



# Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB,  
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& NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

November 2023

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

## President's Message

As I watch the wind capping the waves of Lake Charlevoix from my cozy cabin, I prepare to depart for the winter. There are still bulbs to plant, pots to put away, flowers to pull and grass to cut. Our chores seem never ending... even as my husband is desperately trying to shingle one more side of a beach house he is building down at the lake. (Probably a two-year project!) And so, too, our club has been busy putting to bed the last year and arranging for the coming year.

We held our annual potluck meeting and dined on plenty of delectable delights our club members contributed-- delicious home-made appetizers, salads, pastas, mains, and desserts! Approximately 41 members, new and seasoned, broke bread and shared stories for the first hour. Laughter, hugs and recipe swapping dominated the room. We relish the feeling of community, a basic human need- belonging. Though the year has certainly brought its trials, this luncheon reminds us of our common ties and goals. We have worked, many of us tirelessly, to support each other- filling in gaps as they occurred. It is refreshing to observe the bonding and connection and offers hope for a new year.

We have forged ahead despite the resignation of our president. We have travelled the road of frustrating technology to make life easier in future years. We have adjusted our by-laws to clarify our responsibilities. We have survived (and thrived) the plant sale, garden walk and this weekend, the bulb sale (with its predictable chilly winds), all due to the dedication of our members. We are a heart-y group devoted to our mission and each other.

I want to thank each of you personally for the opportunity to get to know you better and for the support you have given me as well as Peggy Eckhold, and Marty Sutton this year as we navigated the murky waters of a shared temporary presidency. You made our jobs easier and gave us the confidence to "stay calm and carry on." The Board remained stable and committed to the club. Thank you to Kris Jones, Carolyn Navarre, Charlotte Koger, Dawne Jordan, Chris Heroy and Sue Thurow and Martha Rohr for your unending encouragement and assistance. We are truly grateful.

Congratulations to our new Board officers, Martha Rohr, Marianne Mundy, Kris Jones, Beth Cowie, Carolyn Navarre, Charlotte Koger, Joyce Herbert/Janet Gilbert, Mical Miller, Sue Thurow/Pam Walsh, and Joanne Hawkins. Thank you for volunteering to help us grow!

I wish you all a bountiful autumn, happy holidays, and safe travels! See you in the spring.

Fondly,

*Kathy Kopitz*





## November Membership Meeting

**Our November Meeting and will place on Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 pm** in the Charlevoix Public Library's Community Room.

The Floral Design Committee will demonstrate their creative talents as they bring to life creative seasonal designs.

## Welcome Joanne!

**At our October meeting** Martha Rohr introduced new member Joanne Pittman to our club.

**Joanne** retired in 2020 and moved to Charlevoix from Clare, where she worked for a non-profit organization for 23 years. Her work included coordinating services for pregnant women and young children with disabilities. She also provided direct services to pregnant women and newborns – Childbirth Education, Location Counseling, Doula support, and Infant Massage instruction, among others.

She has two daughters who each have three children. One of her daughters lives on Beaver Island and the other in Mount Pleasant.

Now that she is retired, Joanne plans to use her time to enjoy hobbies that she has learned over the years – including anything having to do with fiber arts (knitting, spinning, dyeing, and weaving). She has limited experience with gardening, but is looking forward to learning more, and she is happy to become part of the Garden Club as a way to meet more people here in Charlevoix.



## News and Notes

**Advice from MSU Extension about removing wasp nests:** Many species of wasps provide beneficial ecosystem services such as feeding on garden pests. Wasp nests that don't pose an immediate hazard can be left alone. Wasps vacate their nest in the fall and don't reuse the same nest the next year. After a couple of hard frosts, the wasps should no longer pose an issue. Leaving wasp nests alone may reduce insecticides in the environment and support beneficial insects. Use the link below to read a recent article about removing wasp nests:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/getting\\_rid\\_of\\_wasps\\_nests](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/getting_rid_of_wasps_nests)



**Soil Testing:** Plants need the correct pH and balance of nutrients to be healthy. Soil in your garden can become depleted over time, making it less productive. MSU Extension recommends testing your soil every 2 – 3 years in order to know what nutrients are needed. Their home lawn and garden soil testing service will provide you with a report with instructions for adding soil amendments. The cost of the Soil Test Mailer is \$26 can be purchased in person at MSU Extension office (319B N Lake St. Boyne City) or online <https://shop.msu.edu/products/soil-test-mailer>

# Fall Bulb Sale Recap

**Our Annual Bulb Sale was a success!** CAGC members, led by bulb sale chair Marty Sutton, staffed our new bright yellow tent during Applefest. We sold LOTS of bulbs - and after expenses, will make close to \$2,000. It was fun to talk to everyone and commiserate over the cold - and share our thanks for the lack of rain.

In addition, we have a very positive impact on our community through our engagement with the town, visitors, and everyone involved in the event. Miss Charlevoix even stopped by for a photo op, and as a bonus, several potential new club members have contacted our club after meeting us during Applefest.



## Veterans Day Commemoration

**We will join** members of the Charlevoix Evening Garden Club and Charlevoix Elementary students at 10:30 am Friday, November 10 at the Charlevoix Veterans Blue Star Memorial (near Round Lake at the corner of Antrim Street and Belvedere) to commemorate Veterans Day. Please join us to honor our Veterans.



## National Garden Clubs

**The NGC Newsletter "The National Gardener"** Is published online seasonally. To view the fall issue click the link below:

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/tng-fall-2023.pdf>

**NGC Schools** provide members and non-members with a range of educational opportunities on the art and science of the environment, gardening, landscape design and floral design. For more information:

<https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>



## Michigan Garden Clubs

**Are you receiving the electronic newsletter "Through the Garden Gate"** from the Michigan Garden Clubs? If not – use this link to view and join their email list:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/MGC-Fall-Newsletter.html?soid=1113645395326&aid=I9E8GDxwLnI>

**MGC Monthly Member Meetings** will resume in November with an overview of the new and improved MGC website. Two sessions will be held via Zoom on November 13 – one at 10:00 am and another at 6:00 pm. Look for details and links coming in the next issue of Michigan Garden Clubs' "Thru the Garden Gate". Or online at the MGC website.

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

# Conservation: Fall Provisions for Pollinators

Take these steps to help bees and other wildlife thrive.

Submitted by Carrie Minch



**Autumn is an ideal time for gardening tasks that have an impact year-round.** Here's what the experts suggest:

**Leave the leaves.** Leaf litter on a garden bed creates habitat for wildlife, from small mammals and reptiles and amphibians to overwintering bees and moth and butterfly larvae. If you have too many leaves, rake to the corners of your property or use as mulch. Sending leaves to a landfill is the worst option, robbing your soil of natural fertilizer and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

**Nurture fall-blooming native plants.** In social species such as bumble bees and many sweat bees, "only mated queens live through winter, so they need forage to put on fat during late summer and early fall," says James Cane, a biologist and head of the nonprofit WildBeecology. He recommends goldenrods, asters, sunflowers and, in much of the West, rabbitbrush.

**Plant flowers for next spring.** Fall is the premier time of year for planting or transplanting. If you get plants in the ground before the soil freezes, they'll have a chance to establish roots when they're not trying to put out leaves or dealing with heat or drought, which can be

tough on a perennial. When choosing what to grow for pollinators. Focus on "keystone plants" - species needed by specialist bees that eat pollen only from a narrow range of plants ([www.nwf.org/keystoneplants](http://www.nwf.org/keystoneplants)).

**Sow milkweed seeds.** Most milkweed require a period of cool wet weather followed by spring warmth in order to successfully germinate – a step called cold stratification. Make sure you only sow seeds collected locally to ensure the plants are native to your area.

**Leave seed heads and flower stalks.** Like fallen leaves, the stems and seed heads of perennials can be essential habitat for insects, especially some overwintering native bees, long after flowers have faded. Come spring, cut the stems down to 10 or 12 inches, and native bees will nest inside. If you prune back shrubs such as forsythia or blackberry, whose stems have hollow or pithy cores, bundle those on your property for more bee nesting sites. The added bonus of saving seed heads until spring is that they will attract goldfinches, chickadees and other songbirds you can enjoy watching all winter.

*National Wildlife Magazine, Fall 2023*

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2023/Fall/Gardening/Fall-Gardening-Tips-Pollinators>

## Adopt-a-Highway

**The Garden Club had a successful pick up event on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.** This, our last pick up for 2023, had nine participants (Janet Gilbert, Mary Lynn Heid, Ingrid Nedwick, Cathy Paklaian, Marie Eckstein, Diane McMahon, Cindy Vermeesch, Dawne Jordan, and Sue Thurow) who collected a total of 13 bags of litter along our designated stretch of US 31, north of Charlevoix.





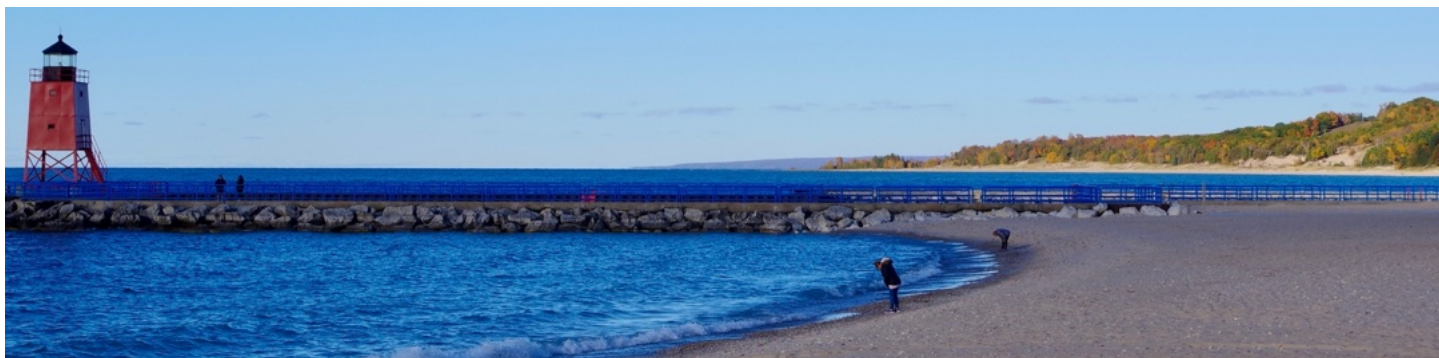
## CAGC Events and Community Calendar

### November

- 9 Preserving the Harvest – Fillings for Holiday Pies**, Free class via Zoom offered by the MSU Extension Food Safety team. 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm.  
Register: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/preserving-mi-harvest-pie-filling-november-9>
- 10 Veterans Day Ceremony**, 10:30 am Friday, at the Charlevoix Veterans Blue Star Memorial (near Round Lake at the corner of Antrim Street and Belvedere) – along with members of the Charlevoix Evening Garden Club.
- 13 Michigan Garden Clubs Member Meeting**, an overview of the new and improved MGC website. Two sessions will be held via Zoom at 10:00 am and another at 6:00 pm.
- 14 CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Seasonal Designs: The Floral Design Committee will demonstrate their creative talents as they share their seasonal designs.

### December

- 12 CAGC Member Meeting and Holiday Luncheon**, 11:30 am, Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant. Installation of the Club's 2024 Officers will take place.



## CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

**Submission deadline** for the December CAGC newsletter is November 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.

If you are interested in helping out with our club's online communications, join our Technology, Communications, and Publicity Committee. Our members, Beth Cowie, Marie Eckstein, Mical Miller, Beth Rosenthal, and Marty Sutton will be meeting virtually throughout the winter months to develop our online presence and brainstorm on ways to connect with the community and publicize the work of our club.



Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CharlevoixAreaGardenClub/>

Instagram [@charlevoixareagardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/charlevoixareagardenclub)



Go to our website [www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org](http://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org) Scroll to the bottom of the main page for our latest blog posts.