



March 2024

[www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org](http://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org)



## President's Message

Dear Members,

Do you feel it? Do you smell it? Do you see it? Spring is definitely on its way! Spring starts March 19<sup>th</sup> and Daylight Savings time is March 10. All committees are up and running and doing their planning. So "Mother Nature" is ready; are we?

We face another year of reaching out to each other to keep our community beautiful and to lend our expertise. We are "doers"! We still face many challenges this year, such as aging (although none of us want to admit this is happening) health issues of members and spouses, physical ability to participate in activities, and finances (both earning and spending).

Please give consideration to how we can continue in our quest to do all the things this club does and seek to do it smarter and create solutions. We must continue to address the issues of **"How can we better serve the community and each other?"** I may sound like a broken record, but this is what haunts me every day as I tackle all the issues that appear. Your board is dedicated to make this an exciting year and offer the leadership that you are looking for.

Sincerely,  
*Martha Rohr*

## March Membership Meeting

**Our March Meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 12 at 1:00 pm** at the Charlevoix Public Library. We will be hosting a presentation by James Dake, Education Director of the Grass River Natural Area in Antrim County. James has taught environmental studies & science in the classroom, as well as with nature centers and museums in Michigan and New York. He is the author of *Grass River's Field Guide to Northwest Michigan*.

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



# Conservation: Creating a Wildlife-Friendly Yard

Submitted by Carrie Minch

## Below are ways to make your yard friendly to wildlife:

- Grow plants that provide wildlife with a natural food source such as nuts, berries or nectar, and offer supplemental feeders.
- Provide water with a birdbath, small pond, or even a shallow dish on the ground.
- Offer protective cover for wildlife with ground cover, dense shrubs, a hollow log, rock pile, or a roosting box.
- Provide places for wildlife to raise young – such as nesting boxes, host plants for caterpillars, and ponds for tadpoles.
- Practice sustainable gardening – such as mulching, composting, and reducing your lawn area.



To learn more about making your yard a “Certified Wildlife Habitat” site go to [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife)

Source: National Wildlife Federation

**Did you know** that livestock create a beefy portion of all greenhouse-gas emissions? Eighteen percent – according to the United Nations! Could the answer be as simple as two slices of bread and a slather of peanut butter and jelly? Perhaps. Compared with a burger, this classic sandwich saves as much as 2.5 pounds of carbon dioxide, 280 gallons of water, and 50 square feet of land. You don’t have to change your whole diet to change the world, says the PB&J Campaign, “Just start with lunch.” [www.pbjcampaign.org](http://www.pbjcampaign.org)



## 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**

**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. 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”. *Meeting ID: 912 729 4983 and Passcode: mgcmeets*

**April 8, 2024 6:00 pm: Gardening with Purpose.** Kelly McLelland MSU Community Food Systems Educator will kick off our Feed America-Michigan initiative. Learn how the bounty

from our gardens can be donated to help combat food insecurity in the state instead of ending up in the compost pile. Food waste is the third largest contributor to greenhouse gases. *Meeting ID: 912 729 4983 and Passcode: mgcmeets*

**2024 MGC Annual Conference “Smitten with the Mitten”** June 10 – 11, Bay City, MI Many wonderful activities are being planned – ranging from a nature walk to a cruise on the river to a make and take arrangement using pool noodles!

**District 5 Fall Meeting:** save the date, **September 12, 2024** for the Michigan Garden Clubs District 5 Fall Meeting and Horticulture Flower Show in Mackinaw City. The theme for the flower show will be “Color”, and club members are welcome to enter horticulture, display photographs, create educational displays, and serve as judges. More info coming soon.

**Have you looked at the renewed version of the MGC website?** To access the Member Resources area of the website, use the password: *mgcgrow*



## National Garden Clubs

**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 our club should celebrate!

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

**National Garden Club Schools** provide members with a range of educational opportunities on the art and science of the environment, gardening, landscape design, and floral design.

### Upcoming National Garden Club Schools and Courses in Michigan:

**Landscape Design School, Course 1** – April 17 and 18, 2024, Lansing, MI.

<https://migardenclubs.org/landscape-design-school-course-1-april-17-18-2024/>

**Environmental School, Course 4** – April 12 and 13, 2024, Manistee, MI.

<https://migardenclubs.org/environmental-school-course-4-april-12-13-2024/>

**Flower Show School, Course 2** – April 4, 5, 6 in-person horticulture and design (Ann Arbor, MI) and April 9 Zoom presentation on Flower Show procedure. <https://migardenclubs.org/flower-show-school/>

## CAGC Floral Design Study Group

For our February meeting our design was POT-ET-FLEUR: a creative design consisting of a combination of two or more rooted plants, growing in soil or other medium, cut plant material and other (optional) components in container/s.

All CAGC members are welcome to join us each month as we develop our flower arranging techniques. Contact Marge McGoff for more information.

*Photos of designs created by Ingrid Nedwick (left), Joan Nowak (below left), Rhea Dow (below middle) and Joanne Pittman (below right)*





## News and Notes

**Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Webinar**, March 6, 2024 6:00 pm, MSU Extension. What's this green goo? Get the scoop on harmful algal blooms (HABs) in an upcoming "HABs 101" webinar, hosted by Michigan Sea Grant and partners around the state. Get tips for keeping your family and pets safe, and learn how you can take action to support healthy water quality on your property and in your community. This is a free webinar, but registration is required.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=115D8FD3C872C70C9105F771C108ED131B45E55F1B6BF2C0AF74FB2D41DEB002>

**Grand Traverse Conservation District Community Seed Swap**, Saturday March 9, 2024, 10 am – Noon. Grand Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City. Bring your garden seeds - any vegetables, fruits, or flowers that you enjoy growing - and plan to leave with seeds and dreams for your 2024 garden. We will have envelopes and pens at each station. Stations will be grouped by similar plants - squash, tomatoes, peppers, herbs, brassicas, root vegetables, native plants, ornamental (but not invasive!) flowers, etc. You do not have to bring seeds to attend this event. Shelly Stusick, Go Beyond Beauty Specialist with the Invasive Species Network will also be on-site with more information on avoiding invasives, planting native, and the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network. This event is free but registration is required: <https://gtcd.wufoo.com/forms/q9m01cz1rasvi1/>



**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](http://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.

**Michigan DNR Plant a Tree initiative and resources:** The DNR will be a cooperative partner in achieving a global goal of restoring and growing one trillion trees by 2030 through the global Trillion Trees campaign. To further this goal, the DNR has pledged to plant 50 million trees by 2030 and aims to inspire people to plant trees. But it's about more than just tree planting – it's a spark to raise awareness about the importance of trees, reflect on Michigan's rich forest history and build capacity to grow forests and communities together.

Learn more and use the DNR's information to help you select an appropriate tree species:

[https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/mi-trees?utm\\_campaign=ucf+arbor+day+special&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/mi-trees?utm_campaign=ucf+arbor+day+special&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_source=govdelivery)

**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>

- **Maple Syrup.** March 7. From tree to table, making and preserving maple syrup at home.
- **Using What I Preserved Last Summer.** March 14. Ideas to use the foods you preserved last summer to create something tasty while you empty your pantry and freezer for the upcoming preservation season.
- **Canning High-Acid Foods.** March 21. Join us to learn how to properly use your water bath canner.
- **Preserving Spring Produce.** April 4. Fresh produce like rhubarb and asparagus will soon be available. Discover how to preserve produce from your spring harvest.
- **Tools of the Trade.** April 18. Explore home food preservation tools of the trade and recipes that will make preserving fun and easy.

The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City, sponsors many events in-person and online including the following:

- Start your own Cutting Garden, March 16, 2024.
- Spring Pruning Workshop, March 23, 2024.
- Houseplants 101, March 26, 2024.

Visit their EVENTS page for more information: <https://thebotanicgarden.org/events/>



## CAGC Events and Community Calendar

### March

- 6 Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Webinar**, 6 pm. Hosted by Michigan Sea Grant and partners around the state. This is a free webinar, but registration is required.  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=115D8FD3C872C70C9105F771C108ED131B45E55F1B6BF2C0AF74FB2D41DEB002>
- 7 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 11 MGC Monday Member Meeting**, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. “Welcome NGC President Brenda Moore”. 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”. 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 Dake, Education Director for the Grass River Natural Area.
- 12 Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan**, with author Barbara Barton, 6 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Barbara Barton, an endangered species biologist and author, will discuss the history, culture, biology, economics, and spirituality surrounding this sacred plant.  
<https://data.charlevoixlibrary.org/event/manoomin-story-wild-rice-michigan-author-barbara-barton-6635>
- 19 First Day of Spring!**
- 23 Spring Pruning Workshop**, 9am – 1pm, \$29 per person. The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City, MI. Experience the art and science of pruning with an immersive workshop at the Garden.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-pruning-workshop-2024-tickets-793666226047>

## April

- 1 **Ordering Deadline for Charlevoix Conservation District Tree Sale**, see their website for more info.
- 4 **CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 4-6 **Flower Show School**, Course 2 – April 4, 5, 6 in-person horticulture and design (Ann Arbor, MI) and April 9 Zoom presentation on Flower Show procedure. <https://migardenclubs.org/flower-show-school/>
- 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.
- 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.
- 12-13 **Environmental School**, Course 4, Manistee, MI. <https://migardenclubs.org/environmental-school-course-4-april-12-13-2024/>
- 17-18 **Landscape Design School**, Course 1, Lansing, MI. <https://migardenclubs.org/landscape-design-school-course-1-april-17-18-2024/>
- 22 **Earth Day 2024**
- 23 **The Wonders of Wildflowers**, 6:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. James Dake, Education Director at the Grass River Natural Area will discuss the wildflowers of our region. Free. <https://data.charlevoixlibrary.org/event/wonders-wildflowers-james-dake-education-director-grass-river-natural-area-inc-6641>
- 26 **Arbor Day 2024**
- 27 **Charlevoix Conservation District Tree Sale Pickup**, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Charlevoix Conservation District Office, Boyne City.

## May

- 9 **CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 14 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Michelle Horstman and Pam Singer: Gardening and Wellness – how gardening can boost your well-being and mental health.
- 9 **CAGC Plant Sale**, fundraiser, Ferry Beach Pavilion.



# CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

**Submission deadline** for the April CAGC newsletter is March 25. Email your photos, information, and articles to Beth Cowie at [bethcowie@mac.com](mailto: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)



Go to our website [www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org](http://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org) Scroll to the bottom of the main page for our latest blog posts.