



# Brighton Bloomer

MARCH 2026

BRIGHTONMIGARDENCLUB  
MEMBEROFMICHIGANGARDENCLUBS, INC.  
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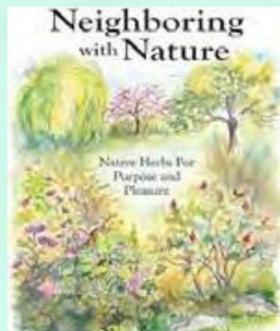


NOLA J. HOGGE & LYNN O'SHAUGHNESSY, EDITORS; LYDIA C. CADENA, DESIGNER

## MARCH GUEST SPEAKER & MEETING DETAILS

### Brighton Mi Garden Club

*"Planting for Pleasure  
and Purpose"*



Susan Betz is an author, garden communicator, lecturer, and conservationist specializing in herbs and native plants.

**Thursday March 12, 2026  
10:00 am, 555 Brighton St**



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MARCH 2026

# A letter from your presidents

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## Dear Members,

Are you ready for spring? I know I am!

I have lived in Michigan all my life and have always looked forward to the change of seasons. As each season comes to a close, the next one is whispering to me, beckoning me to step out into the promise of a new beginning...to start fresh...to bring another year of wisdom and experience into play and make this new season even better than the last. There is excitement that comes with this change. There is so much to continue experiencing and learning. Life is never boring.

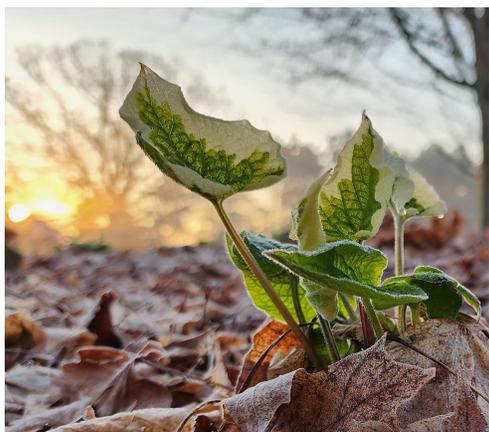
This month as spring approaches, I look forward to getting back outside again without a winter coat. I look forward to seeing plants start their cycle again, poking their little 'heads' out between the leaves. I look forward to discovering new things and new ways to photograph nature even though I have lived on the same piece of land for 36 years. I look forward to seeing the seeds I have sown grow like little children and get ready to leave the nest to inspire many others with their future beauty. I look forward to the new ways that nature will bring me joy this year.

The change of seasons is also bringing some exciting things to our club! Plans for our second annual plant sale are underway. I know many of our members are looking forward to the possibilities and planning to make this sale even better than last year. Knowing our club, I am sure it will be inspiring, successful...and most of all, fun!

Another thing this change of seasons is bringing about is the need for a 'changing of the guard', so to speak. There is still an open position for a new president (or two) in addition to a secretary. This is your chance to step out of the shadows of the passing season and into the light of the new one. This is your chance to bring another season of experience and growth to the table and lead this great club into the best year yet. This is your chance to take all you have learned and put it to the best use yet...making a difference in the future of the Brighton Michigan Garden Club. Yes, you can make a difference!

So, take a deep breath of the fresh air of spring, exhale, and get outdoors whenever you can. Experience this change of seasons with a light heart and a smile, knowing you have learned so much in the last year and are ready for new beginnings.

**Lynn and Nola**



# MARCH Important Dates & Birthdays\*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Total Lunar Eclipse (Worm Moon)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BMGC Board Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> International Women's Day  Daylight Saving Time starts <b>*Mary Menosky</b>
<b>8</b> <b>*Hazel Yarnevich</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> BMGC General Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>*Carol Couillard</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> <b>*Jane Wilson</b>	<b>19</b> International Day of Happiness ⇒  Spring Equinox ⇒	<b>20</b> Registration deadline for Environmental School course 3	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>*Debra Wagenmaker</b>	<b>27</b> <b>*Kathryn Rockol</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>*Ana Dunk</b>	<b>31</b>				

# The Official Stuff – February Minutes

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**Brighton Michigan Garden Club  
General Meeting  
Brighton Community Center  
February 12, 2026  
“Cultivating Joy One Garden at a Time”**

Meeting called to order by President Nola J. Hogge with Co-President Lynn O’Shaughnessy also present.

There were thirty-nine members present. Group Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a poem titled “The Sun’s Magic” written and presented by Lynn O’Shaughnessy.

## **Announcements:**

- The Post Office Garden was awarded a \$230 Plant American Grant for the Blue Star Memorial from the National Garden Club. Other garden committees may request funds from Lynn O’Shaughnessy to develop a “red, white, and blue” garden space. Lynn explained that she has \$1060.00 available from the proceeds from her calendar sale.
- Elections are set for April 9, and installation of officers for May 14.
- Spring Plant Sale set-up is May 8, and actual sale is May 9.
- The monthly raffle run by Karen Rebiger: proceeds donated back to the club by the winner.

## **Vice President: Dionna Guy (not present)**

- Today’s speaker is Jill Lewis. Her topic is “Land Conservancy.”
- Upcoming presenters are as follows:
  - March 12: Planting for Pleasure and Purpose. Susan Betz
  - April 9: Control Weeds and Pests Naturally. Jolanta Piecuch
  - June 11: Making baskets from Materials in Your Garden

## **Secretary: Marsha Lesley**

January minutes were available to members via the February newsletter The minutes were approved as written.

## **Treasurers’ Report: Claudia Jablonski & Debbie Miller**

- Current balance: \$19, 134.58
- Board approved transfer of \$10,000 in funds to CD at Bank of Ann Arbor.
- Yearly dues are now being collected by the Treasurers.

# February Minutes Continued

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## **Membership: Sue Diebol & Cindy Mann**

We currently have 81 members.

We need more luncheon help for March general meeting. Only three people on committee so far. Marsha Lesley and Karen Albert volunteered to be added as hostesses with March Luncheon. Sharon Burnett is the Luncheon Chair. Carol Estes volunteered to be added to the April luncheon hostess list.

## **Ways & Means: Hilary Sproule & Mary Menosky**

Hilary and Mary attended the Greens Review Meeting: next year, the theme will be “Old Fashion Christmas.” There will not be a raffle. Committee is proposing a cookie sale to participants: \$5.00/dozen

## **The Spring Plant Sale: Set-up/delivery of plants: May 8; Sale: May 9, 9 am -1 pm.**

- Farmer’s Market Advertising on May 3rd. Sale of remaining plants May 16th.
- Soliciting potential plants from Public Gardens and Individual Members using previous year’s sale list. (If you need to divide plants, committee members will prepare them.)
- Have a potential list of seedlings from Lynn O’Shaughnessy: About 72 varieties.
- Outcome: a list of plants available for Website by end of March/Early April—with updates and for labels for the Public Garden and Individual Members’ plants to put on pots.
- Raffle table will include Handknitted throw, quilted table runner, photograph print from Lynn O. Will have special tags with name and telephone number for raffle.
- Everything Flowers Resale Table organized by Carol Estes, soliciting flower items such as vases and gardening books.
- Children’s Activity related to gardening: There will be a committee for this.
- Will recruit a Digger and Potter Committee to dig and pot for members unable to do their own. Hilary to chair this committee.
- Will purchase bulk 4” pots, label stick and potting soil that public gardens and members can access. Will provide specific potting instructions.
- Julie Amman to do publicity but need to meet with her.
- Will organize a meeting of the Spring Plant Sale committee after we receive information on potential plants (in Feb/March).
- Create a Volunteer Sign Up for March/April.

## **Old Business:**

- Nominating Committee consists of Jeannine Haag, Carole Estes, Peggy Fukuda Report: MGC Lawyer Rose Houk Ruling. The club must have a President for the club to exist.
- Gardeners on the Go: Dawn Montagano & Sonia Davis Report. First week of August we will go to John Blair’s property to see his flowers. Tentatively planning a field trip to The Ceramics Studio in May for their glass fusion class. This is located at 4132 E Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843.
- Awards Chair: Diane Schrock. Diane is creating a CD of the Greens Project for future use.

# February Minutes Continued

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## New Business

- Gnome Adventure: New Gnomes spreading to businesses. Nola Hogge has a family member who made some very cute gnomes on a 3D printer. Nola busy repairing/painting gnomes.
- Lydia Cadena continues to do wonderful work as newsletter designer while Nola Hogge and Lynn O'Shaughnessy have taken on the role of editors.
- Julie Amman did excellent work getting our scholarship information on to our club website so that students can access the application materials directly there. The website link is also present now on the Brighton High School Scholarship website.

## February Birthdays

- 5 Ruth LePatrouel
- 10 Cindi Hessline
- 12 Ouida Cooper
- 19 Marsha Lesley
- 19 Carol McKeon
- 21 Lori Walters
- 22 Bernadine Byk

## Luncheon Hostesses

Chair: Carole Estes, Cindi Hessling, Dawn Montagano, Laura Carr, Cindy Haas, Linda Wilson, Lynn O'Shaughnessy

## Prayer: Sandy Markham

10:45 Break

11:00 Introduction of Speaker: Jill Lewis

12:00 Luncheon

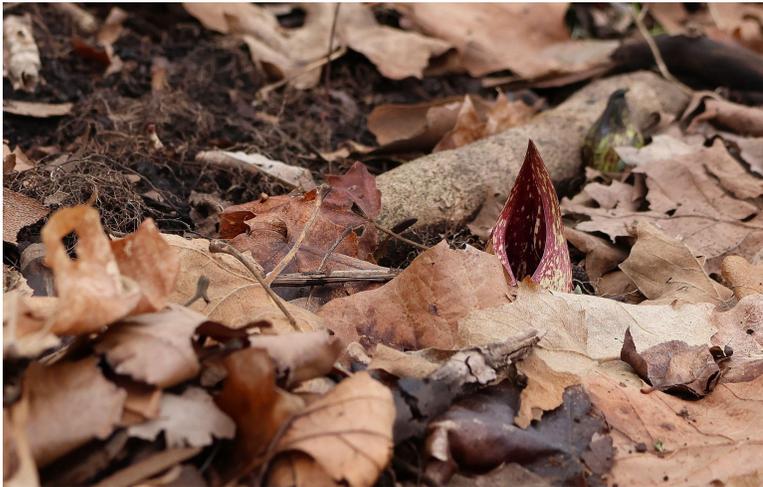
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. in order to set up for speaker and lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marsha Lesley, BMGC Secretary**



A good shot to see the spadix inside the spathe of Skunk Cabbage.



A typical area in a moist woodland setting to find Skunk Cabbage. Both photos were taken March 16, 2025.

## Eastern Skunk Cabbage

*Symplocarpus foetidus*

by Lynn O'Shaughnessy

This is one native plant I do not have on my property, but I knew it to be an early spring plant. Since I wanted to get some photos for a poem I wrote in the 2026 calendar, I figured Matthaei Gardens in Ann Arbor would be a good place to try with their woodland trails next to a creek. I was right.

Skunk Cabbage is an interesting plant in that the hooded 'flower', properly called a spathe, comes up in early spring and is followed in late spring by a roll of fresh green leaves that look sort of like cabbage leaves. The hooded spathe houses a knob-like spadix covered with tiny flowers.

From the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center:

*"This distinctive plant of marshy woods sprouts so early in spring that the heat of cellular respiration resulting from its rapid growth actually melts snow or ice around it. Its strong fetid odor, especially when the plant is bruised, resembles decaying flesh and lures insects that pollinate it."*

### Feeling Like Spring

*By Mary Menosky, Environment and Conservation Chair*

From 20 degrees to 50 degrees this week! With these warmer temperatures we are all starting to get in the mood for Spring. The snow is melting and now I can see the ground. I can't wait to get outside! I want to start cleaning up my yard and my flower beds, but I have to be patient.

I have to remember that many of our little pollinator friends have been sleeping all winter. During the cold months in Michigan many insects hibernate. Beetles, bumblebees, moths, butterflies and flies all hibernate during the months of November through March. They find shelter under loose bark, leaf litter, or other organic debris to stay protected from the cold. Once they awaken, they will find their way out of the sheltered areas and begin to gather food and prepare for the warmer months.

If we start to rake, dig or put down mulch too early, we risk awakening the insects too soon. They will not have the shelter that they need to survive these up and down temperatures that we get in March and even into April. Without these important insects that pollinate our flowers, there will be decreased production of fruits, vegetables, and seeds.

Although we are all starting to itch to get outside and start cleaning up, it's important to wait a little while longer. Spring flower bed clean-up plays a crucial role in environmental awareness. By delaying cleanup until temperatures are consistently above 50°F, you help protect beneficial insects. This approach allows them to emerge safely and contribute to Spring pollination. Additionally, leaving some plant material year-round provides essential habitat for various insects, supporting biodiversity and the ecosystem

Let's enjoy nature just how it is for a little longer. Save the pollinators!

### A Special Message

Today it's been 4 weeks since Ray, my husband, passed away on February 5.

I want to thank this wonderful Garden group for all the love, support, and prayers you have sent me. I also received so many beautiful cards and a few books to help me on my path. I really find this group to be more than a garden club. We share so many different life experiences.

I'm filled with gratitude to be invited into this group and to meet so many strong, creative, and kind friends.

Bless all of you for your support,

**Cindy Morianti**