



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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

June 2026

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Can it be? Have we skipped spring and jumped into summer? At least it feels like it in Ann Arbor. I have enjoyed 80 degrees two days in a row, with plenty of sunshine. According to my phone Charlevoix is enjoying lots of sunshine too.

On my way out of town on Memorial Day, I saw that folks were working on putting up their fences out at the Community Garden. I'm very excited to have growing season back!

Kudos to Sue Thurow, Marie Eckstein and Beth Booth for the fabulous job they did with this year's Plant Sale. I am sure that everyone who has set up the day before in previous years, noticed that it was a lot easier this year, thanks to having the plants already identified and priced.

With the Plant Sale done, we are free to have fun all summer. Two field trips are coming up in July and August that you won't want to miss.

While you are enjoying the summer, please keep in mind that next year (2027) we will be hosting a Garden Walk. I believe that we have two

and possibly three gardens ready to sign up. Please keep it in mind while you travel around, especially north of the bridge, and let me know of any gardens you would like to be considered.

Happy Gardening!

Mary Lynn

June Membership Meeting



Join us at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 9 in the Library's Community Room for our monthly Member Meeting. Our speaker will be from the Little Traverse Bay Beekeepers Guild.

Bees don't just buzz around flowers - they are the backbone of our food systems, ecosystems, and economic and food systems. Keeping bees in Northern Michigan is a bit challenging with our shorter summer season and changing weather. We will discuss how bees manage to perform their magical work.

CAGC Summer Field Trips

Our July and August Membership Meetings will be “field trips”. In July we are planning a brief business meeting on Tuesday, July 14 at 10:15 am at the Charlevoix Public Library. Following that, we will carpool to Elk Rapids for their garden walk.

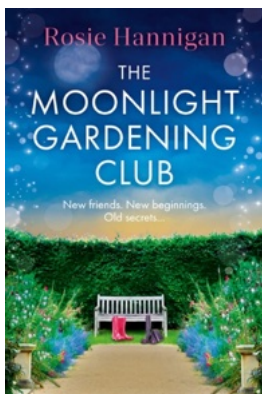
We are suggesting that you pack water and a lunch for the day, as there are limited options in Elk Rapids. The tickets can be purchased online at the Elk Rapids Garden Club website: <https://www.elkrapidsgardenclub.com/gardenwalk/> The cost of the online ticket is \$16.50. You may also purchase them in-person on the day of the walk (for \$20) at the Blue Star Garden - located at ER Chamber of Commerce Building, 305 S US-31, Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Our August meeting is a trip to Bear Creek Organic Farm in Petoskey. We are planning to carpool to the farm and return for lunch in Charlevoix. Full details will be sent out in July.



Hat Crafting

Following our June Meeting you are welcome to stay and create a custom head covering to wear when our Club visits Elk Rapids in July for their Garden Walk. Bring a hat to decorate, some ribbon, faux flowers, and a glue gun. Join the fun and create your own masterpiece!



CAGC Book Club

Please join us for the next meeting of our book group in the Charlevoix Public Library Trustees Conference Room. Exact date to be determined. We will be discussing *The Moonlight Gardening Club* by Rosie Hannigan.

Though they come from the same small Irish village, lonely widow Ruby and struggling single mother Frankie couldn't be more different. Then they discover the Moonlight Gardening Club, founded to remind its members that even on the darkest of nights, beauty and light can still be found. As they plant flowers chosen specially to be enjoyed under a carpet of stars in the gentle glow of moonlight, an unexpected friendship starts to bloom – and it might be just what each of them needs.



Melinda at work at the CAGC Community Vegetable Garden

Welcome Melinda!

Melinda and her husband, David, relocated to the Charlevoix area in September 2025. Recently retired, Melinda is looking forward to spending more time in her own garden while also contributing to the Community Garden plot sponsored by the Charlevoix Garden Club. Through her volunteer work at the Charlevoix Food Pantry, she has seen firsthand the importance of providing fresh vegetables to those in need.

Melinda grew up on a 200-acre farm in Michigan's Thumb, where she spent long summer days picking raspberries and rhubarb, weeding the large garden, harvesting vegetables, and helping her mother can and freeze the season's bounty. After graduating from Bad Axe High School, she attended Michigan State University. Following college, Melinda moved to Poughkeepsie, New York, to begin her career with IBM. After several moves, Melinda and David settled in Birmingham, Michigan, where they lived for 24 years. Melinda retired in December 2024 after a 41.5-year career with IBM.

Knowing they wanted to relocate to Northern Michigan, Melinda and David began searching for their next home in the spring of 2025 and ultimately settled in Charlevoix that September. Since the move, Melinda has become actively involved with First Congregation UCC, Impact100 Little Traverse Bay, and the Charlevoix Food Pantry.

Melinda and David enjoy biking—she rides an eBike to keep up with him—along with traveling, walking and hiking, cooking, and exploring all that Charlevoix, Emmet County, and the surrounding area have to offer. They also enjoy visiting their adult daughter, Hannah, who lives and works in Denver.

Although many of the homes Melinda lived in as an adult were not well suited for vegetable gardening, she gradually developed a passion for perennial gardens. Now, Melinda is excited to create and cultivate a garden space of her own in Northern Michigan. She has especially enjoyed discovering what is emerging in the wooded areas and garden beds around her new home—and is simply hoping the deer stay away!



Diane and Marsie at the Memorial Garden



The Triangle Garden Crew

CAGC Events and Community Calendar

June

- 6 – 14 Mackinac Island Lilac Festival**
- 7 – 13 National Garden Week 2026** <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-03/ngw-proclamation-2026.pdf>
- 9 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Brenda Hough of the Little Traverse Bay Beekeepers Guild.
- 10 LTC Wild Wednesday: Passenger Pigeon**, 6:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Little Traverse Conservancy.
- 17 Passenger Pigeon Week**, Offield Family Viewlands, 4 pm, 995 Hideaway Valley Drive, Harbor Springs. Join Little Traverse Conservancy Director of Environmental Education Dylan Klinesteker for a guided walk through the Offield Family Viewlands, exploring one of the most astonishing stories in North American natural history, the passenger pigeon. FREE, please register using the following link: <https://landtrust.org/events-template/passenger-pigeon-week-offield-family-viewlands-event/>
- 23 Monarch Joint Venture Conservation Webinar**, 2 pm, virtual. Stay informed about the latest in monarch conservation by joining our **free** monthly webinar series! Register once to receive access to all webinars in the series. <https://monarchjointventure.org/events/monarch-conservation-webinar-series>
- 30 East Jordan Garden Walk**, 10:30 am – 4 pm, sponsored by the Jordan River Arts Council. For tickets or more information: <https://www.jordanriverarts.com/east-jordan-garden-walk>

July

- 9 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 14 Elk Rapids Garden Walk**, 10 am – 4 pm, Elk Rapids. We plan to attend the garden walk for our July meeting. Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://www.elkrapidsgardenclub.com/gardenwalk/>
- 18-26 Charlevoix Venetian Festival**, Charlevoix, MI.



Working in the Community Vegetable Garden

CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the July newsletter is June 25. 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)

