



Brighton Bloomer

BRIGHTONMIGARDENCLUB
MEMBEROFMICHIGANGARDENCLUBS, INC.
CENTRALREGIONGARDENCLUBS, INC.
NATIONALGARDENCLUBS, INC.

OCTOBER 2025



LYDIA CADENA EDITOR

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER & MEETING DETAILS

BRIGHTON MI GARDEN CLUB HERBS FOR CULINARY AND MEDICINAL EXTRACTS



Speaker:

Bevin Cohen

HOST OF SEEDS AND WEEDS, AWARD
WINNING AUTHOR OF 10 BOOKS

THURSDAY OCT. 9
10:00 AM BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CENTER
555 BRIGHTON STREET

BRIGHTON MI GARDEN CLUB



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OCTOBER 2025



A letter from your presidents

Cultivating Joy One Garden at a Time

Happy Autumn Everyone!

As our growing season comes to a close, those of us with gardens are probably starting to shift gears to begin putting our gardens to bed. While this can be considered a 'chore', take a moment to discover the joy of the time spent in the garden over this past year. Stop, if even briefly, between the raking, digging or pruning to just lean on the fence. Look out at the beauty you created in the garden and how this unusual year has blessed you with the opportunity to let nature shine in your yard. Smile as you think of the colors that once danced in the sunlight just before dusk. Breathe in the fragrance of the summer flowers that graced your yard and think of how glorious they smelled to the pollinators they attracted. Remember a flower or two you cut to bring a little sunshine indoors. The key is to think of how much fun it was playing in the garden and how much joy the garden brought to you. That is what will carry you through until next spring.

Are you beginning to feel that joy? Then take that wonderful feeling and ask yourself how you might be able to share that joy throughout our club and community. There are still a few committees left that have no volunteers, committees that need a joyful person like you to make a difference and what a great way to contribute your joy to the club.

Another way to spread your joy within the club is through our newer members. We are sure that our newer members would love to feel the joy we cultivate within our club. It is a great way to pay it forward and imagine the happiness you will feel as you see them bloom like never before. It will probably remind you of the days you leaned on that fence, looked out over your garden, and smiled at what you created this past summer. It doesn't get any better than that.

Lynn and Nola

OCTOBER Important Dates & Birthdays*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 BMGC Board Meeting * <i>Judy Turnbull</i>	3	4 * <i>Jeannine Haag</i>
5	6	7 * <i>Judith Dahlin & Janet Peruski</i>	8	9 BMGC General Meeting and Food Drive	10 * <i>Cindy Haas</i>	11
12	13	14 * <i>Linda Battison</i>	15	16 * <i>Lydia Cadena</i>	17	18
19 * <i>Susan Jacobson</i>	20 * <i>Sandra Everett</i>	21	22 District 2B Fall Meeting – Williamston	23 Day of Sharing – East Lansing	24	25
26 Flower Show Symposium –sponsored by Central Region	27	28 Central Region Convention – Elkhart Lake, WI	29	30	31 Happy Halloween!	

The Official Stuff – September Minutes

**Brighton Michigan Garden Club | General Meeting | Brighton Community Center
September 11, 2025 at 10 AM**

CALL TO ORDER: NOLA J. HOGGE @ 10:15 AM.

46 members in attendance, 5 visitors, 1 guest, 1 zoom, 2 saw power point presentation later. The visitors were Kathy Christina (mentor, Hazel Yarnevich), Linda Szafran (came with Diane Schrock), Karen Ziegler (came with Julie Amman), Sally Bender, and Keri Wasylk (mentor, Debra Wagenmaker).

Also in attendance was Joan Lenhard, District 2B Director.

Announcements:

Yearbooks were distributed to all members in attendance.

Registration was available for the District 2B Fall Conference to be held in Williamston on October 22. This is the 100th Anniversary for the Williamston Garden Club. There was a sign-up sheet, and \$35 registration fee was collected by our Treasurers. The event will be held at Milestones Events Center, 2652 E. Haslett Rd., Williamston, MI. from 8:30 AM –3:30 PM. Drivers can carpool, meet at Meijers parking lot.

Members also contributed money to the District 2B Silent Auction Basket. Contributions were collected by the Treasurers. Sue Diebol and Cindy Mann will purchase items for the basket and put it together.

The 50/50 raffle was completed by Karen Rebiger. \$66 was collected.

Vice-President: Dionna Guy

Dr. Art Cameron, Michigan State University Emeritus Professor, was the speaker today with a fun presentation titled, “The Exuberant Gardener.” His presentation was available via zoom.

Upcoming speakers and events are as follows:

October 9: Herbs for Culinary and Medicinal Extracts. Bevin Cohen

November 13: Solar Gardens. Dr. Wolfgang Bauer

December 11. Theme: “The Light within the Garden.” Holiday Party and Luncheon

January 8: Butterfly and Pollinator Gardens. John Blair

February 12: Land Conservancy. Jill Lewis

March 12: Planting for Pleasure and Purpose. Susan Betz

April 9: Control Weeds and Pests Naturally. Jolanta Piecuch

May 14: Installations and Awards

June 11: Making baskets from Materials in Your Garden

Secretary: Marsha Lesley

Minutes from April 10, 2025, were distributed throughout the room, then later in the meeting the members voted to approve them. There were no minutes in May 2025 as this was the Installation of new members meeting.

September Minutes Continued

Treasurers' Report: Claudia Jablonski & Debbie Miller

Checking account balance as of today: \$17,389.56

Debbie Miller distributed copies of the financial report from August 2025/2026 to the members.

Membership: Sue Diebol & Cindy Mann

Sue and Cindy have developed a plan to welcome and orient new members and visitors.

On the first visit, visitors will be given a packet of information and provided with a mentor if they come alone.

On the second visit, visitors will be given a luncheon plate. New members will be given a name pin, and yearbook at the third event attended, and provided with the form for indicating commitments to a garden and luncheon date. Dues will be explained to them.

The membership committee will be responsible for set-up of the room prior to the start of the meeting, counting the number of members present, and announcing visitors and guests. Today, the welcome table was set up in the lobby.

Ways & Means: Hilary Sproule and Mary Menosky

Winter Greens Committee: 20 people have signed up to help but there are no specific assignments. As a reminder: The event will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, December 6th. There will be two Saturday sessions but no Friday session. Some preliminary setup will be on Thursday before the Saturday event as the community center is reserved for another function on that Friday. Final setup can be done late in the day on Friday.

There are 3 Chairpersons for this event: Cheryl Yelen, Cindi Morianti, & Cindy Mann.

The Winter Greens Committee met this week. The larger group of volunteers will begin meeting in October. The Chairpersons showed members at the meeting today a sample of the centerpiece which is lovely with a fluffy white owl in the middle. Will need lots of branches and pinecones, preferably the round ones.

A chair for the Spring Plant Sale will need to be determined.

Old Business:

School grants: High School review. Hilary Sproule.

Information has been sent to schools to apply for this year's grants.

Fall District 2B meeting needs vendors. Call Carol Granger with suggestions: 517-449-7832

MGC 2026 Conference: June 7-8. *"Together We Grow. With Flower Show, Together We Show."*

We need to examine our committees and ask for suggestions for empty places.

Gnome Adventure ends Oct 1.

Vote passed on By-Laws/Standing Rules amendment.

Poem written and read by Lynn O'Shaughnessy titled, "Fields of Gold."

Blessing given by Sandy Markham.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 with speaker introduced by Lynn O'Shaughnessy at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Lesley, BMGC Secretary



This Tree is NOT from Heaven

By Mary Menosky

My husband and I moved to Brighton 3 years ago. Prior to moving to Brighton, we lived in White Lake for many years. We owned a fairly large lot that had many different types of trees; Oak, Spruce, Hickory, Maple, and Pine. When we moved to Brighton, we noticed that we had a couple of trees on our property that were the same, but we didn't recognize that type of tree. It wasn't a tree that was common in White Lake, but as we walked around Brighton, it was very common. This particular tree was quite messy! First in the early Spring the tree would drop seeds all over the lawn. Then in late Spring into early Summer it would get little yellowish-green flowers that would drop all over our deck. We also began to notice little trees coming up all over the lawn! If we pulled these out, they had a bad smell.



We decided to call an arborist that we know. As soon as Adam arrived, he told us the tree was "The Tree of Heaven". Right away my husband said, "You mean the Tree of Hell". Well come to find out my husband's name for it is much more appropriate. You see, this particular tree is an invasive species that was brought to the US in 1784 and arrived in Michigan by the 1840s. It grows very rapidly and forms dense colonies that suppress native plants. The root shoots can damage houses and get into sewers. Chemicals are produced by the roots that are toxic to other plants. Worst of all, it's the primary host for the spotted lanternfly. As the winters in Michigan have gotten warmer, the spotted lanternfly's eggs have been able to survive and the populations have been growing.

If the lanternfly travels to other parts of Michigan, it could greatly impact the many beautiful vineyards as well as other crops. Those of you who enjoy a glass of wine occasionally, like I do, should keep an eye out for these creatures. Extensive environmental awareness campaigns began in 2022 when the first spotted lanternflies were detected in Oakland County. The campaign is growing with collaborative efforts between state, federal, and university extension services. They urge all Michigan residents if you "See it. Squish it. Report it."

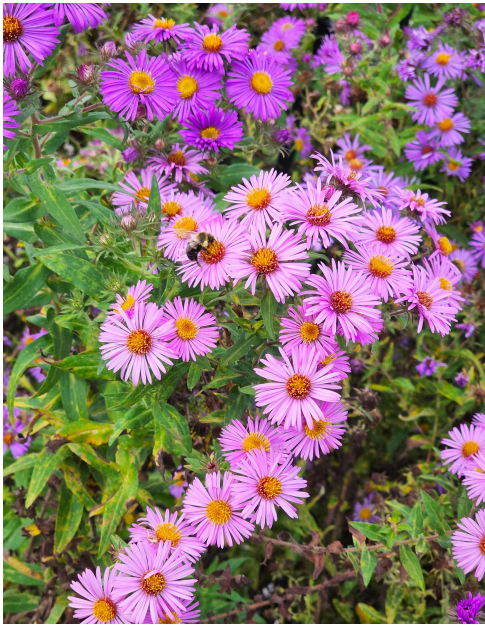


Fields of Gold

by Lynn O'Shaughnessy

Seeing fields of gold never gets old,
Waves of color to warm up my heart,
I stand there and smile, if just for a while,
In silence, before I depart.

I think of the hours, painted with flowers,
How nature knows just how to do it,
Her colors are bold with these fields of gold,
And I thank her for bringing me to it.



New England Aster



Short's Aster



White Heath Aster

Asters for Autumn Color & Pollinators

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy

This is the time of year I love when the colors in the garden shift to autumn hues. Without a doubt, goldenrod is one of the key players with its fiery golden yellow flowers...but I would like to focus on the other side of the color wheel this month. Asters not only provide beautiful complimentary colors to the brilliant yellows and golds of goldenrod, they are also soothing and a reminder to slow down a bit.

Asters can come in colors ranging from white to sky blue to purple to magenta to pink, all of which are very attractive to pollinators...especially the bees. In nature they often grow right along with the goldenrod and are pretty easy to take care of in your garden. Here are just a few of the many asters I have on my property and in my gardens.

Think about including some asters in your gardens next year.

New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

New England Aster is one of the largest of the aster flowers in our area. It ranges in color from purple to violet to magenta to pink and attracts all sorts of late season pollinators. Bees and butterflies are attracted to it, and the nectar of the flowers provide an excellent source for Monarchs and other butterflies late into the fall. New England Aster is drought-tolerant. When the plant is blooming, the lower leaves can often dry up causing some to think the plant is dying or has disease. This is normal, so don't be alarmed. Capable of reaching great heights, prune this plant back early in the season to encourage bushy, rather than tall, growth.

Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphotrichum leave*)

The leaves on Smooth Blue Aster are indeed smooth to the touch. The tough stem often takes on a shade of blue also and will allow Smooth Blue Aster to stand tall during its long late summer to mid fall bloom. A non-aggressive rhizomatous root system allows the plant to spread slowly. Smooth Blue Aster is also a host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot and the Pearl Crescent butterflies.

Short's Aster (*Symphotrichum shortii*)

Short's Aster is an attractive inhabitant of dry woodlands and savannas and can be grown in shade to part shade...preferably along a woodland edge. The yellow center of the flower will age to reddish purple.

White Heath Aster (*Symphotrichum ericoides*)

White Heath Aster actually does quite well in medium to dry soils and can spread easily by seed. In a planting without much other vegetation to support it, White Heath Aster may need to be staked or it will droop over. The white flowers explode profusely all along the stem of the plant in late summer and early fall, providing that last bit of bloom to a garden before winter. This late bloomer is one of the host plants of the Pearl Crescent butterfly.



MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS GARDENING WITH PURPOSE



Dear Garden Club Members, you know how every summer, members show up at meetings carrying bags of tomatoes, zucchini, squash, and pears?

How often do you hear a garden club member say, “Would anyone like some extra veggies??”

Wouldn't it be great for your club to plan ahead and donate all that extra produce to those in need from your own gardens and the community gardens the club maintains?

LEARN – MGC WEBSITE QR CODE

MGC Resources
Visit our website:
migardenclubs.org



MSU Extension Articles

“Fresh Produce Donation Guidelines for Gardeners”
https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/e3201_wcag_2.08.pdf

Visit MGC website to find MGC Food Pantry Directory, MGC Gardening with Purpose Donation Form, Tips for Dropping Off Fresh Produce and MORE!

PLAN – Share this initiative with your garden club members. Distribute the Gardening with Purpose flyer. Ask members for their ideas to donate to your local food bank, pantry or soup kitchen.

CONNECT – Communicate with your local food bank or pantry about your plans to donate during the summer growing season. Find out best time to deliver etc.



GROW – This is what we do best!!

SHARE – Donate produce to your local pantry or food bank. Bring produce to meetings and have a volunteer make a pantry delivery.

Organize a non-perishable food drive - this will allow all club members to contribute.

REPORT – Let us know about your donation. Record results on the donation form found on our MGC website. QR Code above.