



April 2024

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message



Dear Members,

We actually thought that Spring was going to offer some warm weather and all our garden plans would begin. We were wrong! Snow is still on the ground as I write this note and more might be coming our way. Well, we will surrender to Mother Nature and wait patiently for warmer weather and more sunshine.

Speaking of surrendering, we still need to address changes that might be necessary to accomplish all of our projects this year. My main concern is our gardens. We are a "GARDEN CLUB" so our priorities are gardening. I believe we may have all the personnel to cover the gardens, and I have reached out to a few teens who might be able to help out on planting. Some

of the Memorial gardeners have volunteered to help out at the Hospital Garden as needed. If you have not already talked with your teams, please do so and let me know if you will be needing any help. Please, offer any suggestions you may have regarding our gardens. Also, if you have any other thoughts, please let me know. I'm a very good listener.

Plans for our new and exciting projects are in the works and you will continue to hear about them.

I want to mention that our speaker last month, Jame Dake from Grass River Natural Area, was excellent. If you enjoyed him, he will be speaking again at the Library on Tuesday, April 23 at 6 PM. His topic is "The Wonders of Wildflowers."

Sincerely,
Martha Rohr

April Membership Meeting

Our April Meeting takes place on Tuesday, April 9 at 1:00 pm at the Charlevoix Public Library. We will be discussing the novel *The Heirloom Garden* by Viola Shipman. Please read the book in advance of our meeting and come prepared to discuss this story of two women from different generations who bond over loss and flowers. Copies of the book are on reserve at the library's circulation desk (under Kristin Jones' name).

We are very excited to have the author "Viola Shipman" – who in real life is Wade Rouse join our meeting via Zoom. Wade writes using his grandmother's name to honor the woman whose heirlooms and family stories inspire his fiction.

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





Welcome Karen!

At our March Meeting we welcomed new member Karen Regan to the club! Karen and her husband recently moved to Charlevoix from Sterling Heights, Michigan to be closer to her family. She has two daughters (and their families) living in the area.

Karen has always loved gardening, and it came naturally growing up with the family business – a greenhouse and garden center. Semrau Greenhouses had been in the family for 100 years – beginning with her grandfather, her father, and continuing with Karen and her brothers until they sold the business about 10 years ago and retired. If she misses the greenhouse, she can always visit her daughter who is running a greenhouse in Elk Rapids.

She has never before belonged to a garden club, but Karen is excited about this new adventure and is looking forward to getting to know everyone and working with plants.

Karen's contact information for your yearbook: 120 Peppervine Place, Charlevoix. sgcKaren@gmail.com 586-219-9553



News and Notes

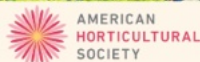
Adopt-a-Highway: Our first litter pick up of the year will be on Monday, April 15. We will meet at the Lutheran Church parking lot (across from the Charlevoix Pool) at 9 am. Trash bags and reflective vests will be provided. Please join us!

Penny Pines: by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pine plantation, our Club becomes part of the replanting of trees indigenous (Not Just Pine Trees) to a particular damaged area in a National Forest. Thanks to Sue Wilson and others we now have \$28.80 towards our Penny Pines tree.

President's Challenge: Joan Nowak will be bringing a floral design to our April meeting. We are looking for a horticulture and a photography display for April. Contact Martha Rohr if you can contribute either one. We appreciated Mary Lynn's gorgeous Shamrock plant and Ingrid's picture of the beautiful flowers on Mason Street – which they brought to display at our March meeting.

We have received a nice Thank You note from the Rotary Club of Charlevoix for our generous donation to the Mt. McSauba playground project. This playground will be uniquely designed for the wooded environment where it will reside and will be utilized by hundreds of children and families who recreate at Mt. McSauba each year.

The Presque Isle Garden Club is having their annual luncheon on Saturday, April 6, 2024. It is 9:30 to 2:30 at Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1401 M68, Rogers City. Tickets are \$30. For reservations call Jean 989-619-0300 or Kris 989-733-4056 or email: pigardenclub1@yahoo.com. Reservations are requested by April 1.



Online Courses

American Horticultural Society Lifelong Learning Course:

Each year, over 121 million Americans visit public gardens. From public green spaces to community gardens to private yards, gardening is a critical part of our country's culture. *Gardening in America*, the first of Lifelong Learning's self-paced online courses, offers an introductory overview to the state of the country's gardening culture, contexts that inform gardening, and ways to apply gardening approaches, styles, and practices for the greater good.

This course is constructed in seven modules, each with lessons that include AHS-produced text, videos, articles, activities, and resource recommendations. You are welcome to explore the materials at your own pace throughout the semester and to connect with other learners in the forum to discuss the course topics. Course access begins March 18 and is open through August 16. Open to the public, this course is approachable for all experiences and learning levels. Self-Paced Online Course Fee: \$95 AHS Members/\$120 non-members

<https://ahsgardening.org/lifelong-learning-2/self-paced-online-course/>

Learn the basics of growing fruit in your backyard with an online self-paced course offered by MSU Extension. This class is designed for beginner fruit growers and contains six different modules of educational materials and resources. To learn more: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/learn-backyard-fruit-basics-with-msu-extensions-online-course>



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**

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.



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>



Grass River Natural Area Programs

If you missed the presentation at our March meeting by James Dake, Education Director at the Grass River Natural Area in Bellaire, you can find much information on their website and their YouTube Channel.

Grass River Flora and Fauna Guides: <https://www.grassriver.org/online-education.html>

Grass River YouTube Videos: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp55OrAOjOTec_srB8ies9g/videos

They have a number of great programs coming up:

April 20 – Earth Week Bird Walk, 9:00am (2 hrs), \$5 per person, please pre-register

Join us in celebrating Earth Day with a spring bird walk to learn to ID birds by sight and sound and how to log observations online using the eBird webpage or app. Bring binoculars, or borrow some from the Grass River Center. Limited space.

April 22 - The Wonders of Wildflowers, Charlevoix Public Library

Tuesday Wildflower Walks, 10:30 – noon, begin in May.

May 18 – Spring Stewardship Day, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

As spring rains are falling and flower buds begin emerging, it is time to join in the spring cleaning at GRNA! Trail grooming, garden weeding, and window shining are a few of the many tasks for freshening up our grounds and Center in preparation for summer. No experience is necessary, just a pair of gloves, a "spring" in your step, and an open spirit. Pre-registration is encouraged - email Brian at stewardship@grassriver.org

June 7 – Wild Orchids and Other Rare Plants, 10:00am (2 hrs), \$15 per person, must pre-register

Join Education Director James Dake in an exclusive presentation and off-trail expedition to see rare orchids and other amazing plants, like carnivorous pitcher plants and sundews, in lesser known areas of GRNA. Limited space. Must be able to hike on uneven and wet/muddy terrain for the outdoor portion. Wearing muck boots is highly recommended, as the places we go will be very wet. This program meets at the Grass River Center.



Soak up those April showers with a Rain Garden. Use the link below for an article from MSU Extension that offers instructions to help you create a rain garden in your yard.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/soak-up-the-rain-with-a-rain-garden.>

March Floral Designs

The CAGC Floral Design Study Group met in March to create arrangements using the theme "Creative Line Design". Below are the designs created by Martha Rohr, Joanne Pittman and Ingrid Nedwick.



All Garden Club members
are welcome to join the
Floral Study Design Group

For more information
Contact
Marge McGoff



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

April

- 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/>
- 6 Presque Isle Garden Club Annual Luncheon** 9:30 to 2:30 at Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1401 M68, Rogers City. Tickets are \$30. For reservations call Jean 989-619-0300
- 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/>
- 13 Native Plant Spring Round Table**, 10:30 am, Petoskey Public Library, Carnegie Building, Upper Level. Hosted by Wild Ones of Northern Michigan. Have you decided to try planting native plants, but don't know where to start? Join a Round Table discussion featuring native plant gardeners in the Northern Michigan to hear what plants they have had success with, what types of conditions they have dealt with, and what plants they want to try.
- 15 Adopt-a-Highway Pick up**, 9 am, meet at the Lutheran Church parking lot (across from the Charlevoix Pool). Trash bags and reflective vests will be provided.
- 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**
- 22 Getting Scrappy: Propagate from your kitchen scraps**, 7:30 pm, The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-scrappy-propagating-from-your-kitchen-scraps-tickets-757940880577>
- 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**

May

- 9 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 10 Wildflower Walk**, 3:30 pm, Charles Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix. Join Little Traverse Conservancy’s Amy Lipson for a hike in search of wildflowers. To register: <https://landtrust.org/events-template/mothers-day-wildflower-walk/>
- 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.
- 18 Spring Stewardship Day**, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Grass River Natural Area. Trail grooming, garden weeding, and window shining are a few of the many tasks for freshening up our grounds and Center in preparation for summer. Pre-registration is encouraged - email Brian at stewardship@grassriver.org
- 25 CAGC Plant Sale**, fundraiser, Ferry Beach Pavilion.

June

- 2-8 National Garden Week**
- 2-5 National Garden Clubs Annual Convention**, Denver Colorado.
- 6 CAGC Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, Charlevoix Public Library.
- 7-16 Mackinac Island Lilac Festival**, Mackinac Island.
- 7 Wild Orchids and Other Rare Plants**, 10:00am (2 hrs), \$15 per person, must pre-register, Grass River Natural Area. Join Education Director James Dake in an exclusive presentation and off-trail expedition to see rare orchids and other amazing plants. Limited space. <https://www.grassriver.org/classes-and-programs.html>
- 8 Northern Michigan Master Gardeners Plant Sale**, Emmet County Fairgrounds.
- 10-11 Michigan Garden Clubs State Conference**, Bay City, MI. "Smitten with the Mitten"
- 11 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Presentation by Alison Adams, Charlevoix Conservation District Coordinator: Incorporating native plants into your garden.



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the May CAGC newsletter is April 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.