



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB,
MEMBER OF
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October 2026

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org



President's Message

Dear fellow gardeners,

Here we are in October with the full fall colors coming soon and our last major fund-raiser of the year, our bulb sale at the Charlevoix Applefest. Our tri-chairs Beth Cowie, Sally Fogg and Marty Sutton have ordered a wonderful selection of bulbs that (hopefully) will sell out fast so come early for the best selection if you have not already put in an early order.

October is a busy month for conducting club business. We will hold the election of officers for 2027. The slate presented by the nominating committee was shared at the September meeting.

The Budget committee met in September and the proposed budget for 2027 will be brought to the membership for first reading with a vote to approve occurring at the November Membership meeting. A copy of the proposed budget will be sent out to the membership before the November meeting for you to review.

This is also the month when we finish putting our civic gardens to sleep for the winter so I want to extend a big thank you to all the members who helped to truly make Charlevoix the Beautiful this past year.

Happy Gardening,

Carolyn

October Membership Meeting

We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting and Board Election on Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00 pm in the Charlevoix Public Library Community Room.

In addition to the election of officers, our Treasurers will present our 2027 budget.



National Garden Clubs

Botanical Arts

This ever-widening division in Flower Shows has become a catch-all for botanical creativity and includes everything from espaliered houseplants and fairy gardens to realistic, wearable items made from plant materials—even photography is now considered Botanical Arts. It is one of many creative areas explored through NGC Flower Shows and Flower Show School, which offers courses in horticulture, floral design, flower show procedure, and judging. To learn more:

<https://gardenclub.org/blog/exploring-botanical-arts-ngc-flower-shows>



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/>



CAGC Bulb Sale at Applefest

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help at our Applefest Bulb Sale Booth. We will be in our yellow tent in East Park on October 9, 10, and 11 – where we will be selling a selection of Dutch-grown bulbs for fall planting and spring blooms. You can purchase bulbs for yourself, your friends, or for a civic garden you work in right now and get them in the ground ahead of Applefest!

To see the list of bulbs and pricing go to our website:

https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/files/ugd/bdb85c_ec72f264c33c4b0e872773e99f904c3d.pdf

Bulb sales will not only beautify our community, but will support our Club's fundraising efforts! Contact Beth Cowie to make a purchase: bethcowie@mac.com

Welcome New Members!

At our September Membership Meeting three new members officially joined our Club. We are looking forward to getting to know them and work alongside them in the gardens!



Anna Alioto-Hogan comes to us from Northern California. She is a California native and her husband is from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. They left California in May and will live in Charlevoix during the summers and early fall and then Fort Lauderdale for the winter. Anna has a background in ballet tap and jazz and is a personal trainer. She also teaches Pilates, weightlifting, Zumba, and TRX. In addition, Anna worked in marketing at Visa and as a special events manager for several non-profits. She's excited to join the Garden Club!

Leslee Paul and her husband, Don decided to move into their "Summer home" permanently last year. Leslee grew up in Monroe County, Michigan, where her family owned and farmed their land. Leslee was an active member of 4-H and learned much from her club. After graduating from Ida High School, she attended Central Michigan University. She is a Life Member of the Bellbrook Garden Club and has served as President, Vice-President and also chaired the 5th Grade school program making posters for OAGC. Leslee's parents owned a house in Bay View, Petoskey. Leslee and Don's daughter, Michelle lives in Harbor Springs. Their other daughter, Jennifer lives in St. Louis. Consequently, they all have fond memories of being together in this area. Leslee and Don both enjoy being in nature and living on the Lake Michigan shoreline.



Lise Shipley is a new summer resident and spends her winters in Georgetown, Texas, north of Austin. Because she grew up in a small town south of Kansas City and loves the 4 seasons, she desperately needed to get out of the Texas heat in the summer. She spent summers at the Lake of the Ozarks and she loves Lake Life, swimming, traveling, reading and has started playing Mahjong here. Her parents taught their children the love of the outdoors, sports and gardening. The family filled the yard with Maple trees, shrubs and flowers with a row of peonies in the back yard. They had a large garden of vegetables that fed our family and others in the community.

MSU Flower Favorites from Trial Gardens

From the MSU Extension

Each year, MSU collaborates with Michigan's leading young plant producers to host an open house at their trial sites and display gardens. This event offers growers, landscapers, and retail professionals a valuable opportunity to explore a diverse array of ornamental crops and assess their performance in both in-ground and container settings. The 2026 Michigan Garden Plant Tour showcased the latest innovations and standout varieties across multiple locations.

MSU Extension has published their "Featured Five" – the favorites from each of the gardens. A few of the top picks:

- Strawflower, *Bracteantha granvia*, 'White Improved' – with enormous white and light pink flowers.
- Sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*, 'Always Sunny Gold' – which grows up to 62 inches tall, yet has a relatively tidy habit.
- Nemesis, *Nemesis fruticans*, 'Aromance Plum Honey' - unique bicolor flowers that blend shades of plum and yellow.
- Blue Felicia Daisy, *Felicia*, 'Forever Blue' – petite blue daisy with a beautiful mounded habit.



To read about (and see photos of) all of the favorites from this year's trial gardens go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/featured-five-2026-favorites-from-proven-winners-carleton-display-gardens>

Leave the Leaves

From Homegrown National Park

Most of us grew up thinking a tidy yard meant clearing every leaf each fall. There's a better way to care for your yard and the life that depends on it. Fallen leaves aren't debris. They're shelter, food, and nesting material for the wildlife living in your yard through winter. Small changes in how you handle them can support a lot more life.

Who needs your leaves:

- Bumblebees burrow into leaf litter for winter.
- Moth and butterfly caterpillars cocoon inside it.
- Fireflies hide and lay eggs beneath it.
- Toads and salamanders tuck into damp leaves for shelter and moisture.
- Songbirds forage through fallen leaves for insects and larvae to eat.

Those same leaves return nutrients to your soil and feed your trees. Leaves aren't clutter. They're home to the wildlife you want to see in your yard. The easiest way to help wildlife is to leave your leaves where they fall.

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/leave-the-leaves/>



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

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/>
- 7 CAGC Board Meeting,** 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 8 Bulb Sale Tent Set-up,** 10:00 am, East Park
- 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
- 13 Master Composter Training, Session #1,** 5-7 pm, NCMC Health and Science Building, Room 333. Emmet County Recycling is offering the Master Composter Series as a FREE opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about composting. This 5 session course takes place on Tuesday evenings Oct. 13 – Nov. 10. Registration required: <https://www.ncmclifelonglearning.com/event-6852635>
- 14 Wild Wednesday: Leaves Changing,** 6:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Join LTC environmental education staff for an evening exploring what is actually happening inside a tree when northern Michigan turns color.
- 20 CAGC Floral Design Study Group,** 1-3 pm, Charlevoix Public Library
- 24 Fall Fairy Houses,** 1:00 pm, Grass River Natural Area. Turn a pretend pumpkin into a fabulous work of fairy house art. All supplies will be provided. This class is for adults and kids old enough to use a hot glue gun. \$10 per person. Registration required: <https://www.grassriver.org/classes-and-programs.html>
- 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/>

November

- 4 Owl Prowl**, 6:00 pm, Little Traverse Conservancy's Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger Nature Preserve, 5285 Five Mile Creek Road, Harbor Springs. Wander through the preserve with LTC's Brad Von Blon to call owls and learn more about these magnificent birds. <https://landtrust.org/events-template/owl-prowl-with-brad-von-blon/>
- 5 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library
- 10 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library
- 11 Blue Star Memorial Ceremony**, East Park, Charlevoix
- 11 Wild Wednesday: Black Bear Ecology**, 6:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Join LTC environmental education staff for an evening with one of northern Michigan's most iconic and least often seen mammals. By November, black bears are moving toward their dens and their bodies are running through a remarkable physiological transformation.
- 17 CAGC Floral Design Study Group**, 1-3 pm, Charlevoix Public Library

December

- 10 CAGC Holiday Luncheon**



From the September meeting of the Floral Design Group – left Underwater by Greta Gappy, right Sculptural Design by Audrey Etienne

CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the November newsletter is October 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)

