



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB,
MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
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October 2023

www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

President's Message

The weather has turned as we look forward to pumpkins, ghosts and the reds and golds of autumn. We are bedding down our community gardens; and many of us are packing up to head to warmer climates. Fall is a time for change...an opportunity to plant the seeds for the growth we expect in the spring. As we wind down the year, let us ponder the past and plan our future.

I had the opportunity to attend our District 5 meeting hosted by our club. Many thanks to Diane McMahan and her crew for all their help making this a successful event. Twenty-six of our members attended and hosted tables for other clubs that attended. We made our own table flower arrangements and heard two inspirational speakers, Thomas Bailey (Little Traverse Conservancy) and Robin Pokorski (former President of the California Garden Clubs). Both addressed the issues of commitment and transformative change in thoughtful and at times humorous ways. Without change there is no room for growth.



A major take away was stated in three questions:

- WHAT – is the issue?
- SO WHAT – are the problems and the ramifications?
- NOW WHAT – are we going to do? (action being the key)

As we grow and face inevitable changes and challenges, we are to support each other, quell gossip and rumors and get on with solving our issues as a team. Ironically, my granddaughter, who is five, is learning the same thing in her kindergarten class as they answer the question: What is a community?

At our October potluck luncheon, we will deal with several items on our agenda including our bylaws changes, endowment funding, and slate of new board members. It is my sincere hope that we will continue to connect, share our ideas as well as keep an open mind while listening to other views which may differ from our own. Our club is a strong community with team members who support each other. We will continue to grow as we welcome new members and work together!

Happy pumpkin carving and safe travels,
Kathy, Peggy, and Marty



October Membership Meeting

Our October Meeting and Potluck Lunch will place on Tuesday, October 10 at Noon in the Charlevoix Public Library's Community Room.

Bring a dish to share with your fellow gardeners. We will have a presentation by the Charlevoix Community Foundation, elect our 2024 officers, and vote on the proposed bylaw revisions.



Welcome Beth Rosenthal!

At our August meeting Joyce Herbert introduced new member Beth Rosenthal to our club.

Beth has an MBA and PhD from the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business, a Master's in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

In her professional journey, Beth has worked with nonprofits focused on integrative health and medicine. She has a consistent interest in holistic health, personal development, and the connection between food and health. This interest has led her to start a garden in her Charlevoix backyard, where she grows, lettuce, kale, tomatoes, basil, and parsley.

Beth believes that what we feed our body, mind, and spirit has a profound impact on our overall well-being. She is passionate about learning and sharing knowledge about eating and growing healthy foods as well as practicing tools for vibrant living. She has written "Replenish: A Life Enhancing Activity Book" and "It's That Easy: The High Vibe Guide to Attracting What You Really Want".

She's excited to join the Charlevoix Area Garden Club and looks forward to growing new friendships.



News and Notes

Digging and Storing Tender Bulbs. If you have dahlias, gladiolus, or other plants with tender bulbs, corms, tubers, and roots in your Northern Michigan garden they must be dug up and stored for the winter. Check out this article from MSU Extension for tips on how to dig and store your bulbs.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/digging_and_storing_tender_bulbs

October Big Day Birding Event. Join the Grand Traverse Conservation District and the Grand Traverse Audubon Club to celebrate October Big Day – the annual bird census conducted throughout the world. During this **free** event you'll be supporting conservation worldwide by counting birds and submitting observations. Birding will take place at the Boardman

River Nature Center and the Natural Education Reserve. To register: <https://gtcd.wufoo.com/forms/qc5qajc0pr6vwm/>

Conservation: Gardens that Rock

Transform your landscape with a rock garden.

Submitted by Carrie Minch



Dare to be different by letting pebbles, boulders, stones and gravel take center stage in your landscape. Rock gardens use the intentional arrangement of rocks in different shapes, sizes and textures to create a low-maintenance look that is both pretty and practical. “Rock gardens are a natural choice if you have dry, sandy or rocky soil, or garden on a slope,” says Joseph Tychonievich, editor of the North American Rock Garden Society’s quarterly magazine. “Those well-drained conditions where other plants might struggle make perfect habitat for rock garden plants.”

Planning this kind of outdoor space is as simple as sourcing rocks of different shapes, sizes and colors from quarries and garden centers, creating a well-draining soil mix, arranging the rocks to create visual interest and filling in the spaces with gravel and native plants to add color and texture.

Enjoy Low-Maintenance Areas: The plants still need to be watered, of course, but turning an area into an oasis filled with boulders, limestone and gravel leads to less weeding, mowing and other labor-intensive gardening tasks. Prune dead growth and spent flowers seasonally.

Add Wildlife-Friendly Options: Choosing native plants that provide pollen and nectar creates a natural feast for pollinators – but rocks can offer their own wildlife benefits, too. Artfully arranged rocks create crevices for small animals such as lizards, snakes and frogs to hide or hunt. The warm surfaces can become ideal sun-basking spots for a wide variety of creatures.

Pick Plants to Fill Small Spaces: A diminutive rock garden can have a grand impact, adding depth and dimension to a boring landscape—not to mention the potential to fill it with plant life. “Most rock garden plants are tiny. You can pack a lot of diversity and interest into the garden,” says Joseph. Make sure to pick rocks that fit the scale of the project to avoid overwhelming the space.

Best Rock Garden Plants to Grow – these 10 plants can take the lead in a rock garden:

- Blue sedge (*Carex glauca*)
- Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)
- Cottage pink, also known as feathered pink or garden pink (*Dianthus plumarius*)
- Daphne (*Daphne x hendersonii*)
- Dwarf Japanese garden juniper (*Juniperus procumbens* ‘Nana’)
- Little Tutti Frutti lewisia (*Lewisia longipetala hybrida*)
- Plains zinnia (*Zinnia grandiflora*)
- Prostrate rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* ‘Prostratus’)
- Rock rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*)
- Sedum

Birds and Blooms Magazine, September 2023

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/gardening-basics/rock-garden/>

Michigan Garden Clubs

Garden Club Members from around District 5 enjoyed gathering in Charlevoix for the Fall Meeting. Thank you to all of our Club members who helped to host the event.

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". You should be receiving this digital newsletter via email. You can also find it on their website. www.migardenclubs.org





National Garden Clubs

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. "GO GREEN - PLANT AMERICA" is NGC President Moore's theme for 2023-2025. <https://gardenclub.org>

The NGC Central Region Conference takes place in Des Moines, Iowa October 15 – 17. https://www.ngccentralregion.com/files/ugd/6b45f3_26f7329499f84b33b4153acad4081710.pdf

Flower Show School Course 1 takes place October 5 – 7 in Ann Arbor, MI. Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC flower show.



Fall Bulb Sale

Our Annual Bulb Sale will take place October 13, 14, and 15 during Charlevoix Applefest, but CAGC members and friends can order now. The bulbs have arrived and your order can be filled as soon as possible.

You can be planting before the sale and be ready to volunteer for a shift at the sale at AppleFest! Call (205-999-9790) or email Marty Sutton (marthasutton13@gmail.com) to order or volunteer.

You can find the brochure showing the bulbs and the order form on our website. Or use this link:

https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/files/ugd/dedaa1_c7db5c28400f40eea85ddf4a321ecc8f.pdf



CAGC Events and Community Calendar

October

- 5-7 NGC Flower Show School**, Hosted by Michigan Garden Clubs, Ann Arbor, MI Registration due by September 15. <https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Mlchigan-Garden-Clubs-2023-FSS-Course-1-Final-Brochure-6-28-2023.pdf>
- 6-7 Otsego Conservation District Fall Tree Sale**, Friday, October 6 from 9am to 5pm and Saturday, October 7 from 9am to 1pm, 459 Livingston Blvd Gaylord, MI 49735. Walk-ins welcome, pre-orders recommended. Pre-orders due Friday, September 22. <http://www.otsegocd.org>
- 10 CAGC Member Meeting**, Noon, Charlevoix Public Library – Potluck and Annual Meeting. Election of 2024 officers and presentation of 2024 budget, and presentation by the Charlevoix Community Foundation.
- 13-15 CAGC Bulb Sale**, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during Charlevoix Applefest. East Park.
- 27-28 NGC Environmental School Course 3**, Manistee Michigan. Registration deadline October 13. <https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Environmental-School-3.pdf>

November

- 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.



CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

Submission deadline for the November CAGC newsletter is October 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)



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