



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
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MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
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April 2026

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message

I have been in Ann Arbor this weekend where Daffodils and Crocus are starting to bloom. Spring is beginning to make its way to Michigan.

From the emails I've been receiving from the Community Garden group, folks are chomping at the bit to get into the gardens and start working.

I received a phone call the other day from the event planner at American House who asked if we had anyone who would be willing to go there on April 28th to talk about our gardens and to give suggestions for flowers they can plant in raised beds in the back of the building so they might have blooms Spring, Summer and Fall. I told her sure we have someone! Let me know if you are interested.

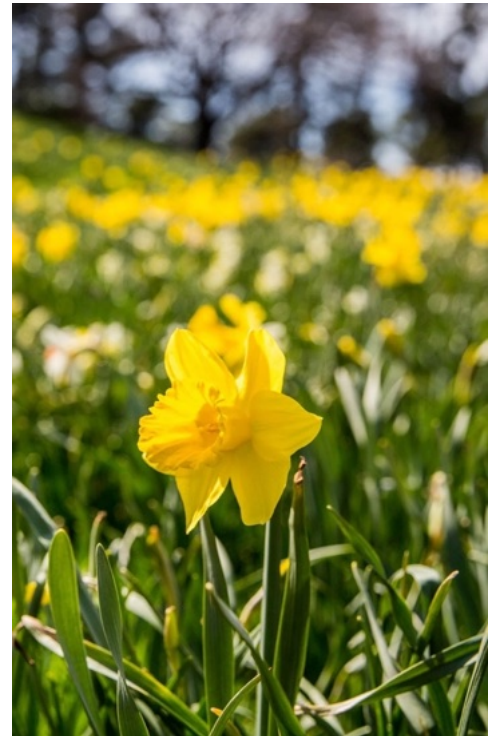
SPRINGTIME

by *Velma D. Bates*

Oh, spring came to my garden
And caught it unaware
Wearing just a few old leaves
And a dejected air.
But when spring left my garden,
Its work so deftly done,
Many, many daffodils were dancing in the sun.

Welcome Spring!

Mary Lynn



April Membership Meeting

Join us at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, April 14 in the Library's Community Room for our monthly Member Meeting. Our featured speaker will Amy Lipson, Conservation Specialist at Little Traverse Conservancy. Amy has had to tackle weeds and invasive plants on a large scale in LTC's nature preserves. She will explain methods for dealing with weeds in our own gardens and offer ideas about native plantings.

New Boxwood Diagnostic Tool Available

From Michigan State University Extension

Boxwoods are among the most widely planted ornamental shrubs in Michigan, valued for their year-round color, compact form and deer resistance. In recent years, however, boxwoods have faced increasing stress from invasive pests, environmental damage and serious plant diseases. Early identification is key to preventing long-term decline—and that's where the new diagnostic guide from MSU Extension comes in.

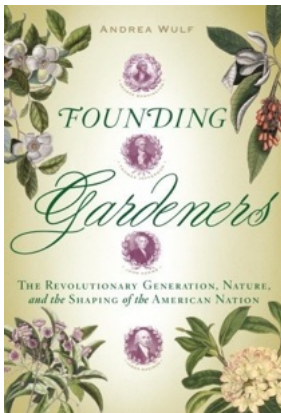


The “**What’s Wrong With My Boxwood**” guide breaks down the most common issues into easy-to-recognize categories based on real visual symptoms. Homeowners can reference photos and descriptions to distinguish between:

- **Box tree moth** feeding damage, including chewed leaves, webbing and rapid defoliation.
- **Winter injury**, such as browning foliage, leaf drop and sunscald.
- **Boxwood leafminer** infestations, which cause blistered, yellowing leaves and characteristic “clicking” when branches are shaken.
- **Boxwood psyllid**, known for creating cupped or puckered new leaves.
- **Boxwood blight**, a highly infectious plant disease causing leaf spots, stem lesions and rapid branch defoliation.
- **Boxwood mites**, which create fine stippling and bronzing on leaves.

To get the guide, complete with photos and solutions, use the following link:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/whats-wrong-with-my-boxwood-common-issues-and-solutions>



CAGC Book Club

Please join us for the second meeting of our book group on Thursday, April 2, at 10:30 am in the Charlevoix Public Library Trustees Conference Room. We will be discussing: *Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*, By Andrea Wulf.

For the Founding Fathers, gardening, agriculture, and botany were elemental passions: a conjoined interest as deeply ingrained in their characters as the battle for liberty and a belief in the greatness of their new nation. *Founding Gardeners* is an exploration of that obsession, telling the story of the revolutionary generation from the unique perspective of their lives as gardeners, plant hobbyists, and farmers.

This is a great read as our Nation celebrates its 250th birthday. Bring your own coffee and we will provide light snacks.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Tea



The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster tea will take place at St. Mary School on May 18th. We need lots of help to honor the children. We had 2 State winners this year, so we are very excited.

This is a unique program honoring all the children who won 1st, 2nd, 3rd place awards locally and also those who won State awards. We also had a few "Honorable mention" awards by the judges who had trouble making up their minds.

We need volunteers to help with minor set up, help with keeping cookies supplied and minor cleanup. We also need people to bake 2 dozen cookies and put them on a nice plate and bring them to the school. Everyone who has helped in the past has said it is a lot of fun and doesn't take much physical exertion. Please let Martha Rohr know if you can help and/or bring cookies.

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 Michigan Garden Clubs Annual Conference & Flower Show takes place June 7 and 8 in Ann Arbor at the DoubleTree Hotel, 3600 Plymouth Road. Registration opens April 20. To view the line-up of conference speakers, use this link:

<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Accommodations-and-Speakers.4.pdf>



MGC Member Monday: BioChar – Learn the Amazing Magic of Developing Living Soil,

April 2, 6 pm, Zoom. Presented by: Patty McNinch, Conservation Educator for Tuscola County Soil Conservation District & Laurie Mann Co-owner American BioChar Company.

Join using the meeting ID 845 759 9482 and passcode mgcmeets

Virtual and In-Person Events



American Horticultural Spring Society AHG LIVE Series: Explore the world of plants with dozens of educational sessions that address science, design, health, culture, and industry. All areas integrate objectives for learning about plant materials and selection, approaches and techniques, and cultivation and maintenance. Choose from workshops, talks, tours, and more.

There's something for everyone: <https://ahsgardening.org/ahs-live-series/>



Vernal Pools, April 8, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Join Little Traverse Conservancy at the Charlevoix Library at 220 Clinton St. to learn all about Vernal Pools. Every spring in the forests of northern Michigan, nature's secret nursery quietly but vitally blooms with life. Small seasonal ponds, called vernal pools, often go overlooked, but their role in our ecosystems is dramatic. This month, we will explore these vernal pools and what they provide for our ecosystems for a short period each spring. Register at this link:

<https://landtrust.org/events-template/ww-vernal-pools/>



Apple Pruning Workshop, April 11, 9 am – Noon. Led by Little Traverse Conservancy Recreation, Access, and Maintenance Manager Nate Dionne, whose family has run an apple orchard business for many years, this workshop will feature demonstrations of pruning old and abandoned apple trees. Participants will then have the chance to put this information to use on the trees found at the Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve, which is located 5.5 miles south of Charlevoix. Bring your own loppers/pole saws. Limited quantities of tools, including pruners and pole saws, will be available for use. To register, visit www.landtrust.org or call 231.347.0991.



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

April

- 2 CAGC Book Club**, 10:30 am, Charlevoix Public Library, Trustees Conference Room. We will be discussing *Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*, By Andrea Wulf. All CAGC members are welcome!
- 2 MGC Member Monday: BioChar – Learn the Amazing Magic of Developing Living Soil**, 6 pm, Zoom. Join using the meeting ID 845 759 9482 and passcode mgcmeets
- 8 LTC Wild Wednesday: Vernal Pools**, 6:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Little Traverse Conservancy exploring the world of seasonal ponds and their role in the ecosystem.
- 9 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 11 Growing Green Garden Luncheon**, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm, Rogers City Area Senior and Community Center, 131 Superior St. Rogers City, Michigan. Doors open at 8:45 for registration. Topics are: Terrarium Garden Demonstration with Jonathan Kelly, Bees & Pollinator Gardens, Netta’s Nursery and What’s New in Plants for 2026, and Harvest Thyme – Farm to Table and Beyond. Cost is \$35 and includes light breakfast and lunch. Luncheon reservations are requested by April 6. Call Kris 989-733-4056 or Jean 989-619-0300 or email Pigardenclub1@yahoo.com
- 11 Apple Grafting Workshop**, Bear Creek Organic Farm, Petoskey. Join Paul Holcroft from Holcroft Acres to learn the ins and outs of Apple Grafting. Attendees will get to take home two grafted trees. Cost: \$35. Register online: <https://bearcreekgorganicfarm.square.site/s/order?cs=true&cst=custom&item=DMOD2LANW24VZPAGPKZQ7AOT#GBW4DKVFWIIHIEG2KKDZDMWN>
- 14 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Amy Lipson, Conservation Specialist at Little Traverse Conservancy will discuss the transformation of a former golf course near Harbor Springs into the Offield Viewlands Nature Conservancy. She will discuss the work done to remove invasive species and install native plants and how this can be applied to a home garden.
- 15 Foraging for Wild Herbs**, 5:30 pm, NCMC Lifelong Learning, Petoskey. This walk will cover plant identification, ethical harvesting, herbal remedy preparation and more. \$30, registration required. <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6521950>
- 18 Garden Design: Building Your Perfect Garden**, 10 am, NCMC Lifelong Learning, Petoskey. In this class we’ll discuss the steps necessary to design & build a beautiful landscape in your yard. \$40 Registration required. <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6603197>
- 21 CAGC Floral Design Group**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library, Community Room.
- 22 Earth Day**
- 24 Arbor Day**
- 24 Interactive Cooking Demonstration**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 11:30 – 1:00, NCMC Library Conference Center. Les Cheneaux Culinary School presents an interactive cooking demonstration. This \$15 course is led by Zach Schroeder, director and culinary instructor at the Les Cheneaux Culinary School in Hessel. Guests will taste how herbs, spices, aromatics and acids can directly transform different foods, and come away with practical, memorable tools to take back to their own kitchens. Perhaps this will influence your herb garden choices this year! <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6464529>

- 25 Seed Starting 101**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 10 am – Noon. Do you love to garden but suffer from sticker shock when you see how much you spend on new plants each season? Do you want to have more choices and more control over what you grow? By starting your own seeds, you can dramatically increase the number and variety of plants in your garden, and you'll save money too! The \$30 course is led by Monica Gruler Farrier, Master Gardener. <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6488109>
- 28 Milkweed Biodiversity**, 2-3 pm, virtual. Free monthly webinar from the Monarch Joint Venture. Bring your questions and get ready to discover how you can get involved in protecting monarchs. Sign up once for the series: <https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-webinar-series/agriculture>

May

- 2 Getting Started with Cut Flowers**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 10 am – Noon. \$30. NCMC Health and Science Building, Room 333. Presented by Monica Gruler Farrier, Master Gardener and owner of Gruler Gardens in Petoskey. <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6488133>
- 4-6 NGC Annual Convention**, St. Louis, MO
- 7 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 9 Apple Grafting Workshop**, Bear Creek Organic Farm, Petoskey. Join Paul Holcroft from Holcroft Acres to learn the ins and outs of Apple Grafting. Attendees will get to take home two grafted trees. Cost: \$35. Register online: <https://bearcreekeorganicfarm.square.site/s/order?cs=true&cst=custom&item=DMOD2LANW24VZPAGPKZQ7AOT#GBW4DKVFWIIIYEG2KKDZDMWN>
- 10 Mother's Day Wildflower Walk**, Noon – 1:30 pm, Hoogland Nature Preserve, Join Little Traverse Conservancy's Amy Lipson as she leads a walk through the Hoogland Nature Preserve, 4135 S Lake Shore Drive, Harbor Springs, MI 49740. <https://landtrust.org/events/event-register/>
- 12 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Morgan Composting. Through their Dairy Doo line of products they promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices.
- 13 LTC Wild Wednesday: Wetlands**. 6:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Little Traverse Conservancy.
- 16 Wildflower Walk**, 1 – 2:30 pm, Offield Family Working Forest Reserve, 515 Quick Road, Harbor Springs. Join Brad Von Blon for a meander through the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve to enjoy spring wildflowers. <https://landtrust.org/events-template/wildflower-walk-with-brad/>
- 19 CAGC Floral Design Group**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library, Community Room.
- 21 Birding with Quinn Sommer**, 8 - 10 am, Waldren Fen Nature Preserve, 9417 Banwell Road, Alanson. Join Quinn Sommer, seasonal technician and avid birder, for a walk through a Little Traverse Conservancy birding preserve. <https://landtrust.org/events-template/birding-waldron-fen-with-quinn-sommer/>
- 23 CAGC Plant Sale**, Ferry Beach Park
- 27-31 Aldo Leopold Festival**, Les Cheneaux Islands, MI. Celebrate the legacy of Aldo Leopold – one of America's most influential naturalists. Activities include paddling excursions, orchid and wildflower tours, birding, presentations, and more. <https://aldoleopoldfestival.org>
- 30 Northern Michigan Master Gardener Plant Sale**, 8:30 am, Emmet County Fairgrounds.

CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the April newsletter is March 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.



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Instagram [@charlevoixareagardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/charlevoixareagardenclub)

