



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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February 2024

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org



President's Message

Dear Members,

We sadly said goodbye to one of our cherished members of 40 years, Lois Lewis, this month. Her daughters were very grateful for all the assistance our garden club provided. She will be missed.

At the January meeting I suggested a project called Penny Pines and everyone agreed that we should participate. We collected \$8.35 on our very first time. We will continue to bring the jar every month and after we have \$68, we will have a tree planted in a national forest of our choice. So, bring your loose change and put it in the jar.

I was excited to see how many members signed up for the future "PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE" This should be fun to get everyone involved. For February we have one person signed up for the photography section, but still need someone for Horticulture and Floral design. Let me know if you can help.

I hope that January has allowed you to get outside and enjoy all the winter sports that are available. We did have enough snow to make that possible (earlier).

Since I am a transplant to northern Michigan, I'm not much of an outdoors person in the winter. So, staying tucked inside with knitting and housecleaning is how I am spending my days until the garden club meetings start up.

Looking forward to getting active again.

Martha Rohr

February Membership Meeting

Our February Meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 13 at 1:00 pm at the Charlevoix Public Library. It will feature a program on Pest Management and Tree Phenology by David Lowenstein, PhD., Consumer Horticulture Educator at Michigan State University. This video presentation will cover the life cycle of insects and trees to help us manage pests in our gardens.

A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent via email. We look forward to seeing everyone – in person or virtually.



Conservation: Notes on Winter Bird Feeding

Submitted by Carrie Minch

Peanuts are a great source of protein, especially for woodpeckers, nuthatches, and jays. However, salted peanuts (including those salted in the shell) are NOT safe for birds. Roasted peanuts are problematic since it is hard to be sure how they were prepared and whether salts or oils were used. It is best to purchase raw peanuts specifically intended and packaged for bird food.

Source: Birds and Booms Extra, November 2023

Natural organic types of peanut butter, with the fewest additives (but not low-fat) can be fed to birds as a protein-packed and fat-filled treat. If you offer it stuffed into the holes of a log-type feeder, clean thoroughly first to avoid mold. You may also simply smear it right on the tree bark!

Source: Birds and Booms, December 2018



Don't be tempted to feed ducks and geese bread and crackers. They provide little nutritional value and can even cause a feather deformity known as angel wings. Better food choices include: cracked corn, leafy greens, peas, and broccoli – which are more like their natural diet.

Source: Birds and Boom Extras, January 2024



Michigan Garden Clubs

MGC Monthly Member Meetings take place via Zoom. All CAGC members are welcome to join using the **Meeting ID: 912 729 4983** and **Passcode: mgcmeets**

February 12, 2024 6:00 pm: Membership Matters! Robin Pokorski, former NGC Director of Pacific Region Garden Clubs, will provide useful tips using her wonderful humor that will help clubs recruit and retain members.

March 11, 2024 6:00 pm: Welcome 2023-2025 NGC President Brenda Moore! Brenda is the 2023-2025 National Garden Club President and hails from West Virginia. She is the author of four NGC youth books including her new release [My Green is Gone](#). Brenda will share her passion for the Environment (Plant America Go Green) and her three President's projects. Michigan Garden Club, Inc. will be teaming up on one of her projects "Feed America". Her books are available for purchase at: <https://gardenclub.org/store>

The Garden Club of Michigan is presenting: **Plastic Pollution** on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm via Zoom. This online lecture by Kim Cameron of Beyond Plastics will delve into the toxic connections between plastics and plants, animals, soil water and our bodies – including what micro-plastic particles do to our soil. Kim Cameron holds a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology. Beyond Plastics pairs the wisdom and experience of environmental policy experts with the energy and creativity of grassroots advocates to build a vibrant and effective movement to end plastic pollution. Register by February 12 by emailing: info@gardenclubofmichigan.org

Have you looked at the renewed version of the MGC website? The site was renovated during this past summer to allow easier access to information. To access the Member Resources area of the website, use the password: *mgcgrow*



National Garden Clubs

Plant America, Feed America is a National Garden Clubs campaign to help feed the hungry in our country. The project will encourage every NGC member to participate in one of several ways to help fight food insecurity. **Our club is planning to cultivate a plot in the Charlevoix Community Garden this summer** in hopes of donating the harvest to the Charlevoix Food Pantry (or another organization). More information on how you can participate will be presented in upcoming CAGC meetings. Be a part of the solution of fighting food insecurity, and promote gardening to those around you! Learn more on the NGC website: <https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-feed-america>

The 2024 NGC Convention. The next convention of the National Garden Clubs will take place June 2 – June 5, 2024 in Westminster, Colorado. The registration deadline is May 24, 2024.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/2024-ngc-convention-details>

National Garden Week takes place from June 2 – 8, 2024. Give us your ideas about how we should celebrate!

<https://gardenclub.org/national-garden-week>



News and Notes

The Charlevoix Conservation District 2024 Tree Sale Catalog will be out. You can find a pdf of the catalog posted on their website www.charlevoixcd.org or you can call their office 231-582-6193 to be added to their mailing list if you wish to receive a hard copy. The ordering deadline is April 1, and trees can be picked up at their office in Boyne City on Saturday, April 27. Native bareroot seedlings and transplants, wildlife habitat shrubs, and native seed mixes are available.

Grand Traverse Conservation District Winter Webinar Series: Free to Grow – a Discussion on the Future of Michigan’s Old Growth. Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 6:00 PM 7:00 PM via Zoom. Nick Sanchez, Network Manager at the Old-Growth Forest Network, will explore the status of old-growth in Michigan and the importance of old forests for human health, biodiversity and water quality. Free. Registration is required.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvluNcrMnfMLFHE8wVsTi02HzTGuSZ4n4NOGH9rFUplVGnA/viewform>

Preserving MI Harvest: Join the MSU Extension Food Safety Team to learn how to preserve food safely at home using current preservation methods and research-based resources. Let us help you fill your pantry and freezer by preserving food at home. Join online via Zoom. Classes are free and you can register for any sessions you are interested in.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=C60C09D66641338CC05D57B878AC747588BF10DB3B59E4695162ABBB52A3F076>

- **Planting for Preservation.** February 8, 2024, 1-2 pm and 6-7 pm via Zoom. Plan your garden for food preservation. Topics will include vegetable variety and seed selection as well as timing and management of your seedlings. Free, registration required.
- **Preserving the Sale.** February 15. Freezing is a great method to save money when food is on sale.
- **Syrups and Sauces.** February, 22. Tips to use frozen berries for tasty sauces in winter.
- **Pressure Canning.** February 29. Discover how to safely preserve low-acid foods at home using your pressure canner.

Crooked Tree Art Center Exhibit “Cultivated: Relationships with Nature” – Now through February 24. This exhibition explores the latter, asking us to consider the idea of cultivation — the intentional act of nurturing and encouraging growth. <https://www.crookedtree.org/event/ctac-petoskey/cultivated-relationships-nature>



President's Challenge 2024

This year I am offering you a new challenge, which I hope will be fun throughout the year. Marge shared this from the Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club and I contacted the President and received permission to use some of their ideas with our own twist. Each month you have the opportunity to bring and show something that you are proud of. Only one requirement-it must be something related to the mission of our garden club. Share what you are growing, something interesting that you photographed, or floral design that you made.

This challenge is for us to grow our knowledge, grow our confidence, and learn from one another! Participation is not mandatory. It will be just for fun! I just want to inspire you to share plants (horticulture), floral designs, and your favorite photographs. There *WILL BE NO JUDGING* or any strict requirements as in flower shows.

EXHIBITION GUIDELINES

1. Exhibits should be in place by 12:30 PM (11:30 AM for earlier meetings) the day of the meeting to be viewed during our social time.
2. The Challenge encourages all members to make at least one design and show one horticulture specimen this year, hopefully more! I encourage many photographs!
3. Exhibits will not be judged. Not mandatory! Just fun!
4. All floral designs are designer's choice. Flowers and materials for design may be obtained from any source. Share your creativity!
5. Horticulture displays must have been grown by member. May be cut specimen or a potted plant.
6. Horticulture specimens should be well-groomed, clean and free of damaged leaves. Undersides of leaves should also be clean. Plant material in horticulture exhibit may not be altered.
7. Horticulture cut specimen should be displayed in water in "plain, transparent, clean or slightly tinted" container that is in proportion to the size of the specimen. Wedging is permitted to aid the specimen securely in place. Suggested wedging includes plastic wrap, wood or cork, Styrofoam or cotton balls.
8. **Photography** is intended to capture time in a garden or gardening interest. Go the NGC website for tips on photography: <https://www.gardenclub.org/photography> Picture should be a 5"x7" so we have consistency—placed in a simple white or black mat (if you don't have a mat, I'll have one for you), but no frames. Write a brief description if you want. Each month, suggestions are made to inspire your creativity. We will separate our display in "classes"
 - a. Single specimens-close up shot-consider a different perspective; such as underneath, through light.
 - b. The garden- would love to see pictures of the gardens of our members
 - c. Landscapes- your view, a favorite local spot, or perhaps a view where you visited
 - d. Pollinators, insects, birds, animals in the garden

If you can, please complete exhibit information on 3x5 index card, with your name and label with the correct botanical name and/or common name if possible. Don't worry if you don't know it. Share a bit about the inspiration for your design and your photograph. During the social time, members will have time to admire your exhibits and ask questions, so descriptions will be helpful.

Kindly remove exhibits promptly at the end of the meeting. Ensure the exhibition area is clean! THANK YOU! HAVE FUN!
(See suggested monthly topics on the following page – these are merely suggestions.)

President’s Challenge 2024 Monthly Schedule

These are “suggested” ideas for the monthly presentations. You are not obligated to stick with the topics noted below.

FEBRUARY	Seed Pods Tree branch Any potted plant	From the heart- Valentines or Mardi Gras Arrangement	Snowy Day
MARCH	Snowdrops Crocus Flowers Hellebore	Here comes Spring	Signs of Spring
APRIL	Daffodils Forsythia Wintercreeper Any potted plant	Springtime For the birds	April Showers
MAY	Lilac Lily of the Valley Iris Any Potted plant	Art through flowers (art -inspired Pansy arrangement)	Capture the awakening of your garden
JUNE	Allium Bee Balm Catmint Foxglove Peony	Wedding inspirations	Beginning of summers
AUGUST	Marigold Dalia Cosmo Coneflowers Black-eyed Susan's	Welcome Autumn	Farewell to summer
SEPTEMBER	Zinnia Asters Liatris, Toad lily Bluebeard	Pollinators Goldenrod	Butterfly's and bees
OCTOBER	Chrysanthemum Pods Ornamental Grass Dahlia	Seed Sunflowers Celosia treat gourds	Trick or Fall Leaves



Rhea's Winter Gardening

Some notes, photos and observations from Rhea Dow:

One February, a friend sent me a Happy Imbolc email. Happy Imbolc?? Exploring Imbolc, I found this interesting history of ancient farmer's observations and festivals.

From the Boston Public Library: Imbolc symbolizes the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. The word "imbolc" means "in the belly of the Mother," because the seeds of spring are beginning to stir in the belly of Mother Earth.

Observing plants myself, I do find increased growth to start happening in February. Cuttings root faster. Leaf buds break on plants in the greenhouse. Plants start to wake up! It is like a yawn in the yearly cycle of the plant kingdom.

The following photos demonstrate Rhea using cuttings to develop new geranium plants:



cuttings are taken from the "mother plant"



the cuttings and the equipment



the cuttings are ready for water



once the cuttings are in water, roots begin to form

For more information and to see Rhea's technique for bringing a touch of spring indoors during February, check out our latest blog post: <https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/post/bringing-a-bit-of-spring-indoors-in-february>

CAGC Events and Community Calendar

February

- 8 **CAGC Member Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 12 **MGC Monday Member Meeting**, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. "Membership Matters". Join Zoom meeting using the Meeting ID: 912 729 4983 and Passcode: mgcmeets.
- 13 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by David Lowenstein, Ph.D., Consumer Horticulture Educator at MSU: "Pest Management and Tree Phenology".

March

- 7 **CAGC Member Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 11 **MGC Monday Member Meeting**, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. "Welcome NGC President Brenda Moore". Join Zoom meeting using the Meeting ID: 912 729 4983 and Passcode: mgcmeets.
- 12 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by James Drake, Education Director for the Grass River Natural Area.

April

- 1 **Ordering Deadline for Charlevoix Conservation District Tree Sale**, see their website for more info.
- 8 **MGC Monday Member Meeting**, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. "Gardening with Purpose". Join Zoom meeting using the Meeting ID: 912 729 4983 and Passcode: mgcmeets.
- 4 **CAGC Member Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 9 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Book discussion *The Heirloom Garden* by Viola Shipman. Be prepared to share your insights and questions as we discuss this novel about two women from different generations who bond over loss and flowers.
- 27 **Charlevoix Conservation District Tree Sale Pickup**, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Charlevoix Conservation District Office, Boyne City.



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the March CAGC newsletter is February 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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