



August 2023

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

## President's Message

It was pointed out to me recently that the title of our yearbook is "Finding Joy Through Leadership". My message on page 3 and my January meeting address encouraged all of our members to share the responsibility of leading our club with me.

At the District Spring meeting we dealt with two issues: getting members to accept a leadership role and getting members to volunteer for club projects. Again, the theme of leadership. At our District Fall meeting we will have one inspirational speaker encouraging us to be good stewards and lead the way. Our second speaker will give us a pep talk about stepping up and leading through volunteering to help your club survive.

It's challenging to keep doing the work this club chooses to take on as our members age out and new members are not inclined to keep the work schedule the seasoned members want to keep doing. It's been a difficult balance as President to meet the needs of both parties.

A quote that was sent to me to encourage reads: "Almost every leader I've ever met has been questioned, tested, and laughed at. It just comes with the territory of standing firm for something you believe in. At first it stings and you almost let it stop you (sadly, some people do stop.) But if you have a strong enough WHY, enemies seem silenced because you are leading with a purpose. The loudest boos come from the cheapest seats anyway."

Sadly, I am in the group that gives up. I am resigning my officer position after our August meeting. I am also leaving the club and joining another club so that I can keep doing the District Director position because it has been very fulfilling and I work with a group of women that care about leading their clubs into the future. Most importantly, I have found joy through leadership with the district position and the 22 clubs I support.

Wishing you well.

*Dorothy*



## August Membership Meeting

**Our August Meeting takes place on Tuesday, August 8 at 1:00 pm** at the Charlevoix Public Library.

We will not be having a speaker at this meeting in order to use the time to discuss Club business.



## Garden Walk 2023

**We are grateful** to belong to such a wonderful organization and know that we all support one another in our endeavors.

**Our Garden Walk was a huge success** with an average of 450 guests attending. The unofficial gross ticket sales are \$9702.87!!!! So far, we have expenses of \$1692.60 leaving a temporary net of \$8010.27! Our big expense this year was the 34-passenger bus used to access three of the gardens south of town.

**This success could not have been accomplished without all of you pitching in.** A BIG THANKS goes out to all of you! Special thanks to Carolyn Navarre for everything she did to make the walk successful. She found 3 of our gardens, found the parking lot on US31, installed and managed a completely new software package for our online ticket sales, mailed tickets out, distributed all the money and tickets to the merchants, counted all the money, and then spent the entire day selling the Ways and Means items at the tent. Thank you, Carolyn!

**It was also nice to have the Afterglow return this year.** Most of our homeowners attended and many of our workers. Thanks goes out to Marsie and her team.

I have heard lots of positive feedback from guests as well as members about the selection of our gardens and overall experience. Since this was the first time Sue, Judy and myself have been associated with this event, we are glad that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Sincerely,

*Martha Rohr, Sue Wilson, Judy Flanagan*

## Beautification Awards

**The Beautification Committee visited over 40 Charlevoix businesses** to evaluate their gardens, containers, and window boxes. Each merchant's display was graded for color, design, and originality. The scores were tallied to determine the top displays. The committee was pleased to see many lovely displays throughout the city.

### The 2023 Award Winners are:

Bridge Street Tap Room

The Lake House

Esperance

Round Lake Outfitters

Pointes North Inn

McDonald's

GaGa for Kids

Bingham Insurance





## Conservation: The War on Weeds

Fighting the spread of invasive plants in the wild begins at your home.

Submitted by Carrie Minch

When Doreen Cubie as presented with the choice between planting a Bradford pear or a flowering dogwood in her front yard, she selected the pear. Now she knows that was the wrong decision. While both trees may look lovely during springtime, flowering dogwoods – native to eastern deciduous forests – produce berries that ripen in autumn, providing nutritious food for more than 60 bird species. The trees are also host plants for many kinds of caterpillars, which birds need to nourish their young.

Bradford pears, on the other hand, are native to Asia and have very little ecological value in North America – supporting few, if any native insects, and their fruit is merely “junk food” for birds. Even worse, non-native trees can outcompete natives. Bradford pears are now considered weed trees and have spread far

beyond city streets and private yards across much of the eastern and midwestern United States. They are so harmful to natural habitats that the state of South Carolina will ban their sale beginning in 2024.

Personal choices can make a big difference in the nation’s war on weeds. “People should always plant natives in their yards.” Says Jeanne Braha, executive director of the Rock Creek Conservancy, a nonprofit group battling dozens of invasive species that have escaped from yards and gardens into Rock Creek Park, a 1,700 acre urban oasis in Washington, D.C. The intruders include porcelain berry, oriental bittersweet, English ivy, and Chinese wisteria. The non-natives smother spring-blooming ephemerals, such as violets, trout lilies, and mayapples that provide food for mining bees and other early-emerging pollinators.

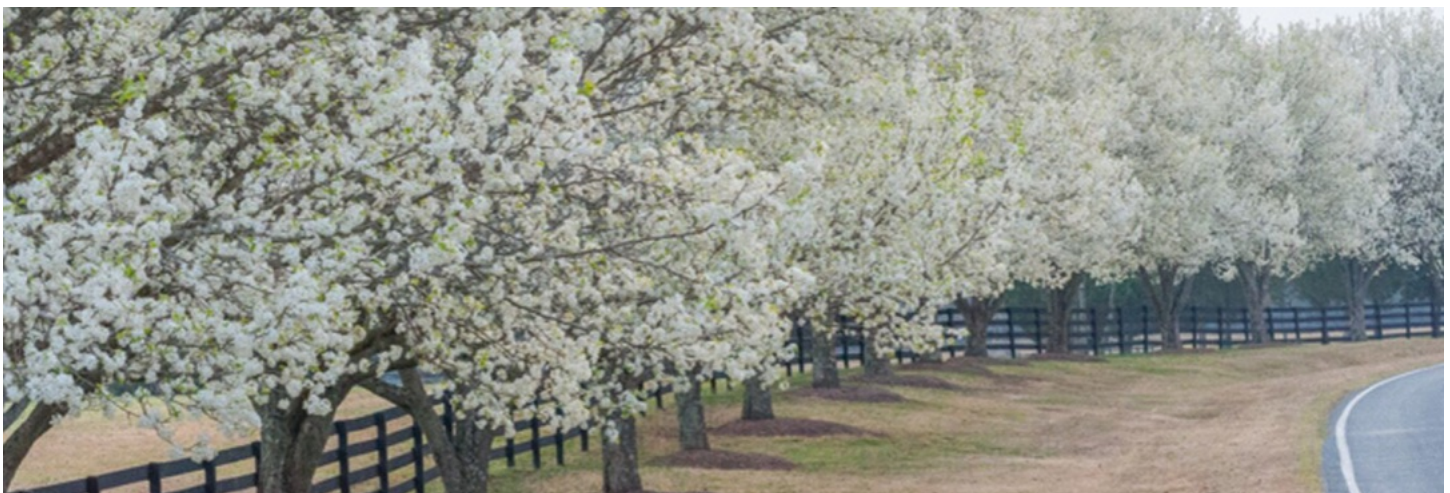
In Vancouver, British Columbia, a similar group of 700 volunteers (called Ivy Busters) have removed more than 200,000 square feet of English ivy from the city’s Stanley Park. They believe it will take more than 50 years to completely ride the park of the aggressive vine.

If volunteering to pull plants is not an option, you can still make a big contribution by simply policing your own yard. The first step is to take out any invasives you may have planted. Hoeing or pulling out plants by the roots is a good option. For smaller invasives you can combine 4 parts vinegar to one part water and use a spray bottle to saturate the weeds. For large areas, smothering the unwanted plants with heavy-duty plastic will work – although it can take several months.

Unfortunately, removing invasives is not a one-time exercise. It has to be done over and over again. If you are looking to purchase native plants, check out Gruler Gardens in Petoskey or the Charlevoix Conservation District Plant Native Sale on September 9. More info can be found in the Calendar of Events at the end of this newsletter.

*National Wildlife Federation Magazine, Summer 2023*

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2023/Summer/Gardening/Weeds-Invasive-Plants-Public-Land>



*Bradford pear trees line a roadway*



## Adopt-a-Highway

Following an early rain shower, we had a sunny morning for our summer roadside trash pickup July 17. Participants were: Mary Lynn and Ralph Heid, Kris Jones, Cathy Paklaian, Cindy Vermeesch, and Larry and Carrie Minch. We filled 10 bags with litter and noticed that it's a great year for poison ivy!

**Join us for the last pick up in 2023.** We will meet at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church on US 31 – across from the Charlevoix Pool on **Monday, September 25**. In the event of rain, we will meet at the same time on Friday, September 29.

Let's keep Charlevoix beautiful (and trash-free)!



## News and Notes

**Our May 2024 Plant Sale** will be chaired by Sue Thurow, Marie Eckstein, and Maureen Bingham. We are in very short supply of plastic pots and they are actively working on digging and potting plants right now. If you have pots to donate, please bring them to our August Membership Meeting. The plant sale team will take anything you have and will recycle any pots that are too large or too small for them to use.

**The Elk Rapids Garden Club is hosting a presentation by Doug Tallamy** – creator of Homegrown National Park on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall. The Community is welcome. Doors open at 5:00 pm for a meet and greet, book, table and exhibits. The presentation begins at 6:00. A \$10 donation is appreciated.

<https://www.greenelkrapids.org/doug-tallamy.html>

## Michigan Garden Clubs District 5 Fall Meeting

The MGC District 5 Fall Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 14 at the Community Reformed Church in Charlevoix. **Registration is required, and the deadline is August 14.** For more information, go to our website:

[https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/files/ugd/dedaa1\\_83e35b5b85534b4b8d66f0842c149b4c.pdf](https://www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org/files/ugd/dedaa1_83e35b5b85534b4b8d66f0842c149b4c.pdf)

If you would like to attend, please send a check for \$30 (made to CAGC) to Carolyn Navarre

The Charlevoix Area Garden Club  
and  
The Charlevoix Evening Garden Club

Invite you to:

Michigan Garden Clubs  
District 5 Fall Meeting



SEEDING THE FUTURE AND CULTIVATING SERVICE

# CAGC Events and Community Calendar

## 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](http://www.cakecisma.org/event)
- 8 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 p.m., Charlevoix Public Library
- 19 **Gruler Gardens Native Plant Sale**, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, 1298 E Gruler Road, Petoskey, ph. 231-216-6161  
<https://www.grulergardens.com/nativeplants>
- 24 **Doug Tallamy “Homegrown National Park”**, hosted by the Elk Rapids Garden Club, 6:00 pm, Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall. <https://www.greenelkrapids.org/doug-tallamy.html>
- 25 **Proven Winners Landscape Roadshow**, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Castle Farms. To RSVP and for more info: <https://provenwinnerspros.provenwinners.com>

## September

- 9 **Charlevoix Conservation District Fall Native Plant Sale**, Noon – 3 pm
- 12 **CAGC Member Meeting**, 1:00 p.m., Charlevoix Public Library – Topic: Landscape Design, Speaker: Scott Philp.
- 14 **District 5 Fall Meeting**, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Community Reformed Church, Charlevoix. Co-hosted by the Charlevoix Area Garden Club and the Charlevoix Evening Garden Club. Register by August 14.
- 16 **Woody Invasives Workshop with the Antrim Conservation District and CAKE CISMA** – Learn how to manage invasive plants. [www.cakecisma.org/event](http://www.cakecisma.org/event)
- 25 **Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up**, meet at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church on US 31, rain date Friday, September 29



## CAGC Newsletter, Website, and Social Media

**Submission deadline** for the September CAGC newsletter is August 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.



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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.