



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB,
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May 2025

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org



President's Message

The saying "April Showers Bring May Flowers" hopefully will still hold true even with what looks like a late spring. What we do know is May will bring our first large fundraiser of the year with our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 24. The tri-chairs of the sale, Susan Thurow, Marie Eckstein and Maureen Bingham have been working over the winter getting some plants already potted and wintered over, some ordered and requests gone out to members to contribute plants from their own gardens. New banners are on order to be displayed at the north and south entrances to town advertising the sale. Now it is up to us to step up and fill the volunteer slots needed to make this another success. For newer members, this is the ideal time to spend time with fellow CAGC members, get better acquainted and develop new friendships.

Hopefully most if not all of you are reconnected to the outside world after the unbelievable ice storm and the damage done to our community. I was certainly made aware how many devices I have to plug in each night to keep connected.

In Friendship,
Carolyn

May Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 13, at 1:00 pm in the Community Room at the Charlevoix Public Library.

Our guest speaker will be Lauren Dey, Associate Director of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Lauren is a Harbor Springs native who holds a bachelor's degree in conservation biology. She will be explaining how we identify healthy streams through analyzing the invertebrates. Come enjoy learning science and how to protect our streams.



In Memoriam – Richard Brown

Rich Brown was an enthusiastic gardener. After moving north from his home in Williamston, MI, Rich became a CAGC member in 2010. With his interest in history and antiques, he became a strong supporter of the Depot Heritage Garden, where he helped maintain the beauty of the garden. For 15 years he installed the deer protection fencing around the six very tall Arborvitae. He left us this spring and we will miss his humor, friendship and dedication.

Rich's yards were gorgeous horticultural wonders. People would stop to admire the beauty he created with his perennials and annuals. He had an incredible eye for making plants harmonize in an almost magical way. He couldn't wait for spring so he could get out in his yard and start digging and planting.

He is survived by his wife, Christine, his sons Richard Jr, and Robert, and his four grandchildren. The family is planning a Celebration of Life sometime later this summer or fall. We will announce the details once they are finalized.

To read his full obituary, please go to:

<https://www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com/obituary/Richard-BrownSr>



National Garden Clubs

The National Gardener Magazine is now an online publication that is made available on a quarterly basis through the NGC website. Click the following link to view the Spring issue: <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/tng-spring-2025.pdf>

National Garden Week: NGC clubs across the country will celebrate National Garden Week, June 1-7, 2025. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts. This is the perfect time to invite your friends and neighbors to visit our club's nine Civic Gardens in Charlevoix – and maybe get them to lend a hand working to beautify these spaces!



Michigan Garden Clubs

Michigan Garden Clubs Annual Conference: It's a Shore Way to Connect June 9 – 10, 2025, Haworth Hotel and Conference Center, Holland, MI Conference registration is now open!

<https://migardenclubs.org/2025-michigan-garden-clubs-annual-conference-june-8-9-10/>

MGC District 5 Fall Meeting – September 11-13, 2025 at the Manistee Senior Center The meeting, hosted by Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Portage Lake Garden Club, and the Periwinkle Garden Club will feature a Standard Flower Show. Flower show submissions will be accepted on September 11, the meeting held on the 12th, and on the 13th the Flower Show will be open to the public. If you wish to stay, book your hotel now. For more information: <https://www.portagelakegardenclub.org/mifloraandfauna>



Conservation: Container Gardening, Small = Big Wins

Submitted by: Carrie Minch



With just a few pots or other containers on a deck, porch or balcony the elements for supporting wildlife apply, just at a smaller scale. Whether planting for birds, mammals or insect pollinators, such diminutive habitats can pack a big punch. Take it from conservation biologist Isis Howard, who nurtures a diversity of pollinators and other insects on an 8-by-10-foot patio outside her Santa Rosa, California, apartment. Brimming with buckwheat, milkweed and other native plants, Howard's patio garden is "full of all these pollinators," she says, including hoverflies, ladybugs, hummingbirds and skippers. "No matter the size of someone's yard or garden, anyone who incorporates pollinator plants is playing a role in supporting pollinators," Howard says.

Small urban gardens can have a particularly powerful impact on insects and birds migrating long distances and searching for places to refuel on pollen and nectar. People also benefit from small city gardens. Even the smallest of gardens can have a tremendous impact on the sense of well-being among people in the community.

Are you ready to get started? Here's some tips:

- **Pick your plants.** When working with small spaces, select plants that will give you the most bang for your buck—which means native species if you want to help wildlife. Try to have at least three species that bloom in different seasons. And make sure your plants have not been treated with any kind of pesticides.
- **Choose containers.** You generally want a container that is 1 or 2 inches bigger than the plant's starting root-mass diameter; gradually size up as the plant grows. Many natives have deep root structures, requiring a deep container a foot or more high.
- **Add soil or potting mix.** For most native plants, fertilizer additives to soil mixes are unnecessary.
- **Go vertical.** Using vertical structures such as trellises is a great way to boost habitat in a small space and to support a more diverse range of wildlife.
- **Water mindfully.** Container plants can require stricter watering regimens than in-ground gardens. Keep track of drainage by checking beneath your pot and dumping any excess liquid.

The need for such special care can make container gardening seem intimidating, but even just a few pots could make a difference. With many pollinator species sharply declining, she adds, "we really need every person to find some way to engage in pollinator conservation."

By Callie Rhoades Habitat Gardening Mar 26, 2025, National Wildlife Magazine:

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2025/Spring/Gardening/Container-Gardening-Native-Plants>

Adopt A Highway Clean-up

Our volunteers will be meeting at 9:00 am, Monday, May 12. Please join us for the first highway cleanup of the season. Because the ice storm caused dangerous roadside conditions, the State Highway Department moved the date for the spring pickup to May. We meet at the church parking lot across from the Charlevoix Community Pool (US 31 north of the intersection of Boyne City Road). A minimum of 8 volunteers are needed to work on our stretch of US 31. Bring gloves and wear sturdy boots or shoes.

The rain date is Friday, May 16.



Floral Design Group

The Floral Design Group met in April to create “Creative Mass Designs”. “Mass” implies tangible components which dominate the design. Easter was also evident in the arrangements. The next meeting of the design group will take place on Tuesday, May 20 1:00 pm at the Charlevoix Public Library. All CAGC members are welcome.





CAGC Events and Community Calendar

May

- 2-3 Otsego County Conservation District Tree Sale Pickup – walk-ins welcome**, 800 Livingston Boulevard, Gaylord, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm. Conifers, hardwoods, wildlife shrubs, fruit trees, and native ground covers will be sold.
<http://www.otsegocd.org/tree-sale.html>
- 3 Charlevoix Circle of Arts Spring Clean-up**, 9 – 11 am. The Circle of Arts at 109 Clinton Street is looking for volunteers to help with their spring gardening cleaning. Bring your gloves, rakes, and tools. Contact Erika Kilkenny if you would like to help erika@charlevoixcircle.org
- 3 Walloon Wildflower Walk with CAKE CISMA**, 10 am, Fields Preserve, 4175 Resort Pike Road, Petoskey. Guided by CAKE CISMA Coordinator Katie Gray, participants will look for spring wildflowers. To register: <https://www.cakecisma.org/event-details/walloon-wildflower-walk-2>
- 3 Serene Shade Gardens**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 10 am, \$40. Learn how to create a visually appealing design with shade plants. Registration required: <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6098975>
- 8 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:15 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 10 Container Gardening: Fun Pots & Planters for Summer**, NCMC Lifelong Learning, 10 am, \$40. Learn to leverage leaf color and texture as well as bloom color for maximum show. Learn about the best and worst performing plants for pots. Registration required: <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6109234>
- 12 Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up**, 9:00 am. Meet at the church parking lot across from the Charlevoix Pool.
- 13 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Anna Watson, Monitoring Coordinator for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.
- 14 Depot Heritage Garden Spring Clean-Up**, 10 am. Bring tools, rakes, brooms, clippers, tarp, etc.
- 16-18 Lavender Hill Farm Plant Sale**, 7354 Horton Bay Road, Boyne City. The team at Lavender Hill will help you select the best lavender varieties for your garden during their annual plant sale.
- 17 Spring Ephemeral Hike with CAKE CISMA**, 10 am, Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area, 3169 Eckhardt road, Bellaire. Guided by CAKE CISMA Coordinator Katie Gray, participants will look for spring wildflowers
To register: <https://www.cakecisma.org/event-details/spring-ephemeral-hike>
- 17 Wildflower Walk in the Offield Reserve**, 11 am, Harbor Springs. Join Little Traverse Conservancy's Brad Van Blon to identify and appreciate wildflowers. <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6112580>
- 18-24 National Garden Clubs Annual Convention**, Charleston, SC
- 20 CAGC Design Group Meeting**, 1 pm, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 21 Spring Foraging for Wild Herbs**, 5:30 pm, North Central Michigan College, Petoskey, \$30. Join certified herbalist Sierra LaRose for a walk in the woods to learn about wild plants, herbal remedies, and ethical harvesting. To register: <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6082511> (second session on May 28).
- 24 CAGC Plant Sale**, fundraiser, Ferry Beach Pavilion.
- 31 Otsego Conservation District Native Plant Nursery**, open house/plant sale, 459 Livingston Blvd. Gaylord. More than 30 species of native flowers and grasses. Pre-order online <https://otsego-conservation-district.square.site>

June

- 1-7 National Garden Week**
- 5 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:15 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 6-15 Mackinac Island Lilac Festival**, Mackinac Island.
- 7 Northern Michigan Master Gardener Association Plant Sale**, 8:30am – Noon, Emmet County Fairgrounds.
- 8-10 Michigan Garden Clubs State Conference**, Holland, MI for more information and to register:
<https://migardenclubs.org/2025-michigan-garden-clubs-annual-conference-june-8-9-10/>
- 10 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Erica and Craig Boss of Charlevoix Lavender.
- 12 Preserving MI Harvest – Veggies from Garden to Freezer**, 1-2 pm and 6-7 pm, Zoom. Learn how to freeze your fresh vegetables by blanching and freezing. We'll discuss what blanching is, what to blanch, and tips for freezing.
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/preserving-mi-harvest-veggies-from-garden-to-freezers-june-12>
- 17 CAGC Design Group Meeting**, 1 pm, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 20 First Day of Summer!**

July

- 8 CAGC Member Meeting/Garden Walk Preview**, 10:00 am, meet at the Charlevoix Public Library for a brief business meeting. Following the meeting we will preview the gardens to be featured on our July Garden Walk.
- 16 Biennial Garden Walk**, Fundraiser.
- 19-26 Charlevoix Venetian Festival**



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the June CAGC newsletter is May 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)

