



## NEWSLETTER – JULY / AUGUST 2014

Fellow Gardeners,

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July has come and gone. I hope everyone had a safe holiday. The children are out of school now; the state parks and campgrounds are full. My vegetable garden is doing quite well now. That is with the second planting. The rabbits usually get the first. It will not be long now before I will be picking tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.

Tea Thyme in the garden is fast approaching and a lot of work is going into preparing for it. The gardens and grasses are looking good. I hope that we will have enough rain to keep everything at it would best. I am wishing you a happy summer and a green thumb for the rest of the season.

Best Wishes,  
Ron Gotowicki  
Co-President

Hello everyone,

Finally a relaxing day! The Tea is over for another successful Year!! The Lord and our MG friends upstairs gave us sunshine and a beautiful day! We had a few mishaps -- a lost check, lost fruit (both were found). Someone ALMOST lost the tip of a finger, (it was glued back on). The wind on Saturday played with Carol's tent, and sent sheets of rain to the back of the pavilion but all were fixed! The kitchen staff was TERRIFIC! Thanks to Deb Brown, Paulette Johnson and Carol Wong who has worked with me since I started in the kitchen! (She's brave)! Ron Gotowicki who always helps out and does ALOT of the lifting. This year we had another gentleman volunteer who was a GREAT help! Thanks Sal Delisi!!! I had 3 of the hardest working young ladies I have EVER met! Thanks again to Gina Delisi and Chris and "M" Hayes! They were like whirlwinds! I want to send out an extra special Blessing to Carol Skiba for ALL of her dedication and hard work throughout the year to pull this event off! Mary Paine.... what can I say, without YOU we would be nothing!! Thanks Chicky for always being able to help everyone everywhere!!! Barb Hunter thanks for your knowledge for all of the tours! Ladies and gentlemen Thanks for your hard work on all the gardens they are exceptional this year! Please thank your families also! The food was Great, the new mini cupcakes delish and LOADS of work, the Veggie Pizza AAAAwesome!!! Thank you all, for making the kitchen a LITTLE less stressful!

Our next meeting is at For-Mar August 6th. See ya all there!

God Bless,  
Georgia Ellis  
Co-President

## JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on June 4, 2014 at the Display Garden on Suncrest Pavilion, with 46 members in attendance.

Co-Presidents Georgia Ellis and Ron Gotowicki opened the meeting, the members enjoyed pizza and desserts.

Speaker Jane Schade gave a very interesting talk about the importance of bees, and growing bee-friendly flowers in our gardens. There is a ½ - hour education credit for attending this meeting. The Honey Festival will be held in Frankenmuth on Saturday, July 12, 2014, and will have Mead tasting.

Linda Ladoski published the Secretary report in the newsletter. Mary Paine motioned to approve the minutes and Carol Billig seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Judy Niergarth gave the Treasurer report.

Carl Kern reported on the garden plastic Recycling. Please do not leave any plastic behind the garden shed; it is no longer being picked up there, or at the local nurseries. Please recycle it on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. # 2 and # 5 plastic can be included with regular plastic, # 6 must be separated.

Pam Frampton thanked all of the volunteers for the Bigelow's Plant Sale. The fundraiser netted \$1,170.00 for the Association.

Mary Paine reported on the Eastern Michigan State Fair being held July 26 – August 2. Sign-up sheets for volunteers were available, and filled baskets for the Silent Auction are needed. Mary and Ken Mitchell are co-chairing this year.

Sandy Peterson spoke about the May Rummage Sale, a cold and rainy day. The new location was great and netted just under \$600.00. Sandy also reported on the plans for the Art In The Garden fundraiser on Saturday August 23, 2014. Master Gardeners will man learning stations and some ideas are tools, vegetable gardens, flowers, potting plants, Hypertufa, and homemade potpourri stations. One station will include gardening literature and MSUE handouts. Starbucks is providing coffee and tea. The Vendor fees will go to the Association, concession stand money to the Display Garden. Volunteers are also needed Friday, August 22 for set-up.

Mary Paine spoke about the Lifetime Membership rule: members are eligible if they are 55 or older and have been certified for 10 consecutive years.

Carol Skiba reported on the Tea on Sunday, July 13, 2014. There is one ticket left. Sign-up sheets for food needed were available, and fresh flowers are needed on the day of the Tea. The next Tea meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18 at 3:00 at the Display Garden Pavilion. Following at 4:00 is the Display Garden workday.

A sign-up sheet was available to order embroidered hats.

Door Prizes were awarded and Ed Piorkowski won \$42.00 in the 50/50 drawing.

The Plant Exchange was held with lots of nice plants going home with new owners.

Linda Ladoski  
Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report July 2014**

The Treasurer's report is read at every LCMGA and Display Garden meeting and 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.

Judy Niergarth  
Treasurer

### **Education Opportunity:**

The Friends of Herbs at Seven Ponds will host speaker: **Jim McDonald** - innovative Michigan herbalist and wildcrafter on Tuesday, August 19 at 7:00 PM at Seven Ponds Nature Center. He will share with us what herbs and weeds can be harvested during this time of year.

Pre-registration is required by calling 810-796-3200 to reserve your seat. Join us for a wonderful informative program; cost is \$5.00 per person.

### **2015 Election of Officers**

Nominations and voting for the 2015 / 2016 offices of President and Secretary will take place at the December meeting. Please contact any Board member if you would like to volunteer and be nominated. The present officers have agreed to serve a second term unless someone else is interested in serving.

### **2015 Garden Tour**

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2015 Garden Tour next summer. Volunteers will be needed for planning, weeding, and help on the day of the Tour. Volunteer your garden.

### **Michigan Fresh – Fact Sheets**

57 Fact Sheets on Fruits, Vegetables, Food Preservation, Food Safety, General Gardening Tips, and Lake Whitefish, many including recipes are available for free downloading from the MSU Extension website at: [msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi\\_fresh](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi_fresh)

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing by mail or email before the deadline on September 5, 2014 to: Linda Ladoski: [tladoski@greatlakes.net](mailto:tladoski@greatlakes.net)

## Eastern Michigan State Fair July 29 - August 2, 2014

Just 3 weeks until the opening of the Fair, the volunteers with exhibits have been planning and working on the details for several weeks. Just to remind you we have some very nice, educational and beautiful exhibits in the works. We will have Hugelkulture, a Keyhole Garden, Edible Plants and Herbs, Fairy Garden Contest (yes you can enter), the updated Earth Tunnel, a Japanese Garden, Butterfly House with live butterflies and examples of Pollinators, an Aeroponic Garden Tower, the Michigan Mitt and Master Gardener Information Table.

This year our Silent Auction will be Garden Baskets, provided by our members as we discussed at the June Meeting. Rick Talaski thought this might turn out to be a great new fundraiser for the Association and we agree. Also the baskets don't have to be cared for all summer as the plants we used to use. So, PLEASE make up a Garden Basket for the Fair, if you don't have time to wrap it you can meet Mary Paine in town, or at the Garden, and the fair Committee will finish wrapping. If you want to make a basket with a friend, that would be even better. Mary will also take the Baskets anytime NOW. We have a volunteer storage area so you won't have to have it in your way.

Last, as always we need help setting up on Saturday, July 26 at 9:00 AM in the green barn adjacent to the Lions building. WE still have shifts open during the week, you will get entry free for the day that doesn't include rides and there are great events all week at the fairgrounds, we especially need help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, all day, morning and evening shifts and on Friday evening. Shifts are 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

Entry form for the Fairy Garden Contest is on the website or you can get one from Barb Hunter 664-7531 or Marlene Daniels. Help your grandchildren create one! Or your children too! Remember, this is one of our greatest opportunities for horticultural education for the community, besides you will have fun and may even learn something. See you there!

Ken Mitchell and Mary Paine and the Fair Committee

<b>JULY</b>	
Newsletter	
7/29 – 8/2	Eastern Michigan State Fair Imlay City Fairgrounds
<b>AUGUST</b>	
8/6	6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting <b>FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE</b>
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
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
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

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
9/17	6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
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
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
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
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
12/5	6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting Christmas Party / Gift Exchange Awards / Potluck Dinner

## Display Garden on Suncrest - July 2014

Although the two very impressive rainfalls this week were nice it is hard to get to the garden to tidy up before the Tea on Sunday. The Tea will be over when you get this and hopefully you were able to visit our very awesome Display Garden again. After a very harsh winter, and much salt on some of our perimeter beds the Garden has recovered so very beautifully under the skillful hands and many, many hours of hard work by our diligent volunteers! I am going to take this opportunity to tell you a little about our volunteers.

We began this year as a quiet year of just maintenance in the Display Garden but since the March meeting the Woody Ornamental plants, shrubs and trees were repositioned somewhere inside our boundaries by Ed Piorkowski, Carl Kern, DaShawn Robertson and Eric Hendricks. The Herb Garden was totally and beautifully moved to the Woody Ornamental bed, now the Herb Garden by MaryLynn Darr with much help from Deb Lyman. Who knew herbs could look that GREAT.

Then tired of weeding constantly, Carole Billig, Sue Corder and Julianne Sekerak rearranged the entire Butterfly Garden. It looks lovely and the addition of small flagstone working paths only seem to improve it more.

Oh, the old herb garden is now Fun and Funky and still under construction. Sandy Peterson, with help will be creating a garden with some of our favorite plants, both annual and perennial. This first year we are waiting for the persistent herbs and other weedy things to put their heads up, we have tried smothering and mulching the bad guys. Of course you will notice the obelisks moved in; they were planted by Carl and Mick and will hold clematis and a favorite rose and some surprises. If you have a favorite you haven't seen in a while let me know.

The Water Garden and Waterfall both required pump and water line maintenance. Thanks to Barb Hunter and Ken Daniels both are looking great and running smoothly. Be sure to see the turtles there, all 3 of them. Of course, you may not be aware how much is required of Barb as she maintains the water quality. The Perimeter of the Water Garden is now maintained by new volunteer, Coleen Foxle-McDonough. Ron Klocek continues the work in the Grasses, removing, splitting, identifying and replacing the beautiful grasses. Across the pavers, Pam Frampton, Jackie Marvin and Judy Niergarth did the spring-cleaning in the Children's Garden and replanted in the Green rooftop. Zinnias have replaced the begonias you may be used to seeing along their paver path and the hops have completely covered the tunnel. The vine-covered Bears and the succulent-covered pig did well spending the winter in Gerry Swoish's greenhouse. Gerry also supports the Children's Garden in early spring and fall after his greenhouse closes.

Jane Schade continues to rearrange and finesse the Japanese Garden with assistance of Candice Meyer and Sylvia Graham after the major update last year. Maurene Kern diligently works the large Perennial Garden and provides color throughout spring and far into summer and fall.

Under the big Blue Spruce, Pam Kvasnicka worried over the 3 holly shrubs as they tried to re-grow their green leaves. They really looked like "goners" but they seem to be surviving. Working under the trees has its own special challenges but that bed is always pretty and very interesting. Larry Mitchell has changed the plants along the main path, adding and identifying the unexpected perennials.

If you are in the garden very late in the evening this time of year you may find Betty Kennedy and Carol Liblong creating this year's surprise in the Annual Garden. Again it is so beautiful and it takes more than a second glance to see the variety of textures and colors. But first they had their annual "moving of the boulder collection" in that bed (required some assistance from Carl Kern). Be sure to notice the patio!

The Rock Garden has been weeded and edged by Ruth Arnold, Deb Lyman and Becky Walker. Ruth is always adding, subtracting and thinning the wide variety of plants squeezed in among the rocks. And nearby are the steadfast Hostas maintained by Mick Hodgson. Our visitors always spend time there marveling at the variety and beauty. I lost two of the hydrangeas this year to the salt, wind and cold and so far I think all the rest might bloom. I fed and watered them deeply, of course that was just before it rained so much. Jeannine Monteleone takes care of the bed around the horse and tulip tree and the Cherub bed. And in case you didn't notice Jeannine repainted all of the slate signs in the Garden this year as well as ensuring the cherub, horse, turtle and dragonfly look their best.

As you walk past the big pots on the pavilion, does it ever occur how they get there? Al Butler helped me this year and Jeannine and Al helped last year; but wait. Who keeps them watered? Deborah Pert has kept the pots watered the past two, maybe three, years. And the best part, she asks me before I get the chance to see if she is available.

Don't forget the trees at the North end of garden. Hidden inside is the home of beehives and a multitude of heuchera. Pat Maitland keeps that large area beautiful every year and adds annuals to complement the trees and big rocks. Pat's biggest commitment is the Rose Garden out in front of the facility. Pat manages this large garden single-handedly except for some pruning assistance in the spring. Again this year the roses provided enjoyment for residents, their families and even drivers as they cruise by on Suncrest Drive.

Other not so noticeable tasks are supported by Al Butler, Herb Hampel and Rick Talaski, including the shredding for the composting. Al also supports the garden with the use of his tractor and trailer when Carl Kern and Mick Hodgson locate a new, beautiful rock to accent the facility. Herb also helps whatever crazy project we are working on, mulching, laying pavers, and planting rocks with Carl and moving shrubs. Herb makes things a little easier for whomever he is assisting. Carl and Ed also do the tree pruning in the Garden; you probably don't notice because the trees just look better. Carl and Derek Kern do a lot of the heavy, behind the scene tasks just to improve the grounds. The lawn is mowed twice weekly by Ron Klocek and Georgia Ellis. Ron and his brother Jim (new volunteer) have been working on the irrigation systems this year trying to keep them all running at the selected time, not just any time.

Yes, I know this is lengthy and maybe you knew all this, but this is what it takes to keep the Display Garden so beautiful. I know so many of us find it so rewarding to work so hard for so long when we receive the many thanks from our visitors. It is also so pleasant just to work quietly in the Garden, forgetting everything else. Carol Skiba will write the Thank You's for the Tea; the garden couldn't continue without the funding from the Tea.

Thank you all so much, for such a beautiful place for this community.

Mary Paine  
Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest

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

**FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE  
2142 N. GENESEE RD.  
BURTON, MI 48509**

**Directions to For-Mar: From I-69, exit at Belsay Rd. (Exit 141). North on Belsay Rd. to Davison Rd. West on Davison Rd. to Genesee Rd. (1 mile). North on Genesee Rd, ¼ mile to For-Mar's entrance on the East side of the road.**

**\* BUSINESS MEETING \*  
\* SPEAKER \*  
\* BYO-CUP AND A SNACK OR DESSERT \***

**(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**

**[www.geneseecountyparks.org/pages/formar](http://www.geneseecountyparks.org/pages/formar)**