



September 2023

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message

We hope this finds you enjoying the last beautiful days of summer while the smell and colors of fall are approaching. The weather reflects the transitions we face as a club. Kathy Kopitz, Peggy Eckhold, and Marty Sutton (first and second vice-presidents) have agreed to work together to fill the vacancy of President until the end of the year. The Board has approved this decision and is supporting the team. We appreciate your patience as we work together to help the club move forward.

Thank you to everyone who filled out the directory information and volunteered for committees using our online form before and during our August member meeting! This process will make our signups much easier in the future. A special shout out goes to Beth Cowie who enabled the process and worked overtime to present and execute the technology. If you have not completed the Google form or responded to one of us via phone or email, please do so. We will form committees based upon those who respond.

Nominating, bylaws, program, and yearbook committees are continuing to make progress as is work for the July luncheon at the Castle. The MGC District 5 Fall meeting takes place on September 14th at Community Reformed church. Contact Diane McMahon if you need tickets. Our bulb sale is scheduled for Applefest, October 13-15. Contact Marty Sutton if you need information. The Charlevoix Community Foundation has been scheduled to speak at our October potluck member meeting to present information and answer questions about our accounts with them.

We remain a busy club as we still tend our personal and community gardens. As we clean up and clear out, the autumn season reminds us of the beauty of letting go. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have concerns, questions, or ideas.

Growing together,
Kathy, Peggy, and Marty



September Membership Meeting

Our September Meeting takes place on Tuesday, September 12 at 1:00 pm in the Charlevoix Public Library's Community Room.

Topic: Landscape Design, Speaker: Scott Philp, President, Landscape Logic.

Welcome Sally and Becky

At our August meeting we welcomed two new members to our club!

Sally Fogg was introduced by Rhea Dow. Sally is originally from Holland, MI. In 2000 she and her husband moved to Beaver Island – where they ran a B&B. They currently reside in a 1906 cottage on Mercer Boulevard that they have renovated. Sally has been dabbling with gardening for many years, and can't imagine life without all of the gorgeous plants and flowers that we are so blessed to enjoy – and the satisfaction that comes from having that one special plant thrive. Sally looks forward to learning more about gardening from our “seasoned” club members and contributing to the work of the club.

Becky Scholl-Stauffer was introduced by Marianne Mundy. Becky was born in Montague, MI and was raised on an asparagus farm – where she showed Quarter horses, and later, Draft horses. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop and Soil Science from MSU and has worked with the Federal Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist. She then farmed with family and worked for a veterinarian. A decade later she earned a BS and MS in Agriscience Education and then taught Agricultural Animal Science, Plant & Soil Ecology, Horticulture, and Biology at Petoskey High School. In 2016 Becky retired from teaching, sold her home, and became a full time RV'er for the next four years. Now she is the caretaker at the Hayes Township Park (formerly Camp Seagull), and she winters in Arizona.



Spring 2024 Plant Sale

The Plant Sale Committee is already hard at work preparing for our 2024 Sale. Recently members dug 130 plants from Dana Pajitas's home in Norwood. Dana has donated many plants to the plant sale over the years, and we estimate the resale value of this current donation to be over \$1,000!

The CAGC Spring Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2024. Contact Sue Thurow if you want to help.



Conservation: Needing the Night

How Light Pollution Impacts Wildlife & How You Can Help

Submitted by Carrie Minch

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, members of the Ventura Audubon Society approached the operators of a power plant about an hour north of Los Angeles. Its location is a habitat that has become as rare as it is crucial for California shorebirds such as the threatened western snowy plover. For more than a decade, the society had been counting 20 or more plover nests each year to the north and south of the generating station. But the birds never nested on the half-mile of sand directly in front of the plant, and the conservationists suspected the facility's bright security lights might be the problem. Plovers need darkness to hide their open-sand nests from nighttime predators. The plant managers agreed to dim the lights, and the following year, in 2013, 10 snowy plover nests appeared on the previously barren beachfront.



Before the mid-1800s, most of the world's humans and other animals lived under night skies lit solely by the moon. Electric outdoor lighting became commonplace in the early 20th century and increased about 3 to 6 percent a year during the second half of the 20th century. The global extent of modern light pollution became clear in 2016, with publication of the first comprehensive global satellite measurement of nocturnal artificial light—"The New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness"—in the journal *Science Advances*. Researchers found that more than 80 percent of the world population lives under light-polluted night skies—places where the glow from artificial lights is significant enough that stars begin to disappear from view. In the United States and Europe, 99 percent of residents live under light-polluted skies. A 2017 follow-up report found that global light pollution levels are rising at a rate of 2.2 percent a year.

Light pollution disorients countless animals, exposing many to dangers such as predators, exhaustion and starvation. In 2022, colleagues from four countries published "A plea for a worldwide development of dark infrastructure for biodiversity" in the journal *Landscape and Urban Planning*. "Light pollution is an increasing worldwide pressure for biodiversity," they wrote, "contributing to habitat loss and fragmentation." The researchers urged conservation scientists and urban planners worldwide to include the crucial need for darkness in their plans for preserving and restoring wildlife habitat.

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Like roads and fences, artificial light can create barriers that fragment habitat. Many slow-flying bats, for example avoid feeding in or even passing through illuminated areas because it exposes them to predators such as owls and other birds of prey. Light shining on or close to the roosts of these light-sensitive animals also delays their emergence at dusk, when the insects they eat are most abundant. Sometimes, light will cause bats to abandon their roosts or become entombed in them, starving to death as they wait for darkness that never comes.

Light also can be a fatal lure to wildlife, as with the poster animals of this problem: sea turtle hatchlings.

On beaches adjacent to roads and buildings, many emerging hatchlings head inland toward artificial lights instead of the ocean. Researchers have documented similar attraction and disorientation among migratory songbirds. Many will circle brightly lit buildings throughout the night, leading to exhaustion and depletion of the energy stores they need for their journeys. Worse, birds often collide with lighted structures. Studies have shown that artificial nocturnal light also interferes with a migrating songbird's ability to use natural polarized light from the sky to calibrate its internal compass.

Scientists say light pollution is among many factors driving a potentially catastrophic decline in some of the world's insect populations. That threat is obvious to anyone who has witnessed moths and other nocturnal insects swarming around bright outdoor lights. The lights' powerful lure may stem from the animals' instinctual tendency to orient themselves by moonlight, explains Candace Fallon, an endangered species biologist with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. "If you have insects fluttering around a street light all night, they're depleting their energy reserves to the point of exhaustion, increasing exposure to predators and potentially missing courtship cues from mates," she says.

"**The good news** is that addressing light pollution has a clear and immediate impact," says Ashley Wilson, former director of conservation for the International Dark-Sky Association, a global leader in combating the problem. "As soon as you turn that light off, the pollutant disappears from the environment, and species can begin to return." Timers and motion detectors can limit how long light disrupts the darkness. Adopting that approach on a large scale, seasonal restrictions mandate lowering or extinguishing lights during crucial migratory or mating seasons. In 2022, for example, New York City became the largest U.S. urban area to adopt a migratory-bird-friendly Lights Out policy, requiring all city-owned and leased buildings to turn off outdoor lights between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. during spring and fall migration. More than two dozen U.S. cities have similar programs.

You needn't wait for governments to act, Wilson emphasizes. "When it comes to light pollution, every person has the ability to make a difference," she says. "Whether turning off a light, talking to neighbors or raising the issue at a town council meeting, this is an opportunity to enhance your community while benefiting wildlife and reducing energy consumption. It's a win-win-win situation."

National Wildlife Federation Magazine, Summer 2023

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2023/Summer/Conservation/Light-Pollution-Wildlife>

Adopt-a-Highway

Join us for the last pick up in 2023. On **Monday, September 25** we will meet at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church on US 31 – across from the Charlevoix Pool. The rain date is Friday, September at 9:00 am. Thank you for helping keep Charlevoix Beautiful!



News and Notes



The Charlevoix Conservation District will be holding their Annual Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday, September 9 from Noon until 3 pm at 303 North Street in Boyne City. The sale is a fundraiser for the district that also helps local landowners learn more about planting native to conserve water, protect soil and create habitat for wildlife. For more information and the list of plants for sale go to:

https://www.charlevoixcounty.org/conservation_district/native_plant_sale/index.php

Top 10 native plants for shorelines: The following article from MSU Extension lists native plants are not hard to locate and can improve your shoreline with their beauty and support of pollinators. Many of these can be purchased at the Conservation District Plant Sale.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/top-10-native-plants-for-shorelines-that-are-easy-to-find>

Dealing with storm-damaged trees: Deciding which trees to save after a storm often requires careful inspection. When in doubt, always consult with a professional arborist before working around damaged trees. This article from MSU Extension offers advice and resources.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/which_storm_damaged_trees_can_be_saved

Fall Bulb Sale

Our Annual Bulb Sale will take place October 13, 14, and 15 during Charlevoix Applefest, but CAGC members and friends can order now. Bulbs should arrive by the third week in September and early orders will be filled as soon as possible after the bulbs arrive. You can be planting before the sale and be ready to volunteer for a shift at the sale at AppleFest! Call (205-999-9790) or email me (marthasutton13@gmail.com).



You can find the brochure, showing the bulbs that will be available, and the order form on our website. Or use this link: https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/files/ugd/dedaa1_c7db5c28400f40eea85ddf4a321ecc8f.pdf



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

September

- 2 **Charlevoix Evening Garden Club Plant Sale**, 9 am – Noon, Ferry beach pavilion #2
- 9 **Charlevoix Conservation District Fall Native Plant Sale**, Noon – 3 pm, District Barn on North St. in Boyne City
https://www.charlevoixcounty.org/conservation_district/native_plant_sale/index.php
- 12 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 p.m., Charlevoix Public Library – Topic: Landscape Design, Speaker: Scott Philp.
- 14 **District 5 Fall Meeting**, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Community Reformed Church, Charlevoix. Co-hosted by the Charlevoix Area Garden Club and the Charlevoix Evening Garden Club.
- 16 **Gruher Gardens Native Plant Sale**, Saturday, September 16 from 9 am – 1 pm, 1298 E. Gruher Road, Petoskey.
- 24 **Fall Mushrooming with Little Traverse Conservancy**, Sunday, September 24 Noon – 2 pm. Registration required.
<https://landtrust.org/events/event-register/>
- 25 **Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up**, Monday, Meet at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church on US 31 – across from the Charlevoix Pool. Rain date is Friday, September 29.

October

- 5-7 **NGC Flower Show School**, Hosted by Michigan Garden Clubs, Ann Arbor, MI Registration due by September 15.
<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Michigan-Garden-Clubs-2023-FSS-Course-1-Final-Brochure-6-28-2023.pdf>
- 6-7 **Otsego Conservation District Fall Tree Sale**, Friday, October 6 from 9am to 5pm and Saturday, October 7 from 9am to 1pm, 459 Livingston Blvd Gaylord, MI 49735. Walk-ins welcome, pre-orders recommended. Pre-orders due Friday, September 22. <http://www.otsegocd.org>
- 10 **CAGC Member Meeting**, Noon, Charlevoix Public Library – Potluck and Annual Meeting. Election of 2024 officers and presentation of 2024 budget, and presentation by the Charlevoix Community Foundation.
- 13-15 **CAGC Bulb Sale**, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during Charlevoix Applefest. East Park.
- 27-28 **NGC Environmental School Course 3**, Manistee Michigan. Registration deadline October 13.
<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Environmental-School-3.pdf>



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the October CAGC newsletter is September 25. Email your photos, information, and articles to 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)



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