



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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

September 2026

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message

Dear friends and fellow gardeners,

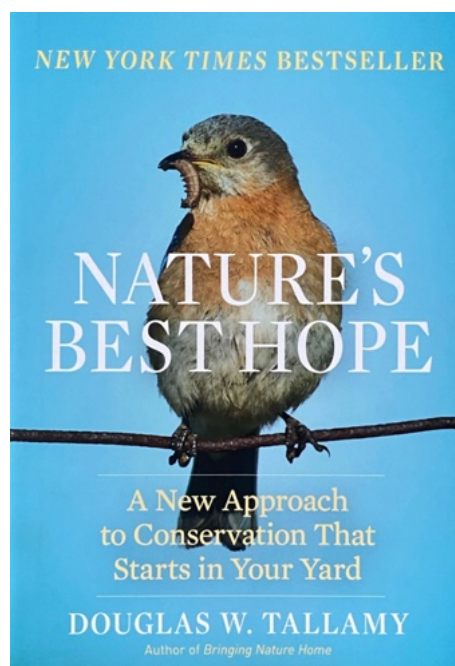
I'm sure you all received an invitation to attend a lecture on Nature's Best Hope AKA Saving Birds Through Habitat, and Home Grown National Parks by Doug Tallamy on August 25th at The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park in Traverse City. I am sorry that more of you could not attend. Charlotte and I were there but not together. I went because I knew my sister would be there. Charlotte was with a friend.

All that just to say that it was an excellent lecture and I am very glad I attended. Doug started by telling us that 20 some years ago he and his wife bought some acres on what had been a farmer's field. They had a house built and started planting, first trees especially oak. Oaks support more life than any other tree here in the US. A comparison is the Ginkgo which supports no life but its own. Then they planted bushes and flowers, all native species. The amount of birds and bugs they now have on their property is mind boggling!

As everyone knows, the earth is losing natural habitats which support our flora and fauna. The pollinators are very important to our survival but plants and other bugs are also essential. Doug Tallamy suggests that everyone can help by replacing lawns with native plants or growing native plants in pots on a deck or balcony. Let's all help to "Bring Nature Home" and plant a "Homegrown National Park" to quote Doug Tallamy.

See you September 8th if not before,

Mary Lynn



September Membership Meeting and Potluck



Our Tuesday, September 8 meeting will begin at Noon in the Charlevoix Public Library Community Room –with a potluck lunch. Following lunch, we will conduct our business meeting and presentation of the annual "State of the Gardens".

Bring a potluck dish to share, as well as your own plate and flatware. Be prepared to discuss the highs and lows of the 2026 gardening season

National Garden Clubs Schools

Gardening School, Course #4

In-person, September 18-19, 2026, Harbert Community Church, Sawyer, MI

Registration deadline: September 4

Fee: \$60 for garden club members – includes breakfast and lunch both days.

This course covers: outdoor identification of plants; plant classification and nomenclature; specialized styles of gardening; invasive bugs and worms; pruning techniques; techniques for growing woody ornamentals.

<https://migardenclubs.org/gardening-school-course-4-september-18-19-2026/>



Landscape Design School, Course #2

In-person, October 8-9, 2026, The Boardman River Nature Center, Traverse City.

Registration deadline: September 13

Fee: \$60 for garden club members – includes lunch both days.

This course covers: Preservation of Historic Sites; Plants in the Landscape; Container Gardens for Small Spaces; Landscape Design Process; Redesign of Areas; Structures in the Landscape; Designing for Wildlife; North American Landscape Design; Accessible Gardens; Overused and Invasive Plant Alternatives.

<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/LDS-24-C2-Brochure.pdf>

Michigan Garden Clubs

2026 MGC Central Region Virtual Fall Festival

October 5-6, 2026, Fee: \$75.

Presentations include:

Joseph Tychonievich "Great Garden Design for Bad Garden Designers"

David Lowenstein "Bugging out: What's that crawling on my plant?"

Heidi Grasman "Growing Into 2027: New Plants You Won't Want to Miss" Joannee

DeBruhl "Shoots and Microgreens"

Joe Summers "Frog Approved Water Gardens"

Elizabeth Lumbert "Discover Dow Gardens and its Legacy of Beauty" (special virtual tour of Dow Gardens)

<https://migardenclubs.org/ngc-2026-central-region-virtual-fall-festival/>



MGC Member Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 6 pm, Zoom

Endangered Butterfly Program, presented by David Pavlik, Michigan State University. The John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids. The Endangered Butterfly Program is a model of collaborative, science-based conservation, combining breeding habitat restoration and public engagement. Join the presentation with meeting ID: 845 759 9482 and passcode: mgcmeets

<https://migardenclubs-org.zoom.us/j/8457599482?pwd=SnczVVE2UE5sYU45NUxMNUVxM0cvUT09&omn=85147745436#success>



Virtual Events



Roots of Greatness – A Fine Gardening Course. Roots of Greatness brings together the current custodians of gardens created by Gertrude Jekyll, Vita Sackville-West, and Beth Chatto for intimate interviews and a wide-ranging panel discussion. Through personal insights and never-before-revealed stories, these guardians of horticultural history explore how each woman shaped the way we think about garden design and planting, and why their influence is as vital today as ever. This online, on-demand course is available to view on your schedule. The fee for the course is \$79.99. For more information or to register: <https://courses.finegardening.com/roots-of-greatness>



American Horticultural Society – AHS LIVE Fall Series

A variety of live webinars will be presented this fall covering: Horticulture & the Environment; Garden Design & Techniques; Plants, Culture & Community; Behind the Scenes Garden Tours. Virtual programs are recorded unless otherwise indicated in the individual program description. Access is given to registrants after the program. AHS programs qualify for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and for Master Gardener programs. <https://ahsgardening.org/ahs-live-series/>

Local Events



Great Lakes, Great Plants

Thursday, September 24 - Saturday, September 26, The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City

Lectures, tours, and immersive experiences celebrating horticulture, design, and the natural beauty of Northern Michigan. Designed for professionals and plant lovers alike, this three-day event includes inspiring talks, a rare plant auction, guided garden tours, and exclusive bonus experiences. This year's programming focuses on **Defining the Modern Midwest Landscape, Treecycling, and The Wildland Garden**, offering practical knowledge, innovative ideas, and plenty of inspiration.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-great-lakes-great-plants-tickets-1983281840373?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true



Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy Events

A variety of speakers, local field trips, and volunteer events are offered by the Walloon Lake Association. These include a guided wildlife viewing paddle excursion, several hikes, stream monitoring, invasive species removal work bees, and the last two dates of their Summer Speakers Series = Monica Gruler Farrier (NMMGA and Gruler Gardens) and Heather Hettinger (DNR Fish Biologist). To see the full schedule and RSVP for the events go to: <https://www.walloon.org/events/>



Plant Spotlight

From the American Horticultural Society

Looking for a colorful, low maintenance plant that attracts pollinators? Consider smooth ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*, Zones 4–9). Tall, lanky, and charming, this prairie native looks right at home in any informal garden with its tousled purple flowers. Native from Ohio to North Dakota and south to Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, its natural habitats include wet prairies, meadows, marshes, and riverbanks.

Why We Like Smooth Ironweed

- It blooms midsummer to fall
- The flowers attract a variety of bees, butterflies, and moths
- It's the larval host for the American painted lady butterfly
- It grows 4-6 feet tall
- Deer and rabbits tend to leave it alone

How to Grow Smooth Ironweed

- Plant in full to part sun in moist to medium-wet soil

Design Tips

- Perfect for habitat gardens, rain gardens, and the back of borders
- Pairs well with yellow perennial sunflowers and goldenrods, native grasses, and Joe-Pye weed

Did You Know?

- If you have other ironweed species in your garden, you could end up with a variety of hybrids because they freely interbreed.



Alternatives to Newly Restricted Invasive Plant Species

From the MSU Extension

MSU Extension has covered the six species that were newly added to the invasive species list in Michigan. An invasive species is defined as one that is not native and whose introduction causes harm — or is likely to cause harm — to Michigan's economy, environment or human health.

Effective June 19, 2026, the following aquatic plants and their cultivars will be considered prohibited:

- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
- Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)

Effective January 1, 2028, the following plants and their cultivars will be considered restricted:

- Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
- Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
- Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



To help with the transition, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) developed a website that provides landscape alternatives for invasive plants in Michigan. To see the list use the following link:

<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report/plants/plant-alternatives>

Applefest Bulb Sale

Volunteers are needed to staff the CAGC Bulb Sale Tent during Applefest. The booth will be open on Friday, October 9 from 10 am – 6 pm; Saturday, October 10 from 10 am – 6 pm; and Sunday, October 11 from 10 am – 4 pm. Email Beth Cowie bethcowie@mac.com if you can help and let her know your preferred day(s) and times (morning or afternoon). A schedule and sign-up sheet will be available at our September Membership Meeting.



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

September

- 3 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 3 MGC Member Meeting**, 6 pm, Zoom. Endangered Butterfly Program, presented by David Pavlik, Michigan State University. The John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids. Meeting ID: 845 759 9482 and passcode: mgcmeets
- 5 Alanson Plant Sale**, 9am, Alanson Hillside Garden, US-31, Alanson.
- 8 CAGC Member Meeting**, Noon, Charlevoix Public Library. Annual Potluck and State of the Gardens Address.
- 9 LTC Wild Wednesday: Goldenrod and Asters**, 6:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. LTC environmental education staff will discuss the wildflowers that close out northern Michigan's growing season in gold and purple.
- 10 District 5 Fall Meeting**, Great Lakes Center for the Arts, Bay Harbor
- 11 Tree ID Hike**, Noon, Little Traverse Conservancy Hailand/Helstrom Family Nature Preserve, 4855 West Conway Road, Harbor Springs. Brad Von Blon will share a wealth of information about the beautiful trees found at this nature preserve complex. <https://landtrust.org/events-template/tree-id-hike-with-brad-von-blon/>
- 12 Serene Shade Gardens with Deer Resistance**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 10 am – Noon, NCMC Health and Science Building, Petoskey. Class fee: \$40, Registration required: <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6778373>
- 12 Native Plant Sale**, 9 am – 1 pm, Gruler Gardens, 1298 E Gruler Road, Petoskey. To see the plant list go to: <https://www.grulergardens.com/nativeplants>
- 18-19 NGC Gardening School**, hosted by the MGC River Valley Garden Club. In-person classes on plant identification, specialized styles of gardening, invasive bus and worms, pruning, and growing woody ornamentals. For more information: <https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Gardening-School-Course-4-Brochure-DRAFT-2.pdf>
- 20 Mushrooming with Amy and Joe Lipson**, Noon – 2 pm, Chaboiganing Nature Preserve, 10251 Brutus Road, Brutus, MI 49716. Join this foraging adventure to look for interesting fungi, and maybe even find some choice edibles! This mushroom hike will be primarily an on-trail guided walk.
- 23 Creating a Pollinator Garden**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 5:30 pm – 7 pm, NCMC Health and Science Building, Petoskey. Class fee: \$30, Registration required: <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6736985>
- 24 - 26 Great Lakes, Great Plants**, The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City. Lectures, tours, and immersive experiences celebrating horticulture, design, and the natural beauty of Northern Michigan. Designed for professionals and plant lovers alike, this three-day event includes inspiring talks, a rare plant auction, guided garden tours, and exclusive bonus experiences. This year's programming focuses on Defining the Modern Midwest Landscape, Treecycling, and The Wildland Garden, offering practical knowledge, innovative ideas, and plenty of inspiration. Early bird pricing available through August
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-great-lakes-great-plants-tickets-1983281840373?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

October

- 5-6 2026 MGC Central Region Virtual Fall Festival.** Two days of virtual presentations. Fee \$75. For registration and information: <https://migardenclubs.org/ngc-2026-central-region-virtual-fall-festival/>
- 8 CAGC Board Meeting,** 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 8-9 Landscape Design School, Course #2,** In-person, October 8-9, 2026, The Boardman River Nature Center, Traverse City. <https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/LDS-24-C2-Brochure.pdf>
- 9-11 CAGC Bulb Sale at Applefest,** East Park, Charlevoix.
- 10 Native Plant Sale,** 9 am – 1 pm, Gruler Gardens, 1298 E Gruler Road, Petoskey. To see the plant list go to: <https://www.grulergardens.com/nativeplants>
- 13 CAGC Member Meeting: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers,** 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library
- 25 Wander Walloon Guided Fall Color Hike,** 1 pm, Postle Farm Preserve. WLAC staff will lead a hike during peak fall color season, highlighting the forest and natural communities that make the preserve special. <https://www.walloon.org/events/>



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the October newsletter is September 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)

