



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

Hi everyone! Winter is really here. The pine trees look greener because everything else looks blah!! Just keep in mind it's a fun time of year.

Please keep the homeless and less fortunate in mind when buying gifts. It would be great if every one of us could buy warm socks and gloves and donate to your church or a shelter near you!

I am looking forward to the Christmas meeting and the great decorations being prepared and the Christmas cactus talk! Looking forward to seeing you all for a fun delicious time! Friday, Dec. 5!

Blessings to all for a loving holiday season.

Georgia Ellis

Co-President

Hello Fellow Gardeners

Thank you to all volunteers for your very hard work this past year. I hope to see everyone at the December meeting. We have a nice evening planned.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

Ron Gotowicki

Co-President

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday October 1, 2014, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. Co-President Georgia Ellis opened the meeting with 43 members in attendance. Georgia introduced Jan Burns, an Herb Specialist for 21 years. Jan spoke about the history of Halloween and how to use herbs as salves and tinctures. There is a one-hour education credit for attending this meeting.

Sign-up sheets were available for the Christmas Party Dessert volunteers, the 2015 Garden Tour, and a chairman or co-chairs are still needed for the Eastern Michigan State Fair project.

The Treasurer report was given by Judy Niergarth, and the minutes of the August meeting were published in the newsletter. Mary Lou LaFond motioned that the minutes be approved as read. Carl Kern seconded the motion, and the members approved.

Sandy reported on Art In The Garden. It was awesome, fun and the vendors were great. Members brought up the suggestion of having Art In The Garden and the Garden Tour every other year. The members discussed the possibility of combining both events. More media coverage was also suggested.

Georgia spoke about the upcoming Farm Tour and the Lapeer Conservation District's Fall Tree Sale. The MSU Extension anniversary party will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 4 - 7:00 PM at the Extension office. Hazardous waste disposal sign-up deadline is Oct. 3.

MMGA will email or notify you after certification to apply for the \$5.00 insurance program.

Nominations for awards are needed for the December meeting.

Budgets for 2015 are now due.

The Lions Den at the Fairgrounds is hosting "Grow It, Cook It, Eat It" on Nov. 10 for \$20.00

A Master Gardener Class is now being held in Macomb County, and in Oakland County starting in January.

Project Red has 5 stations this year. Wear your jacket to Monday night's meeting.

Education hours for speakers throughout 2014 will be online and printed in the next newsletter. For the [dues, fees & education document](#) please [click here](#).

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT - November 2014

The Treasurer's activity will be read at every LCMGA and Display Garden meeting and is reviewed by the Board; each Board member receives a hard copy monthly. The hard copy is available at every meeting for your review and questions. The proposed 2015 budget will be published in January 2015 Newsletter.

Judy Niergarth
Treasurer

*** IMPORTANT NOTES ***

December Meeting

The December Meeting will be held on **FRIDAY**, December 5, 2014, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. Bryan's will cater dinner; let Mary Paine know if you plan to attend. A short business meeting, elections of officers, awards, and if you still need education hours, a speaker on Christmas Cactus are all planned for the evening. The optional Gift Exchange will be held, (\$15.00 garden gift). Contact Ken Mitchell to give a gift of a LCMGA hat, t-shirt or apron. Monetary donations will also be collected for our charity this year: HDC's Walk for Warmth.

Nominations for Awards are still needed for the December meeting. Please let Mary Paine know (as soon as possible) the name of your outstanding volunteer(s) for this year.

Membership Renewal Time

Membership in the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association is on an annual basis. The dues are still \$10, with access to web site and newsletters. If you want a hard copy newsletter, an additional \$6 is required to cover printing and postage. Bring your membership form to the December meeting or mail to Lapeer County Master Gardener Association, P.O. Box 543, Lapeer, MI 48446. The form is online and printed in this newsletter.

Note: Life members are not required to pay the annual dues but need to pay the \$6 if they want a hard copy newsletter mailed to their home. Established honorary lifetime membership to the Association: The criteria are 55 years of age, certified Master Gardener for 10 years and have 500 hours of volunteer time.

Mary Paine

Master Gardener Hours Input for Certification

The deadline for inputting your volunteer and education hours into the MSUE Volunteer Management System is December 31, 2014. The web site:
<https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

If you have forgotten your password the system will email you a new one; if you need help PLEASE call me.

The requirement is still 15 hours of volunteer work and 5 hours of education to be eligible to re-certify. Re-certification begins January 7, 2015 and ends January 31, 2015....You will get a reminder from the system and from me...I will be happy to assist you in re-certification in January.

We have attached a sheet in this newsletter with education opportunities from our meetings and dates of membership and certification.

Looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and volunteering!! Also having FUN!

Mary Paine
VMS Ambassador

Display Garden on Suncrest

What a great year in the Garden--- we made many changes (unplanned at this time last year, but the winter gets us thinking of other possibilities!!)

Who knows what next year will bring, hopefully nice weather? But I shouldn't complain, I was concerned about mildew with all the zinnias we planted this year, we didn't have any on them and they held up so well!! Yes, it rained the day before the Tea but not on Sunday and we had such a great turn out and a great time.

The irrigation system caused some headaches and worries and we couldn't keep the fountain and gazebo waterfall running at the same time, but they could run separately! Anyway that's on next years budget. Not much has been done for the system since it was installed. The compost bins changed a lot, we lost one bin; then the finished bin was so full I thought it would be an issue, but somehow most of it was used, someplace. We are trying to plan a "last" shred for the balance of the debris.

I took down the Halloween Ghost and guess I should recover the pumpkin before we have a lawn of pumpkins next year. The Garden looks very empty everywhere and I noticed a few more maintenance issues but it is still very pleasant to walk through all the paths and see all the details you and I missed this summer when there were so many, many beautiful plants. So stop by and enjoy the quiet, no running water, stroll through--you can still pause and rest on the iron benches and begin your plans for next year. Or just enjoy a totally different, very quiet vista.

See you at the holiday meeting! Thanks for all the great volunteering again this year!

Mary Paine
Chairman, Display Garden on Suncrest

Happy Holidays

From your Lapeer County Master Gardener Association Board

Co-Presidents: Georgia Ellis and Ron Gotowicki

Vice President: Ken Mitchell

Secretary: Linda Ladoski

Treasurer: Judy Niergarth

Directors: Ron Klocek, Jane Schade and Mary Paine

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014 - 6:30 PM**

**MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL
1900 N. SAGINAW
LAPEER, MI 48446**

- * BUSINESS MEETING ***
- * SPEAKER ***
- * CATERED DINNER ***
- * ELECTION OF OFFICERS ***
- * AWARDS ***
- * CHRISTMAS GARDEN GIFT EXCHANGE ***

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)