



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB,
MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
& NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

January 2026

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message

Dear friends and fellow gardeners,

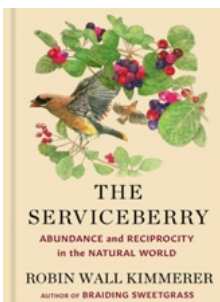
We ended our 2025 year with an enjoyable luncheon at the Weathervane Restaurant. We want to express thanks to Marge McGoff and her committee of Beth Booth, Pam Oshaben and Cass Williamson and also to the Weathervane for accommodating us by opening for our private party.

We will be starting the new year looking forward to a summer with no major fundraiser to take up our time and efforts. Instead, in July we are planning on supporting the Elk Rapids Garden Club Garden Walk. In August we have planned a visit to Bear Creek Organic Farm for a tour and lunch.

According to a past survey members were wanting meetings that were more fun and less business so we will be looking for ways to make this happen so if you have any suggestions for some fun activities we can incorporate into our meetings please feel free to share with anyone on the board, especially the three Directors, Beth Cowie, Pam Oshaben and Cathy Paklaian, as that is one of their responsibilities to provide input from the membership to the Board. We can also include more time to socialize with our CAGC friends.

Looking forward to a "More Fun, Less Business" year!

Mary Lynn and Carolyn



CAGC Winter Book Club

What's a gardener to do during the snowy winter months? We can read about gardening, gardens, and environmental stewardship! Our inaugural book group will meet in February to discuss *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This brief book is a bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community based on the lessons of the natural world.

A book discussion will take place in February – time and date to be announced.

Understanding Trap, Companion, and Cover Crops

From MSU Extension



Gardening is more than planting seeds and watching them grow. It's also about creating a healthy environment for plants to thrive. One way gardeners do this is by using different types of crops that support the garden in unique ways. These are called companion crops, trap crops and cover crops. Each plays a special role in improving soil health, managing pests and boosting overall garden productivity.

Companion crops are plants grown close together because they help each other. Some companions improve growth, while others protect against pests or diseases. For example, planting basil near tomatoes can improve tomato flavor and help repel insects. Marigolds are often planted with vegetables because they deter nematodes and aphids.

Trap crops are planted to attract pests away from your main crops. These plants act like decoys. For example, planting mustard near cabbage can draw pests like flea beetles away from the cabbage. Once pests gather on the trap crop, gardeners can remove or treat those plants to reduce pest pressure.

Cover crops are grown not to be harvested but to improve the soil. They are planted during times when the garden would otherwise be bare, such as in fall or early spring. Common cover crops include rye, oats, clover and hairy vetch.

By understanding these crop types, home gardeners can make smarter planting decisions. Whether you're trying to boost yields, fight pests or build better soil, these strategies offer natural solutions that work.

To read more: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/understanding-companion-trap-and-cover-crops-a-guide-for-home-gardeners>

National Garden Clubs

Garden Clubs 2026 National Convention

May 4 – May 6, 2026. “Meet Me in St. Louis Where the River Bends and The Arch Reaches the Sky!”

Registration is now open for the NGC Convention in St. Louis. If you are interested in attending, register before March 31 to avoid a late fee.

<https://gardenclub.org/events/2026-convention>



Michigan Garden Clubs

The 2026 MGC State Conference will feature a statewide NGC Standard Flower Show

The conference will take place June 7-8 in Ann Arbor. Flower Show judging will take place on June 7 and any member may enter. Information and rules may be found using the following link:

https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026_Together-We-Grow.pdf



Landscape Design School

Course 1: April 23 – 24, 2026

Boardman Nature Center, Traverse City, MI

Registration opens March 1. Use the following link for more information:

<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/LDS-24-C1-Brochure.pdf>

Virtual and In-Person Events



The American Horticultural Society hosts a full lineup of virtual winter programs. Courses cover four areas: Horticulture and the Environment; Garden Design and Techniques; Plants, Culture and Community; and Behind-the-Scenes Garden Tours. Registration is required. <https://ahsgardening.org/ahs-live-series/>



“Intergenerational Care for Land and Community:

A Conversation with Robin Wall Kimmerer and Esther Bonney”

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 7 pm, YouTube Live (link provided with registration).

This webinar will be recorded and shared with registrants after the premiere.

Looking for meaningful ways to engage with native plants beyond your own yard?

This webinar features **Robin Wall Kimmerer**, author, botanist, and founder of **Plant Baby Plant**, and **Esther Bonney**, youth organizer and founder of **Nurture Natives**.

Drawing on their work in education, storytelling, and youth leadership, they will

explore how people of all ages can take part in the native plant movement through shared learning, relationships, and local action. <https://wildones.org/conversation-with-robin-wall-kimmerer-esther-bonney/#register>



Voices of the Land: A Sand County Almanac Community Reading, March 7, 1-4 pm, Charlevoix Conservation District, 303 North Street, Boyne City. Join other nature-enthusiasts in the community to bring Aldo Leopold's beautiful writing and important message about the land to life! Attendees will receive a free Sand County Almanac book and refreshments on the house. This workshop will be held in the district Community Room. Anyone interested in being a reader for this event, contact Alison Adams at 2312-582-6193 or alison.adams@macd.org



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

January

- 20** **Intergenerational Care for Land and Community: A Conversation with Robin Wall Kimmerer and Esther Bonney**, 7 pm, YouTube Live (link provided with registration).
<https://wildones.org/conversation-with-robin-wall-kimmerer-esther-bonney/#register>
- 23** **Monarch Butterflies**, 11:30 am – 1 pm, North Central Michigan College. Laurie and Jeff Dykehouse have tagged more than 2,000 migrating monarch butterflies at the Straits of Mackinac for the past six years. The presentation will cover the annual life cycles and fascinating migration of monarchs throughout North America, as well as the process of capturing and tagging monarchs at the Straits of Mackinac.
<https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6464522>
- 28** **Registration Deadline for MSU Extension “Foundations of Gardening” Course.** This course replaces MSU Extension's former MSU Extension Master Gardener training; however, not everyone who registers for this course needs to apply to become an MSU Extension Master Gardener. The 10-week online course runs from February 6 – April 17, 2025. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/foundations-of-gardening>

February

- 1** **Charlevoix Conservation District Tree Sale Orders Begin**, website <https://www.charlevoixcd.org/tree-sale> Or subscribe to their newsletter by calling or emailing Alison: 231-582-6193, alison.adams@macd.org
- 5** **CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 7** **Open House at Enji-minozhiyaamigak: The Place of Peacefulness Nature Preserve**, 11:30 am – 3 pm. 6413 Division Avenue, Charlevoix (located in Bayshore off of Townline Road). For decades, the forest and shoreline now known as Enji-minozhiyaamigak remained one of the last undeveloped stretches of Little Traverse Bay, and beyond — from Charlevoix to the Mackinac Bridge. Little Traverse Conservancy acquired the property in 2023 and developed an accessible trail that meanders to a lake overlook platform at the beach.
<https://landtrust.org/events-template/open-house-at-enji-minozhiyaamigak-the-place-of-peacefulness-nature-preserve/>
- 10** **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Carl and Sarah DeCassin, owners of Mischels Greenhouses, will speak on “A Geranium’s Journey to Mackinac Island”.

March

- 5** **CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 7** **Voices of the Land: A Sand County Almanac Community Reading**, 1-4 pm, Charlevoix Conservation District, 303 North Street, Boyne City. Join other nature-enthusiasts in the community to bring Aldo Leopold's beautiful writing and important message about the land to life! Attendees will receive a free Sand County Almanac book and refreshments on the house. This workshop will be held in the district Community Room.
- 10** **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Tom Darnton, President of the Lake Charlevoix Association, will highlight the work they do to preserve and protect the lake and shoreline.
- 21** **Nature Journaling**, 1-4 pm, Charlevoix Conservation District, 303 North Street, Boyne City. Offered in partnership with the Boyne Arts Center (BAC). If you've read *A Sand County Almanac* you're familiar with Aldo Leopold's beautiful nature sketches. Even if you aren't, this workshop will help hone all of your senses and introduce new ways to observe nature around you.



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the February newsletter is January 26. Email your photos, information, and articles to newsletter editor Beth Cowie at bethcowie@mac.com. You can also send information and photos for our website and social media.



Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CharlevoixAreaGardenClub/>
Instagram [@charlevoixareagardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/charlevoixareagardenclub)

