cold and rainy but was quite good with the wonderful "mobile book sale"! Thanks to the special crew that are always there to do a great job! Hope to see everyone at the next Sunny meeting!

Georgia Ellis
Co-President

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on April 2, 2014 at the Mayfield Township Hall, with 53 members in attendance.

Co-President Ron Gotowicki opened the meeting and Linda Ladoski gave the Secretary report. The minutes were published in the March newsletter and approved. Judy Niergarth gave the Treasurer report.

Melissa reported that the loss of bees in the Display Garden hives was caused because of the extremely long and cold winter. The bees ate everything in the hive during the winter and starved. The Honey Festival has been moved to the Harvey E. Kern Pavilion in Frankenmuth. Mr. Zender will be speaking on the history of cooking with honey, along with many other activities. The festival will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2014. Check the website at: mihoneyfestival.com

Ruth Vrbensky, Oakland County Advanced Master Gardener and Native Plants Conservation Steward owner spoke about the importance of using native plants in the garden. Along with being easy to care for, natives are better plants for Michigan wildlife. Ruth presented a slide show with various plants for sun and shade. For more information visit: mnppa.org and the Oakland Wildflower Farm websites. There is a 1½ - hour education credit for attending this meeting. The group then enjoyed a break and snacks.

Carl Kern reported the recycling is continuing on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, # 2 and # 5 plastic can go in the regular recycling drop off, he is not sure yet about the # 6 plastic.

Mary Paine reported the first meeting for the E. Mich. State Fair project will be held on April 16 at 5:30 in the Display Garden pavilion. The dates for the Fair are Jul. 29 – Aug. 2, and volunteers are needed for the Exhibits, Silent Auction, Horticulture Education, Butterfly Tent, Japanese Garden, Updated Earth Tunnel, Hugelkulture, Michigan Mitten, and Fairy Garden Contest. A chairman is still needed.

Sandy Peterson passed out the sign-up sheets for Art In The Garden to be held on Saturday, August 23 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Friday the 22nd will be the set-up day.

Mary Ann McDonald reported that the May 3 Rummage Sale has been moved to the Lapeer County Center Building.

Judy Niergarth reported the Bigelow's Plant Sale is coming along; the 2nd transplant will be on Apr. 23rd.

Carol Skiba spoke about patronizing our local nurseries and garden centers instead of the big-box stores. Rose called everyone last Sunday and the Tea is sold out. There will be 238 patrons attending at 12:30 and 3:30 PM. Sandy added the Tea still needs "funky and special" door prize donations. Help is still needed and sign-up sheets were passed around.

Door Prizes were awarded and Barb Edwards won \$51.00 in the 50/50 drawing.

The next Association meeting will be the Pizza Party / Plant Exchange held Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 PM at the Display Garden Pavilion. Please LABEL all plants.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT April 2014

The Treasurer's report is read at every LCMGA and Display Garden Meeting and reviewed by LCMGA Board; each of them receive a hard copy monthly. The hard copy is available at every meeting for your review and questions.

The Solicitation/Registration form was submitted to the Attorney Generals office this week.

Reimbursement sheets can be found on the website - lc-mga.org.

Just a reminder, for reimbursement of approved expenses a "green sheet" and attached receipt are submitted to the Treasurer, in person or by US mail. A check will be returned to you at the next meeting or in the stamped, self-addressed envelope you provided.

Judy Niergarth
Mary Paine
Treasurer

WANTED:

Autumn Joy Sedums (the taller sedums) for the Butterfly / Herb Gardens at Seven Ponds Nature Center. Anyone who can split plants and donate, please contact Debra Lyman.

PLANTER BOXES AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

Master Gardeners have taken care of the Planters on the Fairgrounds for some time. There are about 6 or 7 planter boxes on the grounds of the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds. The past 2 or 3 years Jim Sillers has gathered the plants (they are donated by local nurseries), planted the boxes, sometimes he got help and watered them almost daily throughout the summer, mostly by himself. Before Jim, Gladys Warner took care of them.

Well, time for a change, how about a planting Team once we have the donations, planting will go quickly with many hands. Ken has already contacted the nursery near Brown City for plants. Then a watering Team, schedule folks for a week at a time, or share a week with a friend, go for lunch after. (It's only 17 weeks)

Would some of you please call Mary Paine and I will give you phone numbers etc, we need a **Coordinator**. Meet some gardeners you don't know.

Thanks in advance,

Your Lapeer County Master Gardener Association Board
Ron G, Georgia, Ken, Judy, Linda, Ron K, Jane and Mary

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing by mail or email before the deadline on July 7, 2014 to Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

SEVEN PONDS BUTTERFLY GARDEN 2014

Workdays are as follows:

April 16 Garden Clean-up 5:00-7:00 PM
April 23 Garden Clean-up 5:00-7:00 PM
April 30 Garden Clean-up 5:00-7:00 PM
May 7 Garden Clean-up 5:00-7:00 PM
May 14 Garden Clean-up 5:00-7:00 PM
May 21 Garden Clean-up 5:00-7:00 PM
May 28 Garden Planting 5:00-7:00 PM
June 4 Garden Planting 5:00-7:00 PM

SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER
3854 Crawford Road
Dryden, MI 48428

(810) 796-3200

<http://www.sevenponds.org>

Group Workday is the second Wednesday
of the month from June through October
5:00-7:00 PM

You can work in the garden anytime that is convenient for you, but please work on a group workday first. Bring your own gardening tools.

Rummage Sale Tale

Seven o'clock came early on a cold and raining Saturday at the opening of the Farmers Market. Not to be deterred, the Master Gardener Volunteers arrived with the tents, tables and trinkets. Setting up was soggy to say the least, but set up they did. Dishes and glassware were set up outside the tents in nature's dishwasher. Books were housed in two SUV's turned into "book mobiles". There was a craft & holiday tent and a large tent full of anything & everything.

Sales were as brisk as the weather for grand total of \$591.31. This is a remarkable number when you think of the new location, the road construction and the dreadful weather.

Thank you to all those that helped and donated items. Special thanks to: Ron Klocek and his magic tent, Jane & Fred Schade for their wonderful signs, SUV and staying most of the day. Pat Maitland for spending her birthday morning getting tables, tent and helping set up. Carole Billig, Mary Beth Kramer, Deb Larson, Trish Lambert, Ronda Laur for being there in the morning and some through the afternoon. Finally Carl & Derek Kern for their re-donating of the leftover items. If anyone was left off the thank you's – please forgive us.

We cannot do this event alone!

Thank you – Co-Chairs
Sandy Peterson & Mary Ann McDonald

2014

MAY

- Newsletter
5/3 7:00 AM - Assoc. Rummage Sale
Farmer's Market / Downtown Lapeer
5/14 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
5/21 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
5/21 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
5/21 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Suncrest Pavilion
5/22 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
Sorting Orders / Bring Lunch
5/24 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bigelow's Plant
Sale / Orders MUST be picked up
5/28 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools

JUNE

- 6/4 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Pizza & Plant Exchange / Pavilion
6/11 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
6/18 3:00 PM - Tea Meeting / Workday
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
6/18 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
6/18 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Suncrest Pavilion

JULY

- Newsletter
7/9 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
7/11 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Tea Prep
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
7/12 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Honey Festival
Harvey E. Kern Pavilion / Frankenmuth
7/12 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Tea Prep
Clean / Decorate / Suncrest Pavilion
7/13 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - "Tea"
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
7/29 - 8/2 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Imlay City Fairgrounds

AUGUST

- 8/6 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
8/13 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
8/20 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
8/20 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
8/22 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Art in the Garden
Set-up / Display Garden / Pavilion
8/23 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Art in the Garden
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
Actual Event Runs 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SEPTEMBER

- Newsletter
9/10 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
9/17 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
9/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

OCTOBER

- 10/1 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
10/8 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
10/15 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
10/15 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
10/25 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Fall Clean-up

NOVEMBER

- Newsletter
11/1 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Final Fall Clean-up
11/19 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Suncrest / Activities Room

DECEMBER

- 12/5 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Awards / Christmas Party/Gift Exchange

THE ELEVENTH THYME FOR TEA

"Say It With Words"

"I maintain that one strong cup of tea is better than 20 weak ones. All true tea-lovers not only like their tea strong, but a little stronger with each year that passes." George Orwell

"Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity." Lindley Karstens

The Display Garden on Suncrest will be full of guests on **Sunday July 13, 2014**, enjoying Tea and The Garden. The tea tickets are sold out. Tea Table hostesses are busying planning the decoration and china for their table. There are volunteer opportunities for the Tea. Sign up sheets will be available at the next Display Garden Meeting and the Master Gardener meeting in June. There are food items that are needed to be prepared and the need of Door Prizes. Remember all proceeds from the Tea support the Display Garden on Suncrest.

The next Tea Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 18, 2014**, at the Display garden pavilion at 3:00 PM. Following the Meeting is a Display Garden workday and meeting.

The next Tea Meeting is a workday. The projects to be accomplished are wrapping of the Door Prizes and wiring of the glass jars. Supplies that are needed: Ribbon, Wrapping Paper, Scissors, Tape, Baskets and Door Prizes. If you have something and need to drop it off, just leave the item at the Display Garden Shed tagged for the Tea or bring to a meeting and drop it off with me. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please give me a call. Thank you for your support of The Display Garden on Suncrest.

Carol Skiba
Tea Committee Chairman

ART IN THE GARDEN

This event is a go! There will be plenty of sign-up sheets at the June meeting. Help will be needed in the many areas. If everyone pitches in a little bit the workload will be lightened for all.

Areas to help with: promotion, parking, set-up & tear down, concession stand, hosting in the garden, learning station attendants, finding Garden Artists and many more. The learning stations will be in the pavilion and any Master Gardener should be able to help demonstrate some simple skills. This area is one of the most important to host and for some the most frightening. However you ALL have the skills, nothing in this area is beyond any single one of us!

We have the June meeting to really get committed. Mark off your calendars for August 22nd & 23rd for Art in the Garden. Let us make this first time event – the first of many.

If you have any questions, ideas, vendor names, please contact me.

Sandy Peterson
Art in the Garden Chairman

The application for vendors can be found on our website, which is www.lc-mga.org.

Eastern Michigan State Fair 2014

The Eastern Michigan State Fair is scheduled for July 29 through August 2, 2014. That is one week earlier than usual.

Ken Mitchell and Mary Paine are co-chairing this activity and we will need many volunteers to cover the week's activities. There will be free admission the day(s) you volunteer but that will not include rides or food. There is a new midway this year, so surely you should come!!

Set-up will begin on Saturday, July 26 and continue Sunday and Monday, if necessary. We will be in the green barn as we have been for several years. Just like other years we have some wonderful exhibits and a downsized silent auction to cover expenses, we hope. If YOU would like to help with the silent auction, we do need help, please call either Ken or Mary.

Shifts to support the 5-day event will be 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Sign-up sheets will be available at the June Association Meeting at the Display Garden! Or call either Ken or Mary.

Our exhibits so far include Pollinators and the Butterfly house with live butterflies, the Earth Tunnel (we are partnering with Seven Ponds for this update), Edible plants and Herbs, Hugelkulture (we know more about this one now), and a Keyhole Garden. Wait until you see the Japanese Garden and the Hydroponics set up.

The Michigan Mitt will make another appearance with more handouts in our Information Area. The information will include, hopefully a sign-up for a Sept. class, Master Gardener requirements and an opportunity to ask us questions. If there is room, we will include information about our fundraisers and local projects. A small, unless we get some help, Silent Auction and lest I forget, a **Fairy Garden Contest!!** Applications and rules will be available soon.

Sooo, we need help with some plants too for the inside of the building and the doorways, hopefully some of Bigelow's leftovers but we will need some pollinators for the butterfly area and additional herbs (Bigelow's perennial sale) and whatever so visitors know we are GARDENERS!! If you can keep some of these plants at your home until the 27th of July, we will get them to fairgrounds if you can't.

Yes, it's a lot of work and as always a lot of FUN. Also it is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our charge as an educational resource to the Lapeer Community! Please Help.

Mary Paine and Ken Mitchell

Display Garden on Suncrest April / May 2014

Despite the weird weather this year the Display Garden is shaping up for another awesome year, if I do say so myself. We have lots of bright daffodils, a good number of tulips and a smattering of hyacinths and the snow finally melted. Barb Hunter braved the really cool Water Garden and has the water so clear you can easily count all the fish that made it through the winter. She too is doing some remodeling in and around the Water Garden. Come visit the new occupants.

If you haven't been there in the past three weeks, you are missing the excitement of creating new beds and remodeling others. I only suggested a change to the path through the Herb Garden (last fall), and now the path has moved about 30 feet south. Probably looking for the sun. The Obelisks from the Woody Ornamentals decided they preferred a more central location and have

found a new home in "Sandy's Favorites" soon to be populated. Not to be left behind, the Butterfly Garden decided it needed a facelift to keep up with its neighbors, so it too is in a state of mild upheaval. Spring cleaning is a site to behold.

Ron has even been moving and removing grasses since last fall's cleanup and you remember Jane cleaned her Japanese house of the blue rug Junipers last year. That's probably how all this started! Yeah Jane. I'm not sure yet about the Children's Garden but they did get a new pathway and their Green Roof last year, but there is still some space and I talked to the Pussy Willows this spring and they are asking for a new location. They need more air.

Not to be left out, Pam K. is moving her little grasses out and trying to coax the holly shrubs to get themselves together (rough winter for them, somehow they did not get a blanket of snow to protect them). The Knockout roses were removed from her bed due to a disease, so a surprise is coming by Fred's Fountain.

Of course the Annual Bed likes to surprise us every year - a clue, the frames are still around but I bet they will be configured differently!

Maurene is always moving, removing, dividing and adding perennials, AND the Rock Garden is very quietly making some pattern changes. Don't know where Ruth finds all those delicate plants that highlight the area and changes them through the season. Guess what's not changing, the Hydrangeas, Heucheras and Hostas are staying put, cause WE like them that way and WE don't have time or desire to move or add (well maybe just one more here and there).

We need help adjusting the coping in several areas, so please call me. Larry is unable to do that kind of work this year but we can easily show anyone who is able to get down on the ground how to correct the frost upheavals.

Lots to see, lots to do, it is changing so fast, don't miss it.

The Tea is coming July 13 and the Master Gardeners of St. Clair County will be here June 17, for their meeting. We will meet there June 4, 6:30 PM.

Mary Paine
Chairman, Display Garden on Suncrest

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014 - 6:30 PM**

**DISPLAY GARDEN ON SUNCREST
1455 SUNCREST DRIVE
LAPEER, MI 48446**

**** SPEAKER: JANE SCHADE **
* BUSINESS MEETING *
* PIZZA PARTY *
* "LABELED" PLANT EXCHANGE *
* BYO-CUP AND A DISH OR DESSERT *
(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**

