



# Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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

December 2025

[www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org](http://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org)



## President's Message

Dear friends and fellow gardeners,

December is here and if you don't believe me just look outside!

As we wrap up another year and celebrate the season at our annual luncheon, dressed in sparkles, let's bask in the glory of another year of making Charlevoix beautiful. Our plant sale in May produced many plants for others to use to beautify their gardens. The Garden Walk in July surely inspired others to beautify their gardens. The Bulb Sale during Apple Fest provided bulbs to folks wishing to have flowers blooming in the spring. Let's not forget the businesses in town who received recognition for their efforts to beautify their store fronts. And finally, we can be proud of the 8 beautiful gardens we maintain throughout town, and the inspiration to all vegetable gardeners found at the CAGE Vegetable Garden located in the Community Garden.

As you all know, we are taking next year off from sponsoring a July Luncheon as our major fundraiser for the year. We raised our dues a couple of months ago and feel financially secure enough to get through next year without a major fundraiser.

We had a member a short time ago who encouraged us to have more fun and not work so hard. Let's see if we can do that. Two Field Trips are planned which should be fun. In July we plan to go to the Elk Rapids Garden Walk and in August we will go to the Bear Creek Organic Farm. We will carpool to the locations because they are relatively close.

We also encourage everyone to take the time to get to know one another. We will try to plan more fun and less business at our monthly meetings. Toward that end the minutes from the previous monthly Membership Meeting and the most recent Board Meeting will be sent to all before our monthly meetings. Please read them and make a copy for yourself if necessary.

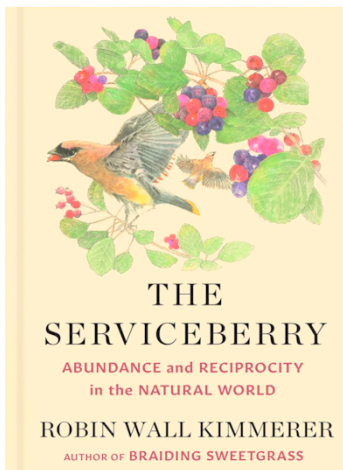
Looking forward to a fun year!

*Mary Lynn and Carolyn*

## December Membership Luncheon

**We are looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, December 9** at the Weathervane Restaurant. RSVPs were due by November 30. Please bring a \$35 check (made to CAGC) or cash for the cost of lunch. We will also be collecting donations (gift cards or personal products) for the Women's Resource Center Safe House.





## 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 January 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 January – time and date to be announced. Contact Beth Cowie [bethcowie@mac.com](mailto:bethcowie@mac.com) for more information.

## Wildflowers and Native Plants: What's the Difference

From MSU Extension

**Not all wildflowers are native.** Many new gardeners assume that native plants and wildflowers are synonymous. They buy seed packs for wildflowers and think this is the envelope for care-free, native, plants that will come back year after year. However, the term “wildflower” is not regulated. It is largely a word used for marketing and is interpreted differently by different seed companies. A packet of wildflower seeds *might* have a few native plant seeds, but the vast majority of wildflower seeds are from Asia or Europe. Seeds specifically labeled “native plants” should only contain seeds of plant species native to North America or, more strictly, indigenous to a specific region or state.



Before you purchase a packet of wildflower seeds, read the package carefully. Only buy packets of seeds or seed mixes that list the contents both by the common and scientific names. If you are not familiar with the plants listed, do an internet search to find out what they are, where they are native to, and if they are problematic in your region. Many wildflower seed mixes contain plants that can be detrimental if they escape gardens, while others have plants that might negatively impact pollinators. One such example is the common garden lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), which attracts the endangered Karner blue butterfly to lay eggs on its leaves, but once the eggs hatch, the baby caterpillars die because they cannot eat the leaves of the common lupine. Michigan gardeners should avoid planting the common lupine for this reason.

**To read more:** [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/wildflowers\\_and\\_native\\_plants\\_whats\\_the\\_difference](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/wildflowers_and_native_plants_whats_the_difference)



## National Garden Clubs

### From Penny Pines to Plant-A-Tree

The Program formerly known as Penny Pines has been given a new name that better reflects the program's mission. Now rebranded as "Plant-A-Tree" the program allows Garden Clubs to contribute any amount, starting from \$50.

When donating you may choose to have your donation go where it's most needed or you may select a specific National Forest.

<https://form.jotform.com/242136090115142>



## Michigan Garden Clubs

### MGC Schools 2026:

All Garden Club Members are eligible to enroll in the courses – which are sponsored by the National Garden Clubs. The typical member cost is \$60 and includes 10 hours of instruction (over 2 days) and lunch. Course brochures and registration can be found on the MGC website approximately 6 weeks before each course begins.

**Gardening School** – Harbert Community Church, Sawyer, MI.

Course 3: April 17 – 18, 2026

Course 4: September 18 – 19, 2026

**Landscape Design School** – Traverse City, MI

Course 1: April 23 – 24, 2026

Course 2: October 8 – 9, 2026

For general information about the courses: <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>



## Making Your Real Christmas Tree Last

From MSU Extension



Fresh tree, fresh cut and fresh water are essential in keeping your real Christmas tree fresh and hydrated throughout the holiday season.

If you buy a tree from a tree lot or a garden center, you can check the tree for freshness by doing the pull test. Gently pull on a shoot with your thumb and fingers; if the tree is fresh, you should not have any needles come off in your hand.

Cut 0.5 to 1 inch off the base of the tree right before you put it in the tree stand to help the tree resume water uptake. A fresh tree can use up to 1 quart of water per day for each inch of diameter on the cut end.

A typical 7-foot-tall tree may have a 3-inch trunk diameter, so will need up to 3 quarts of water per day. If your tree is taking up a lot of water, this is actually a good sign and indicates the tree is staying fresh and hydrated.

To read the full article:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water\\_is\\_the\\_essential\\_ingredient\\_in\\_keeping\\_your\\_farm\\_grown\\_christmas\\_tree](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water_is_the_essential_ingredient_in_keeping_your_farm_grown_christmas_tree)



# CAGC Events and Community Calendar

## December

- 6 Cadillac Holiday Home Tour**, 10 am, 3 pm, Cadillac, MI. The Cadillac Garden Club will decorate four homes outside and inside with greens and fresh flowers for the holidays. The tour is self-guided. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the tour. Tickets are available starting November 1 at Brink's Art and Frame Shop, 112 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac, MI and Horizon Books, 115 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac, MI. Horizon Books will have tickets on the day of the tour. No credit cards accepted (cash or check made out to the Cadillac Garden Club).
- 7 Wreath Workshop**, 10 am 4 pm sessions, Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City. Everything you need will be provided, and you'll head home with a one-of-a-kind wreath to hang. Fee: \$55. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/make-your-own-fresh-wreath-workshop-morning-session-tickets-1696159180769?aff=oddtcreator>
- 9 CAGC Holiday Luncheon**, 11:30 am. Weathervane Restaurant. Join us for food, fellowship, and the installation of our 2026 officers.
- 21 First Day of Winter**

## January 2026

- 8 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10 am, Mary Lynn Heid's home, 215 Park Avenue, Charlevoix.
- 10-11 New Year, New Garden Landscape Design**, The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City. This two-day immersive program will teach you the design skills and theory to take your gardening to the next level. For information and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-year-new-garden-landscape-design-2-day-immersive-workshop-for-2026-tickets-1677508315529?aff=oddtcreator>
- 13 CAGC Member Meeting and Soup Lunch**, Noon, Charlevoix Public Library. Shake off the winter chill at our annual January Soup Luncheon. Bring your own soup bowl and spoon.



## CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

**Submission deadline** for the January newsletter is December 26. Email your photos, information, and articles to newsletter editor Beth Cowie at [bethcowie@mac.com](mailto:bethcowie@mac.com). You can also send information and photos for our website and social media.



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