



# Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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



## President's Message

Ten more months to go as your club president. Not that I'm counting, however, we did have two very interactive, engaging meetings so far this year. I really enjoy hearing from everyone in the room and on zoom. Keep being honest and speaking up, we all learn from the engagement. I learned how important the design group is to our Flower Shows. I had not made the connection before. So, you can teach an old dog new things!

The library sent us a thank you for donating \$100. We made this donation this year because we no longer buy books for the library. Everyone is on line these days. More up to date information as well.

I am creating a Publicity Position Description for our club. Beth Cowie is doing all the social media and we need someone to do the rest of the story. I will have everything spelled out for the person so it should be an easy job. Please consider applying for this exciting career opportunity.

*Dorothy*



## March Meeting

Our March meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 14** in the **Charlevoix Public Library**, and will begin at 1:00 p.m.

In anticipation of spring's arrival, we will watch the film *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes*, featuring Lynden B. Miller – an award-winning public garden designer. In this film, Miller explores the life and career of Beatrix Farrand who was America's first female landscape architect.

For a sneak peek, you can watch the movie trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4buar-nYiQ>

# Conservation: Be a Hero to Pollinators

Submitted by Carrie Minch

Bees are a big deal. These unsung heroes of the planet work hard to keep our food supply functioning. And 85 percent of flowering plants and trees rely on pollinators for survival. Bees have been in the news a lot over the last few years. Declines in their populations are cause for alarm in many places. The good news is, people really want to know how to help bees. The problem is, they don't always go about it in the best way.

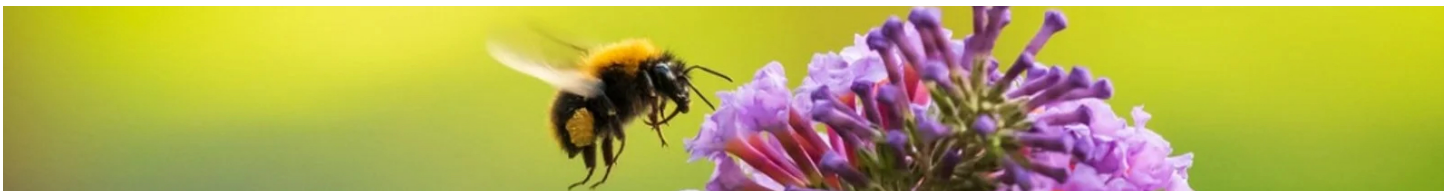


## Here are ten simple steps to turn you into a Pollinator Hero:

1. **Fill in the lawn:** Traditional grass lawns reduce habitat and food sources for beneficial bugs and pollinators. Consider converting patches of your lawn from grass to flowers, shrubs or blooming ground covers.
2. **Avoid Pesticides:** Treat problems where and when they happen, rather than applying broad-spectrum pesticides. Include garden plants to attract beneficial predators to get rid of unwanted visitors
3. **Grow Native Plants and Flowers:** The best way to help provide the nectar and pollen bees need is to plant the native wildflowers they seek out.
4. **Welcome Plant Diversity:** In wild spaces or gardens, variety in plants creates stability.
5. **Be Kind to the Weeds:** Don't be too quick to pull or mow weeds. A plant you may call a "weed" may be a wildflower that bees depend on.
6. **Plant for a Full Year of Blooms:** Try to provide pollen for the entire growing season. Start the year with winter or early spring such as crocus and witch hazel, then transition to spring with phlox and columbine, and finish out fall with members of the aster family.
7. **Do Less Work for More Pollinator Benefits:** Leave the leaves alone when you can, at least until late spring. Many types of wildlife depend on leaf litter to stay warm and safe over the winter, including queen bees. Leaf litter also protects plants from harsh weather.
8. **Create Nesting and Overwintering Spots for Pollinators:** Seventy percent of bee species nest in the ground. Reserving areas of dry, bare, undisturbed ground provides places for them to raise their young in the early spring.
9. **To Help Bees, Learn about Bees:** Take the time to learn about all the bees that live in your area, so you can recognize them and know which especially need your help.
10. **Take the Pollinator Pledge:** If you're already gardening for beneficial bugs, take the Xerces Society Pollinator Pledge. Join more than 10,000 gardeners in the project at [xerces.org](https://xerces.org).

From Birds & Blooms Magazine, January 2023

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/garden-bugs/5-ways-help-bees/>



## Learn More: MSU Pollinator Champions Course

**Become a champion for pollinators.** Pollinator Champions is a free, self-paced online course offered by Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination. Click on the following link, or paste it into your browser for more information:

<https://pollinators.msu.edu/programs/pollinator-champions/>



# Michigan Garden Club News

## Michigan Garden Clubs Friday Member Meetings:

March 3 – **Common Houseplant Problems**

March 17 – **Oudolf Gardens Through the Year**. Meetings begin at 10 am. Join via Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> with Meeting ID 912 729 4983 and code *mgcmeets*

**2023 Michigan Garden Clubs Annual Conference:** June 6 and 7, Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel. The keynote speaker will be Neal Sanders, mystery gardening author. <https://migardenclubs.org/michigan-garden-clubs-conference/>



## National Garden Club News

**National Garden Club Membership Monday:** “People Plants and Programs - Landscape Design Study”. Learn directly from the NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman about this wonderful course which enables you to become a Landscape Consultant. Monday, March 13, 2:00 pm via Zoom. Use the following link to register:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdOipzMvHNxllMoRBb8p98FO\\_sViZDtC](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdOipzMvHNxllMoRBb8p98FO_sViZDtC)

**2023 National Garden Club Convention:** May 2 – May 4, The Greenbrier Hotel, West Sulphur Springs, WV. For more information about the conference go to the National Garden Clubs website:

<https://gardenclub.org/2023-ngc-convention-details>

## Announcements and Opportunities

**Houseplant Social:** Join the Edelweiss Garden Club for their first annual Houseplant Social at the Otsego County Library in Gaylord Saturday, March 25 from 10 am – noon. This event is free. Bring your favorite plant to swap for something new and exciting. Don’t have any house plants, but want to get started? This event is for you, too. They will have plenty of plants, a propagation station, coffee and snacks.

**The Charlevoix Conservation District’s Annual Tree Sale** takes place on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Orders are due by April 15, but order soon for best availability. Go to their website to download the Tree Sale catalog and order form:

[https://www.charlevoixcounty.org/conservation\\_district/tree\\_sale/index.php](https://www.charlevoixcounty.org/conservation_district/tree_sale/index.php)

**MSU Extension is launching the new online horticulture training program** called Foundations of Gardening. This online course is the new pre-requisite for initiating the process of becoming an MSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. However, it is not only for prospective volunteers. **The course is open to everyone.** It does not require the participant to later pursue the additional steps to become a Certified Master Gardener, but if you wish to do so, this is the first step in the process. For more info: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/foundations-of-gardening>



## 2023 Student Poster Contest

The **Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest** is an annual tradition amongst elementary schools, scout troops, and youth groups across the Nation. Each year members of the Charlevoix Area Garden Club have worked with elementary school students and art teachers in our community to encourage participation in the contest.

You can see the **Charlevoix winners** from St. Mary School by checking out the recent post on our website:

<https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/post/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>



## Growing Winter Salads Indoors

Are you craving fresh salad greens and dissatisfied with what you can find in the grocery store during the winter? You can eat local produce now – you just have to grow it yourself! Check out the recent blog post on our website – where Rhea Dow shares her method for growing salad greens indoors.

Use this link to access the blog:

<https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/post/growing-winter-salads-indoors>

## Upcoming CAGC Events

**Spring Gardening Event:** Saturday, May 27 from 8:30 a.m. until Noon at Ferry Beach. This year we are changing the format of what previously was our annual spring sale.

**Civic Garden Open House:** Tuesday, June 6 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. To celebrate National Garden Week our club will be hosting an “Open House” at the eight civic gardens that we maintain.

**Garden Walk 2023:** Wednesday, July 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This year we will feature five “Hidden Garden Gems” on our biennial garden walk.



**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.



# Charlevoix Area Garden Club Bulletin Board



## Plants Available for Adoption

The two lovely houseplants pictured here need a new home.

Contact Dorothy Sandoval at 231-437-3917 if you wish to adopt them.

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## Here's the SCOOP from Rhea:

Take any plastic jug. Clorox bottles are made of tough plastic and work well.

Cut one out one side to make a scoop.

This is a handy and efficient way to fill pots with soil – and to reuse plastic!

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## What do you do to deter deer in your garden?

We are collecting tips, photos, and varieties of deer-resistant plants.

Please send your tried-and-true ideas for keeping your garden from being a deer buffet to: [charlevoixareagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:charlevoixareagardenclub@gmail.com) and we will feature them in an up-coming blog post.