



Charlevoix Area Garden Club

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www.charlevoixareagardenclub.org

Editor: Dorothy Sandoval

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President's Message



August is a time for canning and eating all the fruits (vegetables) of our labors all summer. My sisters and I have been enjoying our cucumbers, onions, carrots, zucchini, beets, peas and tomatoes with our meals.

Our town has been bustling with vacationers and it has been a wonderful time to enjoy all the boats cruising by on the lakes. Charlevoix is unmatched with natural beauty.

I have not been much of a conservationist most of my life, until I moved to Northern Michigan. Now I understand about preserving our beautiful area, state, and country. In this month's "Thru the Garden Gate" there was a copy of the winning high school essay for Michigan. I found this extremely pertinent to this time in our lives. I was also impressed with the fact that our youth are thinking about protecting our natural resources. I am attaching this for all of you to read.

Our life is defined by what we pay attention to. Let's continue to pay attention to our glorious natural resources in northern Michigan.

Martha

Update

Our members have been meeting at Depot Beach for the past 2 months and it has been wonderful to visit with friends and enjoy the beauty of the lake, beach and gardens. One committee even met in the Depot Garden for a very relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. The design group met in July for the first time since February at Depot Beach and had a great time. Anything is possible even with staying our distance apart and wearing masks for safety. I realize that the Covid-19 virus has made all of us anxious about everything.

Our August meeting cannot be held at the library as first mentioned due to the new directive from our governor. **PLEASE WAIT TO BE ADVISED.**



August Meeting

August 11, 2020 1:00 p.m.
Hospital Memorial Gardens

Unsure where?????

September Meeting

September 8, 2020 1:00 p.m.
TBD where??????

Conservation

In the 100 years since the invention of the gas-powered mower, the North American lawn has gone from a vibrant and wildlife-friendly expanse of violets, clovers and other little flowers to a flawless monoculture, resembling a factory-delivered green carpet. Instead of an inviting swath of nature, many lawns are now expansive, barren green deserts, devoid of vitality.

But if just a portion of the 40 million acres that U.S. lawns occupy—an area of the size of Texas—were managed differently, we could save billions of gallons of water, protect countless waterways from contaminated runoff and reduce carbon emissions. We would also support vastly more beneficial insects, birds, butterflies and pollinators.

Liberating lawns from chemicals is an important first step toward making the whole landscape more climate-wise. Typical high-maintenance regiments include applying insecticides, which target all insects and microorganisms in the soil, even if they play important ecological roles. For example, most of North America's 4,000 or so native bee species, our most important pollinators, raise their young underground.

Poisons used on "pests" kill all insects—90 % of them beneficial or benign. Some would have pollinated flowers, others would have eaten unwanted insects, and still others would've become prey for birds, bats, frogs and toads. Other poisons, such as herbicides, kill off desirable plants, like clover, that enrich soil and feed pollinators. And synthetic fertilizers, used to keep grass green after poisons have reduced the soil's natural nutrients, leach into groundwater and pollute waterways.

Liberated lawns are likely to be more resilient in an era of climate change, and the soil will be able to sequester more carbon than lawns treated with synthetic chemicals: When soil is poisoned, the organisms that break down organic matter and increase carbon storage are drastically reduced.

Replacing lawn with options that don't require trimming and mowing also shrinks your carbon footprint. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans burn about 800 million gallons of gas a year trimming yards and spill an additional 17 million gallons just in refueling equipment.

With just a slight shift in attitude and some minor adjustments in our practices, every landscape can be a place where we shrink our carbon footprint, eliminate poisons and assist other species, including valuable pollinators and your favorite songbirds, as they adapt to a changing world alongside us.



Taken from Defenders Magazine
Submitted by Carrie Minch

Adopt A Highway

Our highway pick-up was accomplished before the stormy weekend on Friday July 17th with six participants filling fourteen bags in eight hours. Unfortunately several committee members did not know about our 8:30 a.m. start and our Friday date.

Fall pickup Friday, September 25, 9:00 a.m.
(rainy option will be Friday, October 2nd.)
Meet at the Reformed Church.

Challenges in Protecting our Natural Habitats

The budding awareness of the Earth's vulnerability to human actions also provides an opportunity to divert the limelight to the value of natural ecosystems and the lifeline that they provide. In more recent times, people around the globe have been paying more attention to how they are utilizing their resources and if they are making a conscientious effort to reduce wasteful habits and act against this global crisis, or are they just saying that because the media has brought to attention the BT Policy Paper by David Spratt and Ian Dunlop's research that human civilization will crumble in 2050 if serious mitigation actions are not taken in the next decade?

Environment saving trends like pocket metal straws or Facebook share tree planted are companies simply capitalizing off the world dying and taking advantage of the "I'm in the mood to save the planet now even after I spent my whole life buying from manufacturers who are extremely unethical and have a history of malicious degradation of the environment in the manufacturing of their products" fad. Fast fashion industries are especially harming the planet in its abuse of the environment as well as third world countries. This corruption is one of the biggest barriers to protecting our natural habitats and real conservation efforts need to take place. The most important step in taking positive action against this global crisis of dying natural habitats is to expand our knowledge and understand of sustainability and conservation. Conservation efforts preserve sensitive habitats for animals and plants, revitalize endangered species and save precious natural space from development.

We love the Earth. However, is our love for our home strong enough to save it for future generations, or are we just going to let it die off when we are approaching our own individual

fates and we will no longer inhabit it? The hard part is knowing where to start 'Reducing Your plastic consumption and carbon emissions is a step in the right direction' but how you came to make that decision is even more important. We want to defend this planet's life and all those who inhabit it out of love and genuine desire to protect the precious lives who inhabit it. We say we love the Earth, but we cannot love the Earth if we do not love the fish in the oceans rising in elevation, the polar bears in the melting Arctic, or the woodland animals whose homes are being chopped down for profit. The Earth's biggest enemy is human behavior and it is the wall that divides us from making a positive change.

The environment should be a priority, not an afterthought. We should not buy our vehicles that are 10 miles to a gallon and then decide that we should reduce carbon emissions. According to Harvard economist Martin Weitzman, equilibrium climate sensitivity could be as high as 10 degrees C, which could be catastrophic considering that the temperature difference between now and the past ice age is about 5 degrees C and it took several thousand years for that increase to occur. With our unchanging habitats, we could possibly double thousands of years of evolutionary climate change into 30 years. Some people prefer living in ignorance but the stagnant lifestyle we uphold compared to the rate of the Earth dying to not complement each other and soon, realization will hit, and ignorance is not bliss after that.

Distinct polarization between political parties also hinders our efforts to change because of the rejection of research and science. The denial is over. We cannot keep pretending that the overwhelming number of hurricanes is normal, and the dying rainforest and coral reefs is just evolutionary change. It's time to put our differences aside and come together on one thing, even if it is just one thing, we all share; protecting the Earth!



Happy Birthday Martha Rohr
pictured
Jackie Krutsch, Marge McGoff, Martha Rohr,
Allyson Morrison, daughter of Martha.

September Newsletter Deadline

Submission deadline for the September issue of the CAGC newsletter is August 25th.
Send your information and articles to:
bnds@att.net

Mother Earth in Danger



From Mary Chavez, her favorite tool for dividing perennials.