



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message

Submitted by "Guest Messenger" Nancy Hofmann



I am honored to be this month's "Guest Messenger" for Dorothy's President's Message. It also an honor to be a member of CAGC and participate in the beautification of Charlevoix. In reference to Dorothy's April 2023 message, I am one of those folks who joined CAGC to help my green-thumb become greener, socialize, and make new friends. While I bring decades of volunteer and fundraising experience there is always something new and intriguing to glean from other groups. Through CAGC I have learned there is an amazing amount of behind-the-scenes planning and logistics (*and a hint of magic*) that create the magnificent Charlevoix Civic Gardens!

I have also learned that while the word "Fundraising" begins with "Fun"—that isn't always the case. Many members have shared that our fundraising efforts are an arduous process and it appears that fewer members look forward to participating in this important effort.

Dorothy listened closely to the comments of many CAGC members and from those conversations created an Advisory Team: this team of five took a close look at the CAGC budget, the dollars allocated to each Civic Garden, the economy, and charitable contributions. We compared the Civic Garden budgets and expenses for 2017 through 2023 and found a sharp increase for 2023 when compared to 2022: this year's Civic Garden budget (of \$6,725.00) is 54% higher than last year—that equates to a lot of fundraising.

The Advisory Team then came up with suggestions to minimize (*not eliminate*) fundraising: for example, we considered that perhaps the Civic Garden Property Owners (*Munson/Charlevoix Hospital, City of Charlevoix, Library, etc.*) could share in the cost of the plants and that perhaps the Civic Gardens could partially transition to perennial/pollinator plants instead of annuals (*acknowledging that we currently have some perennials*). The Advisory Team shared this information with the CAGC Civic Garden Chairs who are taking a closer look at their respective 2023 budgets and identifying ways to trim costs while maintaining the lush beauty that is appreciated by all who live and visit Charlevoix.

Dorothy has reached out to the District Garden Clubs to understand how they manage Garden budgets vs. expenses. Her inquiry yielded very interesting results (*some of which are shared at the end of this Newsletter*). It is important to share best practices that will help everyone minimize fundraising while continuing our important mission of beautification, education, and fiscal management.

Over the past 84 years CAGC has grown to be the remarkable organization we participate in today. We are not only Civic Gardens—we are Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear, Youth Education, Flower Arranging and Design, and so much more! And most important we are all connected with each other, the community, and the environment—together we can ensure CAGC continues its important mission for decades to come.

As in Nature there is always a balance in Life. With CAGC Members and the Property Owners working together we can put the Fun back in Fundraising!

All the best,

Nancy Hofmann



June Membership Meeting

For those who have signed up for our June Field Trip, we will meet at 1:00 pm at Pine Hill Nursery, 886 US-31 North, Kewadin, MI.

The meeting will include lunch and a cooking with herbs demonstration by Rusty Hart. Cost is \$25 per person. Please send your check to Carolyn Navarre as soon as possible.

We will not be having a membership meeting at the Library in June.

Spring Gardening Event Was a Huge Success!

Thank you and congratulations to our fabulous chairs, Mary Scwaderer and Laura White, and to all of the members who helped with our Gardening Event and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 27. It was a beautiful morning at Ferry Beach and we were nearly sold out of plants within the first hour!

Many thanks to our volunteers: Becky Scholl-Stauffer, Jim Schwaderer, Cathy Paklaian, Maureen Bingham, Joanne Hawkins, Kathy Ackerman and friend JD Friley, Laura Gerard, Nancy Cleland, Rhea Dow, Martha Rohr, Marsie Gowdy, Carolyn Navarr, Cass Williamson, Janet Gilbert, Marie Eckstein and friend Dana Neuman, Judy Flanagan, Dawne Jordan, Marge McGoff, Marty Sutton, Peggy Eckhold, Sue Thurow, Cindy Vermeesh, Laura Ford, Beth Cowie, Kathy Kopitz, Mical Miller, Laura White, Mary Schwaderer.



Garden Walk 2023

One of the Garden Walk co-chairs will be at our June meeting at Pine Hill Nursery to distribute packets of Garden Walk tickets. Every member receives 6 tickets to sell, so please collect yours if you have not yet done so. If you need more tickets let Carolyn Navarre know. Carolyn will be collecting money from the ticket sales. We want to have a good turnout for the event, so please talk it up with all your friends and relatives. Tickets are for sale at a number of local merchants and can also be purchased online – visit our website: www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

If you will not be attending the May Garden Club meeting and wish to sign up to volunteer for the Garden Walk, or if have any questions, please contact one of our co-chairs: Sue Wilson skswmd@yahoo.com Judy Flanagan jflan106@yahoo.com Martha Rohr martharohr75@gmail.com

Mark your calendars. The Garden Walk takes place Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. The preview day for our members is July 6th – following our CAGC Membership meeting.



Conservation: Being a Bird Landlord

Submitted by Carrie Minch

Managing a nest box is an exciting way to help your feathered neighbors, but it comes with great responsibility. It is important that a birdhouse provides good ventilation without compromising protection from the elements. The box should easily open from the side or top for cleaning and monitoring. Nest box requirements vary by species, but several characteristics for birdhouses are universal. Follow these guidelines for providing the safest home.

Say no to fancy homes: When those pretty abodes are made of metal, the temperatures may get unsafe inside. Light colors on the exterior keep the internal temperature lower. Use non-toxic paint and do the painting well in advance of hanging the birdhouse. Untreated and unpainted wooden boxes are the safest. If you want to display a purely decorative box, cover the hole so that a bird doesn't take up occupancy.

Offer a good roof and air-conditioning: Nest boxes with sloped, overhanging roofs prevent rain from getting inside. Drainage holes (near the bottom) and ventilation holes (near the top of the box) should be provided.

Location, location, location: It's tempting to put nest boxes near feeders to create a "bed and breakfast", but it's best to keep them separated. Most species like to nest in isolation.

Evict squatters: In North America, nonnative European starlings and house sparrows are unwelcome squatters. Smaller entrance holes keep starlings out in most cases. Perches aren't necessary for cavity nesters, so they should be removed from boxes. This also helps minimize access for unwanted guests.

Monitor regularly: It's important to keep track of nesting progress. Nest boxes should be monitored weekly – but not more than every 3 or 4 days. It's best to approach the nest after the female has left the box.

Clean often: Remove the nest at the end of each nesting attempt for sanitary reasons and to make it harder for a predator to reach an egg or nestling. Cleaning the box protects future nestlings from disease and parasites.

Read more: <https://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/attracting-birds/bird-nesting/unique-birdhouses/>

Native Plants / Invasive Plants

If are not already using native plants in your garden, it's time to start!

There's a wealth of resources available to home gardeners, and you can inspire others and do your part to help the larger ecosystem by planting native species and eliminating invasives.

Our May meeting guest speakers from CAKE CISMA highlighted some of the problem plants that they are working to reduce in our area – including Black Swallow Wort.

Our most recent blog post includes links to resources for selecting native plants for Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula and for identifying and eliminating invasives from your landscape. You can find it on our website at:

<https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/post/native-plants-and-invasive-plants-good-vs-evil>



Announcements and Opportunities

Thank you to Marge McGoff for creating the beautiful floral arrangement that was displayed at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts for the opening of Craig Mitchell Smith's exhibit of glass sculpture. Craig will be displaying his artwork in his garden for our 2023 Garden Walk.

Celebrating National Garden Week: Charlevoix Civic Garden Open House

National Garden Week takes place June 4 – 10. We would like to encourage the public to visit the eight Civic Gardens that our Club maintains on Tuesday, June 6th from 9:30 am until 11:30 am. Club members should plan to be at the gardens that they work in to greet people, show off our work, and answer gardening questions. You can make that date your garden team's work day so that people see us in action!

We have created a Google Map showing the garden locations. It can be found at: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1SrBU3SLYqwLD-RL_1UztWeO42YcFy7E&ll=45.31917024555831%2C-85.2586995&z=14 or go to our website and click on the link provided.

Adopt-a-Highway: Garden Club Members (and guests!) collected 19 bags of trash along US-31 in April. We will meet again on **Monday, July 17 at 9:00 am** at the Lutheran Church on US 31 – across from the Charlevoix Pool. Join us to help keep Charlevoix beautiful!

Looking for Native Plants? Mark your calendars. The Otsego Conservation District will have a native plant sale at their greenhouse in Gaylord on June 3, and the Northern Michigan Master Gardeners will hold their plant sale at the Emmett County Fairgrounds on June 17.



Michigan Garden Club News

Nominations now being accepted for life members.

CAGC recognizes members for exceptional contributions to the club and the community by honoring them with Life Membership in MGC. Please consider nominating a member for this honor. Nominations from previous years do not carry over, so even if someone has been nominated in the past, don't hesitate to nominate him/her again.

When writing your nomination, please consider and include as much of the following information as you can:

- When did the member join the club?
- Has the member held any club offices? Local, State, etc. If you know when, that would be appreciated.
- On what committees and/or gardens has the member served?
- Does the member have any special areas of expertise?
- Community Service?
- What do you believe the member's greatest contributions to the club have been?
- Specific examples or anecdotes are extremely helpful

Email your letter of nomination to Susan Thurow at skthurow9098@gmail.com by June 15, 2023.



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

June

- 3 Otsego Conservation District Greenhouse Open House and Native Plant Sale**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. 459 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI – Over 50 species of native plants will be on sale and knowledgeable growers will be on hand to help suggest native plants for your site.
- 4 - 10 National Garden Week**
<https://gardenclub.org/national-garden-week?fbclid=IwAR2g9OJpgFhnMfUrvJwqE7FD24J3GMcrGqMfCPd8ebQ9D28GaX-u7S4vUjY>
- 6 CAGC Civic Garden Open House** – Celebrating National Garden Week, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- 6-7 Michigan Garden Clubs Annual Conference**, Grand Rapids, MI
- 13 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 p.m., Field Trip to Pine Hill Nursery.
- 14 Women’s Resource Center “Women Can/Women Do” Event** at Castle Farms, 11:00 a.m. – CAGC will be designing a table for the event. <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wrconm/event/wcwddcharlevoix/>
- 17 Northern Michigan Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale**, Emmet County Fairgrounds
- 19 - 25 National Pollinator Week**
- 20 CAGC Floral Design Group**, 1:00 p.m., Charlevoix Public Library Community Room B
- 20 Fen-tastic Hike with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and CAKE CISMA** – Botany researcher, Julie McLaughlin, will guide this hike focused on pollinator interactions in fens. 10 am, Skegemog Natural Area
www.cakecisma.org/event
- 21 Restoration Tour with Little Traverse Conservancy and CAKE CISMA** – See how LTC is transforming a former golf course into a natural area and learn how to restore your own land. 3:30 pm, Offield Family Viewlands
www.cakecisma.org/event
- 21 First Day of Summer**
- 24 Gruler Gardens Native Plant Sale**, Petoskey, MI <https://www.grulergardens.com/nativeplants>

July

- 6 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 p.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

CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the June CAGC newsletter is May 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.

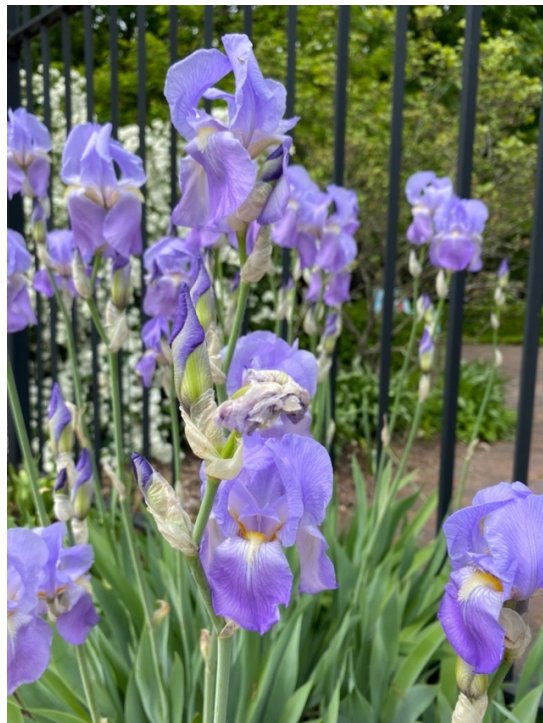


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Go to our website www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org Scroll to the bottom of the main page for our latest blog posts.



Snippets from our Neighboring Garden Clubs

Last month Dorothy reached out to neighboring District Garden Clubs to understand how they obtain funds for their respective Gardens. Dorothy's inquiry included three questions: "1. How many gardens does your club keep up in your town/city?"; "2. Do you purchase all the plants, fertilizer, and mulch for those gardens and do you know what your annual costs are?"; and, "3. How do you fundraise for those funds?". Here is a short synopsis:

Portage Lake Garden Club

1. One very large garden including a pollinator garden, native plant garden, butterfly garden, and rain garden. We also do small gardens at the north entry into town, south entry into town, and school sign. We also have plantings in the Memorial Fountain at the village park. We assign two persons per year to each of the small gardens which can be tended to anytime the two people are available.
2. We purchase plants, fertilizer and mulch. We budget \$900 per year but lately we have had cost overruns and have needed to request a few hundred more dollars.
3. This year we are having four fundraisers: 1) selling trees; 2) Trinkets and Treasures, a one-day high end resale event; 3) selling nature stuff at local Christmas fair; and 4) Garden Mixology fundraiser featuring beverages and snacks using stuff from our gardens (donations only).

Stepping Stones - Onaway

1. We do the 22 planters on main street, the welcome signs, gardens on city hall lawn and are working on re-doing the entrance to Chandler Park (city park).
2. We order the plants and the city pays for them. We take care of the osmocote, water crystals, and Preen (if used) which is not a lot of money. Additional soil we have for free. Mulch we usually have free as well. Any perennials - we usually dig those out of our gardens or those of friends. The city takes care of watering (mixed with miracle grow).
3. We don't do a lot of fund raisers. Our primary fund raiser is our plant sale in the spring which is usually plants we dug from own gardens or started from seeds.

Petoskey Area Garden Club

1. We plant and maintain 12 beds in the city, plus purchase 24 hanging baskets on the Mitchell Street Bridge, plus we plant all the raised beds in the downtown area (which the city buys the plants and waters).
2. We purchase the plants, fertilizer, compost, mulch, and have paid for irrigation for our gardens.
3. Currently, we do not fundraise. In the early 1980's our club did a major fundraiser that brought in \$100,000. That original deposit into the Petoskey/Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, plus other donations over the years, and the interest it earns gives us assets of close to \$500,000.

Seedums Garden Club - Cheboygan

1. We have seven gardens and this year have been asked to do two more lighthouses and the McLaren Hospital and potentially the Cheboygan Trailhead. We also have eight additional community projects.
2. For most of the gardens we purchase the plants (perennial and annuals), the mulch, and fertilizer if needed. However, we do receive donations from local merchants / businesses for gardens that enhance the Main St of Cheboygan (approx. \$500). Depending on the garden, the budgets vary; however, the total we budgeted for the gardens is \$3675 and the amount budgeted for community projects is \$2075.
3. Every three years we have a garden walk which usually profits around \$4-\$5,000. The past few years we have had a holiday cookie sale which has netted about \$2,300 each year. Most of our gardens are established with permanent plants (shrubs, perennials, herbs, etc.) so we are able to keep the cost down.

Elk Rapids Garden Club

1. We maintain 10 gardens owned by the Village of Elk Rapids. Some are large (i.e., 160 ft long and 50 ft wide in the center -- both sides are viewed by drive-bys and walk-bys).
2. Our costs are just under \$5000 per year.
3. We used to pay for everything, but it was driving us to bankruptcy. We approached the Village and requested that the Village cover our physical costs and they agreed; we now get \$5000 annually.

Sweetwater Evening Garden Club

1. We maintain four gardens. The largest is in a park along the waterfront; it was set up with four sections: pollinator, butterfly, rose, and cottage gardens. It has become overgrown and we are renovating one section into native plants.
2. Our club annual budget is around \$2,000. From that we pay about \$300 for garden supplies (plants, mulch and amendments as needed); the Township budgets \$500 for plants for us to purchase and have them billed.
3. Funds are raised with our annual plant sale. Plants come from friends and our own gardens; some members grow herbs and vegetables from seed. We also sell garden related crafts, sometimes doing a club project to sell.

