



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB,
MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
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January 2024

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org



President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and are now ready to turn your attention to gardening preparation.

First of all, I want to thank ALL the garden chairmen for their final reports. They were very thorough and informative.

I am anxious to get started with the new year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our soup luncheon on January 9th at NOON. Please make sure you notice the time change. We will be having a brief meeting outlining goals for our year and learning some new information. We will be offering all our meetings on zoom throughout the winter months so that all our southern members can keep up with everything going on.

We are looking forward to big events this year: May Memorial Day Plant Sale, July Garden Luncheon, and October Apple Fest. I'm sure everyone has already marked their calendars to offer help.

Let's get going!
Martha Rohr

January Membership Meeting and Soup Luncheon

Our January Meeting includes a soup lunch, and takes place on Tuesday, January 9 at 12:00 Noon at the Charlevoix Public Library. **Please bring your own soup bowl and spoon.**

For those joining via Zoom the meeting portion will begin at 1:00 pm. A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent via email. We look forward to seeing everyone – in person or virtually as we welcome this year's President, Martha Rohr and our other new officers.





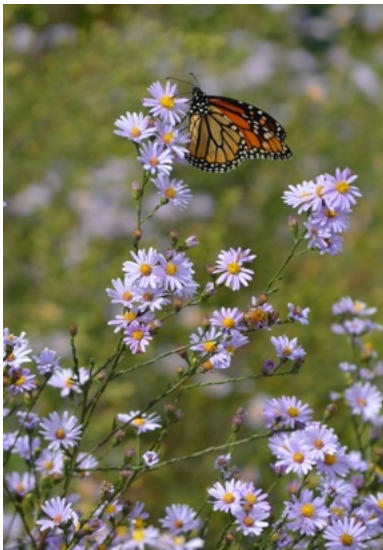
CAGC 2024 Fundraising Activities

The following is the list of the fundraisers we will be holding this year. Planning is well underway and we hope all of you can participate at some level. If you have not yet signed up to help, please contact the chairs to volunteer.

Annual Spring Plant Sale: Saturday, May 25, 2024. Ferry Beach Park. Co-chairs Sue Thurow and Marie Eckstein.

Biennial Garden Luncheon: Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Castle Farms. Chairs: Ruth Augustine, Marge McGoff, and Diane McMahan.

Annual Fall Bulb Sale: October 2024. Charlevoix Applefest, East Park. Chairs: Kathy Ackerman, Marsie Gowdy, and Marty Sutton.



Conservation: Building a Better Garden

Written by CAKE CISMA Education & Outreach Specialist, Katie Gray

One of the biggest misconceptions about gardening for wildlife is that you need to give up beauty for function. Native plants can be used in traditional garden landscapes and how "wild" you let the garden look is up to personal preferences. Often, it feels like there's an all-or-nothing approach to native gardening. You may wonder, if I'm not planting in a way that is "ecologically" comprehensive, am I being impactful?

If you're just starting with native gardening, I encourage you not to let the fear of perfection get in the way of creating a space that works for both you and wildlife. Many of the most widely available native plants are keystone species. Keystone species are the wedge-shaped piece at the crown of an arch that locks the other pieces in place and without them, the entire arch falls apart. Keystone species function similarly; these species have a substantial impact on the local environment since they generate

many relationships with other species throughout the food web. Entomologist Doug Tallmay and his team at the University of Delaware, have identified 14% of native plants (the keystones) support 90% of butterfly and moth Lepidoptera species. If you're looking to add a few native plants to your landscape, I highly recommend going with keystone species. The work of identifying those keystone species has already been done by Doug Tallmay and his team, you can find more information at the National Wildlife Federation website by using this link: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

You can expect a 2-3 year establishment period for any native species you bring home, they put most of their effort during this period into growing strong and complex root systems below ground. After this, native bees and butterflies often flock to the natives before everything else in the garden. Even just a few native keystone flowers will drastically increase the number of pollinators visiting your garden - if you plant it they will find it!

When it comes to non-natives in the garden, I tell folks to go with species they enjoy as long as they aren't invasive. If you're wondering which invasives to avoid in your garden I recommend checking out our list of no-grow ornamental invasives made in collaboration with our partners at Go Beyond Beauty: <http://www.gobeyondbeauty.org/all-gbb-species.html>

CAKE CISMA Newsletter, Fall 2023

https://www.cakecisma.org/files/ugd/fe04e9_e063cfd63ee40009cbff0154d0eeb7f.pdf



National Garden Clubs

An excerpt from the NGC Blog “Down the Garden Path” by Gwen Dewitt:

Nature and gardens have a psychological effect on us, reducing mental stress and mental fatigue. Plants fascinate us along with bird song, wind blowing through trees, water flowing, clouds, sunrise and sunset. A garden is an ecosystem that has been contrived by the gardener. A gardener plans, and nature happens and interacts with the gardener as well as the garden. If you are upset, nervous or irritated, take a stroll through a garden and see how life slows and you begin to feel at peace. There are health benefits to exposure to nature. Gardening reduces mental stress and fatigue which will lessen depression. Hospitals are putting in gardens and labyrinths to help patients get better faster. European studies in the 1800s noted the psychological benefits of contact with nature and gardening. Patients with a view of nature or gardens healed at a faster rate. Floral designs or growing plants on tables in nursing home cafeterias increased socialization of residents. Socialization reduces depression.

To read the entire article use the following link: <https://gardenclub.org/blog/down-garden-path>

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. If you grow your own vegetable garden, fruit or other food items, we encourage you to donate some of this bounty to a local food bank or any other organization that helps fight food insecurity. If you don't have your own garden, then how about volunteering at a local community garden where food is donated. This could be a town-sponsored garden, a school garden, a church garden, or any garden that supports feeding the hungry. Not only will you feel better about being part of the solution of fighting food insecurity, but it's a chance to promote gardening to those around you! Learn more on the NGC website:

<https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-feed-america>

Looking Ahead: 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.



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**

January 8, 2024, 6:00 pm: Flower Photography, cohosted by Melinda Popa and Nancy Ryan. Mike Moats, an award-winning professional photographer, will teach how easy it is to produce excellent artistic flower photography whether you own a camera with lenses, or just a cell phone.

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.

The Michigan Garden Clubs will be hosting the NGC Bi-Refresher of the Gardening School and Landscape Design School Courses on Tuesday, February 27, and Wednesday, February 28. The programs will be presented live via Zoom. The course is open to anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of the natural world in their community or in their own backyard and features a number of speakers on topics ranging from “Accessible, Enabling, and Therapeutic Gardens” to “Landscaping with Native Plants”.

For more information, or to register go to the MGC website: <https://migardenclubs.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*

News and Notes

Charlevoix is in a new growing zone! An updated USDA Plant Hardiness map was released in November 2023. The new map puts the City of Charlevoix and Charlevoix Township in Zone 6a. Read more about this on our blog:

<https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/post/we-re-in-a-new-growing-zone>

MSU Extension's "Plant Quest". This four-part online webinar series begins on January 8. You can join the hunt for garden-worthy trees, shrubs, and perennials. Authors, horticulturists and green industry professionals will share their knowledge of woody and herbaceous plants - highlighting favorites featuring dynamic foliage, show-stopping color, and stalwart natives during the four live Zoom sessions. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/register-for-plant-quest-2024-a-favorite-winter-webinar-series-for-midwest-gardeners>

The Charlevoix Conservation District 2024 Tree Sale Catalog will be coming out on February 1. A pdf of the catalog will be 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.



Welcome our 2024 CAGC Officers!

Martha Rohr, President

Marianne Mundy and Kris Jones, 1st Vice Presidents

Beth Cowie, 2nd Vice President

Joyce Herbert and Janet Gilbert, Recording Secretaries

Charlotte Koger, Corresponding Secretary

Carolyn Navarre, Treasurer

Mical Miller, Sue Thurow, Pamela Walsh, and Joanne Hawkins, Directors



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

January 2024

- 4 **CAGC Member Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 8 **MGC Monday Member Meeting**, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. "Flower Photography". Join Zoom meeting using the Meeting ID: 912 729 4983 and Passcode: mgcmeets.
- 9 **CAGC Member Meeting**, Noon, Charlevoix Public Library. Soup luncheon. Take a break from the cold weather and warm up with the comfort of a soup lunch.

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.



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the February CAGC newsletter is January 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)



Go to our website www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org Scroll to the bottom of the main page for our latest blog posts.