



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
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MEMBER OF
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July 2023

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org



President's Message

Submitted by "Guest Messenger" Kathy Kopitz

I hope this letter finds you thriving amidst the beauty of Charlevoix- petunias galore, waters abundant and bridge ups and downs. **GOOD NEWS!** Garden walk ticket sales have begun; and you can now purchase tickets ONLINE through our website. Also, we have a new yellow tent for our bulb sale in the fall. Our Pine Hill field trip, Cooking with Herbs, was delightful, despite the weather. Chef Rusty entertained and enlightened us as we enjoyed lunch. The Garden Club sponsored a beautiful table at the Women's Resource luncheon at the Castle. Garden reports are going out to the community. We are busy both as a club and personally as we entertain those friends and family who come to share the bounty of our beloved city.

As a member of the Board and the Advisory committee, I want to inform you of our progress in advance of our August meeting so that you can prepare to share your input. The main task of the Board is to create a 3-5 year strategic plan, taking into account the demographics, economics and current status of the club. As such, we have identified several CHALLENGES we face as a club.

- COMMUNICATION- across/between members and committees-information, continuity, transparency
- LEADERSHIP/ACCOUNTABILITY- officers, chairs, members- Who will step up? How do we maintain/retain continuity?
- DEMOGRAPHICS/MEMBERSHIP- aging membership (national average member is 75 years old) -What does this mean for us?
- LABOR- members want to work, but not until they drop- We are busy with other commitments as well. How can we work smarter?
- FINANCES-costs have risen, fundraising takes hard work

As our membership ages and costs rise, we need to look at our current commitments and ask ourselves **what we can reasonably maintain**. We have invited those who are interested to join us at Board or Advisory meetings to share their concerns and visions for the future. We want to honor the legacy of this great club and continue to honor our mission. The purpose of the club remains to share the knowledge of gardening while creating friendships and serving the community. **How can we better serve the community and each other?**

The Board and the club will make decisions regarding our future that will affect every member. You are invited to help create solutions to these challenges at our August meeting. *(Sometimes in order to grow, you must dig up the weeds.)* We want to be inclusive and respectful as we work to grow and maintain a vibrant garden club that will thrive in the coming years.

I look forward to working with all of you at our next meeting.

Growing together,
Kathy Kopitz



July Membership Meeting: Garden Walk Preview

Our July Meeting takes place on Thursday, July 6 at 11:30 am.

We will meet at the Charlevoix Public Library for a brief business meeting and then carpool to the five homes on our Garden Walk for a preview.

Refreshments will not be provided at this meeting. Bring your own water bottle for the Garden Walk preview.

Women's Resource Center Luncheon

Everyone was in awe of the beautiful table setting that members Chris Heroy and Mary Ann Enhinger created for the Women's Resource Center Luncheon in June at Castle Farms.

Thanks to both of you for your creativity and help in promoting our club!

Garden Walk 2023: Important Information

Garden walk is almost here and plans are all coming together. Now all we need is YOU. Preview day is July 6th. The meeting that day starts at 11:30 in the library and we will be going over all instructions and assignments at that time. We hope to leave library promptly at 12:30. Homeowners have our visiting time-line and will be waiting for us. We will absolutely need to car pool since parking is so limited.

We hope you have sold all of your tickets by now.

Remember you need a ticket whether working or walking. Please return your envelope, money, and unsold tickets to Carolyn Navarre on the 6th. If you have given tickets to non-members who will be docents, please provide that information to Carolyn also.

Don't forget AFTERGLOW. Time to unwind, share stories, and enjoy marvelous refreshments. Marsie Gowdy and her team will be waiting for you after we close up at 4 on walk day. This is in a pavilion at Ferry Beach. Homeowners have been invited also. Hope to see you there.

The co -hairs want to thank all of you for your assistance in making this walk a success.

Martha Rohr, Sue Wilson, Judy Flanagan.





Conservation: Flowers to Help Bees

Submitted by Carrie Minch

Bumble bees need all the help they can get. In the past two decades, scientists who monitor the insects—critical **pollinators** of both crops and **native plants** have reported troubling declines, including five once-common and widespread North American species (the western, rusty patched, yellow-banded, American and Franklin’s bumble bee) that have vanished from large parts of their ranges.

The causes of bumble bee declines are many and complex, ranging from **habitat loss** and pesticides (including backyard **mosquito spraying**) to climate change and introduced pathogens.

Anyone with a yard, patio or other outdoor space can provide bumble bee habitat. Bees are not bison. They can do perfectly well in a small backyard as long as they have good, pesticide-free habitat. Gardeners frequently plant black-eyed and brown-eyed Susans for bumble bees, but the insects tend to shun these plants when better alternatives are available.

Some bee favorites:

Aster: Bumble bees are active from early spring through late fall, so it’s important to provide a variety of flowering plants that bloom throughout that entire period. The Ask-A-Bumble-Bee project found that asters are particular bumble bee favorites in autumn. Supporting bumble bees during only a fraction of their active season can lead to starvation because large populations built up over summer suddenly have no food available.

Goldenrods: are critical late-season plants for bumble bees. Because they bloom from late summer into fall, North America’s more than 100 goldenrod species—all in the genus *Solidago*—are key food sources during a time of year when many other plants have stopped flowering. They nurture not only bumble bees but a wide array of other pollinators, from specialist bees and beetles to moths and butterflies. In some parts of the country, goldenrods are particularly critical foods for fueling the long-distance fall migrations of imperiled monarch butterflies.

Mountain Mint: In bloom for about 8 weeks during summer, mountain mint (20 species in the genus *Pycnanthemum*, meaning densely packed flowers) came out near the top of the Ask a Bumble Bee project’s list of overall favorites for the insects. With a characteristic minty aroma to the leaves, these hardy, adaptable native plants are topped by clusters of mostly white blooms that are a magnet for a variety of pollinators.

Monarda: True to one of its common names, bee balm, Monarda – a genus of North American native plants is a clear favorite for bumble bees. With more than a dozen species growing wild across the country’s woodlands and prairies, Monarda is also a long-standing favorite among wildlife gardeners, who plant it for its vivid red or purple blooms and its appeal to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. During fall and winter, the plant’s seed heads nurture songbirds such as goldfinches.

Ask A Bumble Bee, is a community science project launched last spring by the U.S. Geological Survey’s Wild Bee Lab.

National Wildlife Federation Magazine, Spring 2023

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2023/Spring/Conservation/Bumble-Bees>



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Adopt-a-Highway



We will meet again on **Monday, July 17 at 9:00 am** at the Lutheran Church on US 31 – across from the Charlevoix Pool to collect trash along US 31. Join us to help keep Charlevoix beautiful!



Michigan Garden Club News

Michigan Garden Clubs Online Member Meetings will resume in September. Until then, check out the Monday Morning Meeting Folders on the MGC webpage in the Member Section where you can download previously recorded meetings www.migardenclubs.org

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc, utilizes the Constant Contact platform to communicate with member clubs and individual members (like you). If you unsubscribe from Constant Contact you will not receive the quarterly email with the *Thru the Garden Gate* newsletter or additional communications with events, topics of interest, and more. To resubscribe, go to www.migardenclubs.org and log into the member area. Click the orange box “Sign up for MGC Emails”, complete the form and SUBMIT. Make sure to check your spam and junk folders to make sure the messages are not landing there.

July is a Great Time to Garden

From MSU Extension

The long-anticipated wait is almost over, you can almost taste the juicy tomatoes. You have already had one too many radishes and lots of fresh green salads. But it is not time to trade the trowel for the harvest basket quite yet. July is a great time to get ready for your fall garden.

The following article from MSU Extension offers tips on what you can be doing now in your vegetable garden. Use the link below:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/july_is_a_great_time_to_garden?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=extensiondigests





CAGC Events and Community Calendar

July

- 6** CAGC Member Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Charlevoix Public Library – Garden Walk Preview to follow a brief business meeting
- 12** CAGC Garden Walk, Charlevoix, MI 10 am – 4 pm.
- 17** Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up, Meet at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church on US 31 – across from the Charlevoix Pool
- 18** Elk Rapids Garden Walk, 10 am – 5 pm, Elk Rapids www.elkrapidsgardenclub.com
- 20** Friendly Garden Club Garden Walk, 10 am – 5 pm. Traverse City, www.mynorthtickets.com

August

- 4** Coastal Habitats Hike with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and CAKE CISMA – A guided hike focused on protecting and promoting coastal plants. 10 am, Woollam Family Nature Preserve. www.cakecisma.org/event
- 8** CAGC Member Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Charlevoix Public Library – Pest Management and Tree Phonology
- 25** Proven Winners Landscape Roadshow, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Castle Farms. To RSVP and for more info: <https://provenwinnerspros.provenwinners.com>

September

- 9** Charlevoix Conservation District Fall Native Plant Sale, Noon – 3 pm
- 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** Woody Invasives Workshop with the Antrim Conservation District and CAKE CISMA – Learn how to manage invasive plants. www.cakecisma.org/event

CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the August CAGC newsletter is July 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.



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