



Please Note

Calendar update:
(effective 1-22-14)

February 5, 2014

Speaker – Janet Macunovich “ Winter Landscapes “
Limited seating; members only

April 2, 2014

Speaker - Ruth Vrbensky - Native plants in the Urban Landscapes



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014

Dear Master Gardeners,

Well, here we are right in the heart of winter. All sorts of things were thrown at us. First, we had the freezing rain, then no power for 80% of Lapeer. We had no power for five days. That was some experience. We figured out we were not pioneers. We had some heat from the fireplace, and had a camping lantern for light. The worst was no water. Next, we had sixteen inches of snow. I am still cleaning from that. In fact, I just got my truck out of the pole barn this week. Who could forget the polar vortex? It sure was **COLD**. I hope that we experienced all winter had to offer in the last three weeks.

Spring will see me cleaning tree branches from my pines and the large willow we had in the back yard. The willow was leaning on the chimney until the ice melted. The willow will need to come down this spring.

On the bright side, the seed catalogs should be here soon, and then we can start thinking about warmer weather.

Ron Gotowicki
Co-President

Happy New Year 2014,

I hope everyone made it thru the ice storm / snowstorm in good shape. The trees took a hit and will need some creative trimming to make them look good. Thank you for electing me your new vice-president. I am still new to being a master gardener and constantly learning more every year on gardening. My wish is to see the association thrive in the coming year. See you at the Feb 5 meeting, and please BYO Coffee Cup.

Ken Mitchell
Vice-President

DECEMBER MEETING

Carol Skiba welcomed and thanked the 40 members and guests for attending. Co-President Georgia Ellis presented Mary Paine with a Kindlefire gift from all of the Master Gardener members. Bernadette Hayes made Mary a horse-head shaped wreath.

Co-President Ron Gotowicki said grace, and everyone enjoyed the catered dinner by Bryans.

Georgia opened the business portion of the meeting. The minutes of the October meeting were published in the newsletter. Kay Johnson motioned that the minutes be approved, and seconded by Mary Paine. They were approved by the membership. Mary Paine gave the Treasurer report.

Ken Mitchell was nominated for Vice-President and Pam Frampton nominated for Treasurer. Barb Hunter motioned to vote by acclimation instead of paper ballots and Marylynn Darr seconded the motion. The members voted unanimously for the election of these new officers.

Chad Perkins from Fosters, Inc. gave an interesting talk about growing and caring for Poinsettias. He passed out an instruction sheet, which is included in this newsletter. There is a ½ hour education credit for attending this meeting.

Awards were then presented; a complete list is printed in this newsletter.

There is a garden project located at 4290 Diehl Rd. about 3 miles off Pratt Rd. See Georgia for details.

Hours must be turned in by Dec. 31. The MG fee for certification is \$20.00.

Marylynn Darr won \$100.00 in the 50/50 drawing; many door prizes were given out.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

THANK YOU

A special Thank You to the decorators for the December meeting: Sandy Peterson, Mary Ann McDonald and Carol Skiba. The tables were beautiful! And a special Thank You to Jane Schade for providing jars of honey from the Display Garden for the table prizes.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

TREASURER'S REPORT - January 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 Draft LCMGA Budget is included in this newsletter and will be voted on at the February Meeting. Because of this all members will get a mailed Newsletter this month. If you have questions please contact one of our Board Members.

No word yet on our 501(c)(3) application but I was reminded recently that we were probably delayed by the two-week Government shutdown and Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We have had no requests for additional information either.

Judy Niergarth is just starting as Treasurer, standing-in for Pam Frampton, newly elected Treasurer. I will be doing the Year-end closing and arrange for our audit again, and take care of 990-tax form with Judy.

LCMGA dues is still \$10 and due in January; the application is included in this newsletter and also available on lc-mga.org

Mary Paine/Judy Niergarth
Treasurer

VMS Reminder for Re-certification

Thanks to all of you who got their 2013 hours entered and congratulations to those who reached milestones. The fee is still \$20.00, can be paid by check or credit card. You may also join (\$5) the state Master Gardener organization (MMGA,Inc) - directions and link included. If you have any issues or need a question answered just call or e-mail me. I will continue to be VMS Ambassador for Lapeer County this year.

Re-certification started January 6 and ends January 31. There will be a late re-certification period but there will be a \$5 additional charge.

Mary Paine

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

I have arranged for Ruth Vrbinsky, Master Gardener from Oakland County to be our speaker for our February 5, 2014 meeting at Mayfield Township. Ruth will speak on Native Plants in the Urban Landscape. She is an expert in the Native Plant area and speaks at garden clubs in many Counties. Ruth has no specific fee but I suggest we pay her \$50 for travel, she is ok with that. Ruth is the person who has been so generous and helpful with our 501(c)(3) package.

Mary Paine

Display Garden on Suncrest - January 2014

So far, the Display Garden is managing very well during this very cold, wet, stormy winter. I stopped by there today (1/12/14) and although there is about 9-10" of snow still covering everything I didn't see any large broken branches or shrubs bent to the ground. The water garden heater is keeping a thawed pocket; I think one of our many wet rainy days shut it off for a couple of days. Hope the fish are doing ok.

The sidewalk up the East side of the Garden is kept clear as a fire escape route but that is the only cleared area. Also, I think I know why my picea hydrangeas were a little "puny" last year. Maybe a little too much salt, will need to take a closer look in the spring.

If you haven't been there, both the Displaygardenonsuncrest.org and lc-mga.org have awesome photos. Thanks to Carl & Derek.

We have another exciting year planned in the Garden so be sure to join us at our first Display Garden Meeting February 19, 6:30 PM. Looking forward to seeing you in the Garden, exciting changes to come, please join us.

Mary Paine, Chairman, Display Garden on Suncrest

P.S. For those who supported our update of the Courtyard at Suncrest - Carl reports everything still looks good, the Santa blow-up is still there, the snow pretty deep inside. All of the little green tops of shrubs peeking out of the snow.

"May you have warm words on a cool evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a smooth road all the way to your door."

SAY IT WITH WORDS 11TH TEA THYME IN THE GARDEN - Sunday, July 13, 2014

The first Tea Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Lapeer Medical Care Facility (Suncrest) first floor conference room. This is the same room we always have our first meeting at. Any questions give me a call. This is a planning meeting.

Carol Skiba, Tea Chairman

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Master Gardeners of St. Clair County present "Practical Knowledge for the Avid Gardener, a Symposium" on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Cost is \$80.00 for registration before Feb. 21, 2014. For more information and reservations, contact Sandy Billings at (810) 367-3399 or go online to the website: <http://msue.stclaircounty.org>

MSU Extension presents: "Plants of Distinction 2014" on Monday, February 3, 2014 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids, and on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Novi. Cost is \$80.00 for registration before January 27,

2014. For more information and reservations, contact MSU ANR Events at (517) 353-3175 or go online to the website: <http://events.anr.msu.edu/plantsofdistinction2014/>

BIGELOW PLANT SALE

Now is the time to start thinking about the Bigelow Plant Sale. Last year, orders needed to be turned in by mid-March, not too far away. Pam Frampton, Judy Niergarth, and Marylynn Darr will be working on orders, and lots of volunteers will be needed for transplanting, getting plant orders ready, and working the day of the sale. A sign-up sheet for volunteers, and more information will be available at the February meeting. This is a great fund-raiser for our association, and a great way to buy low-priced perennials.

A Simple Cure

By: Sarah Carpenter, MSUE Program Instructor

Many gardeners long for spring to arrive so that their fingers may once again find the soil they have been searching for, during the long winter months. Dreams of deep green grass, brightly colored flowers, and the taste of garden fresh produce make the cold days seem longer. The large amount of snow we received in the past few weeks makes it seem like the warm days are still far away and the winter blues may have started to settle in. However, the fantasy of gardening can become a reality in just few simple steps.

An indoor herb garden is a quick fix for gardening withdrawals. First, you will need a sunny window (one that receives at least 5 hours of sunlight) and your house should be kept between 60 and 70 degrees. Next you will need to search for those empty pots you stashed away last May and some potting mix. The most difficult task in starting your herb garden will be deciding what to grow. Take into consideration the herbs you use most often in your cooking and which herbs are most likely to grow well in the environment available to them. Some herbs that will do well in an indoor garden are basil, chives, dill (be sure it is a dwarf variety), oregano, rosemary, and thyme. Before buying seeds check with gardening buddies to see if they have any seeds or starters to share with you. There are a lot of websites and gardening books that can provide you with the information on how to start and maintain your indoor herb garden. And while you are researching herb gardening information, don't forget to look up some recipes to put your fresh herbs to good use!

Starting an indoor herb garden is more than a simple cure for gardening withdrawals, but it's healthy for us too! Using fresh herbs and spices is a great way to enhance the flavor of food and to replace salt and sugar in our diets. Some flavorful combinations are:

Basil- tomatoes, pasta sauces

Chives- dips, potatoes, tomatoes

Dill- carrots, cottage cheese, fish

Oregano- peppers, tomatoes, Italian dishes

Rosemary- chicken, fish, lamb, roasted potatoes

Thyme- eggs, poultry, potatoes, lima beans

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” - **Marcus Tullius Cicero**

**2013 Michigan State University Extension
Lapeer County Master Gardener Association Recognition**

Master Gardener Golden Shovel

Pat Maitland

Master Gardener Volunteerism

The Carl Kern Family
Carl Maurene and Derek

Master Gardener Emeritus

Mick Hodgson

Advanced Master Gardener

Jackie Delisi
Mary Beth Kramer
Jackie Marvin
Ken Mitchell
Janis Smyczak

Master Gardener Volunteer

Debra Balcer
Gina Delisi
Colleen Foxlee-McDonough
Sarah Graver -Trainee
Eric Hendricks - Trainee
Da'Shawn Robertson - Trainee

250 Hour Pins

Debra Brown
Al Butler
Sylvia Graham
Joe Jurek
Mary Beth Kramer
Patricia Lambert
Carol Leonard
Ed Piorkowski
Carol Wong

500 Hour pins

Ken Daniels
Georgia Ellis
Herb Hampel
Bernadette Hayes
Betty Kennedy
Linda Ladoski

1000 Hour Pins

Pam Frampton
Maurene Kern
Carol Liblong
Joyce Margrif

1500 Hour Pins

Barb Hunter
Ron Klocek
Jane Schade
Carol Skiba

2000 Hour Pin
Marylynn Darr

2500 Hour Pins
Sandy Peterson

3000 Hour Pins
Carl Kern

4000/4500 Hour Pin
Carole Billig

How do I become certified as a Master Gardener? Within one year of completing the Master Gardener training program, complete a minimum of 40 approved volunteer hours. Check with your local program coordinator for complete details about the types of activities that qualify as approved hours.

After that first year, how many volunteer hours do I need to maintain my certification?

You will need to complete at least 15 approved volunteer hours and enter them into the Volunteer Management System (VMS) prior to Dec. 31 each year.

Do I need to complete any other education to earn my initial certification? No, you do not need additional hours beyond the successful completion of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training program to become certified as a Master Gardener Volunteer.

After that first year, how many hours of education do I need to complete to maintain my MGV certification? You need to complete at least five hours of approved education programming and enter the hours into the Volunteer Management System prior to Dec. 31 each year. Check with your local program ambassador for details about approved programming.

How do I become an Advanced Master Gardener? You need to complete an additional 50 approved volunteer hours and an additional 25 education credits within five years of your original certification date. These hours are cumulative, adding up from one year to the next. Advanced certification does not replace annual recertification requirements. It is a recognition of outstanding service and commitment to the Master Gardener Program. It is important to enter hours you have completed beyond the requirements for certification since they do count toward advanced status.

The title, 'Master Gardener Emeritus' is used to designate MGs no longer able to fully meet the volunteer service requirement for annual recertification. This designation is not intended for individuals who elect to pursue other interests or activities (i.e. job/career needs, raising a family, serving in other organizations, etc.). It is not intended for individuals who elect to be less active in the Michigan Master Gardener Program.

Candidates for emeritus status must meet two of the three following criteria:

- 1.) Minimum of 500 hours of volunteer service
- 2.) 10 years of volunteer service
- 3.) Exemplary service to the MSU Extension MGP

CARING FOR YOUR POINSETTIA YEAR AROUND

First, be sure you choose a plant with small, tightly clustered yellow buds in the center. Look for crisp, brightly colored, undamaged bracts (leaves). Avoid plants that are displayed in drafty areas.

Place the plant in a room with plenty of bright, natural light staying at least 6" from the window. Keep out of drafts (door that open to the outside and heating ducts) and away from appliances and refrigerators, and never place it on the television set.

Water only when dry; discard excess water that runs through the pot's drainage holes. If wrapped in foil, make sure the pot doesn't sit in water inside the decorative wrap.

NEW YEAR'S DAY--Fertilize with an all-purpose houseplant fertilizer at recommended rates. Continue to provide adequate light and water for prolonged bloom for several weeks.

VALENTINE'S DAY--Check your plant for signs of insects such as white fly. If your plant has become long and leggy, cut back to about five inches tall.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY--Remove faded and dried parts of the plant. Add more soil, preferably a commercially available sterile soil mix. Keep the plant in a very bright interior location.

MEMORIAL DAY--Trim off two to three inches of branches to promote side branching. Repot to a larger container using a sterile growing mix.

FATHER'S DAY--Move the plant outside for the summer; place in indirect light.

FOURTH OF JULY--Trim the plant again. Move it into full sun. Continue to water and fertilize but increase the amount to accelerate growth.

LABOR DAY--Move indoors to a spot that gets at least six hours of direct light daily, preferably more. As new growth begins, reduce the amount of fertilizer.

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX--Starting on or near Sept. 21, give the plant 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness (put the plant in a closet, basement, or under a box) and 11 hours of bright light each day. Maintain night temperatures in the low 60 degree F range. Continue to water and fertilize. Rotate the plant daily to give all sides even light.

THANKSGIVING--Discontinue the short day/long night treatment. Put the plant in a sunny area that gets at least six hours of direct light. Reduce water and fertilizer.

CHRISTMAS--Enjoy your "new" poinsettia. Start the cycle all over again.

Merry Christmas!!

Chad Perkins, Foster's Inc.

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014 - 6:30 PM**

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

**** SPEAKER: RUTH VERBINSKY **
* BUSINESS MEETING *
* 2014 BUDGET APPROVAL *
* SEED CATALOG EXCHANGE *
* BYO CUP ***

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)