



# Brighton Bloomer

APRIL 2026

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



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

## MARCH GUEST SPEAKER & MEETING DETAILS



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## CONTROL PESTS AND WEEDS NATURALLY

April 9, 2026  
Thursday, 10:00 am  
Brighton Community Center  
555 Brighton St



Free from Diseases



Free from Weeds



Free from Pests

Maintain a Healthy Garden Tips

# A letter from your presidents

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## Dear Members,

Happy April to all the BMGC Members,

We are excited to welcome the arrival of April. Soon, our little wildflowers will begin to make their presence known, bringing color and life back to the landscape.

Last spring, while driving, I noticed a massive carpet of blue flowers just off the road. It was breathtaking, but I was not familiar with the plant. I took a few pictures and used a plant identification app to learn more.

The app identified it as Siberian squill—a non-native, highly invasive bulbous perennial that forms dense carpets in early spring and can crowd out native Michigan wildflowers. Interestingly, I also discovered that Siberian squill is said to symbolize renewal, loyalty, and resilience.

As we begin this new season, those meanings feel especially fitting. They remind us not only of nature's persistence, but also of the strength and spirit within our own Brighton Mi Garden Club.

Loyalty is reflected in the way we show up for one another, season after season. Whether tending our shared gardens, supporting club events, or simply offering a kind word, your dedication creates a strong and lasting community.



Resilience is something every gardener understands. Not every seed takes root, and not every season goes as planned. Yet we continue to dig, plant, and nurture, trusting that our efforts will bloom in time. In much the same way, our club has weathered challenges with strength and grace, growing stronger through each experience. Thank you for being such an important part of this garden club. Your commitment and spirit help our gardens and our friendships flourish.

With appreciation and optimism for the season ahead,

**Lynn and Nola**

# APRIL Important Dates & Birthdays\*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> National Walking Day  <i>*Karen Rebiger</i>	<b>2</b> BMGC Board Meeting  <i>*Sara Nelson</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Easter	<b>6</b>  Environmental School Course 3	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BMGC General Meeting	<b>10</b> <i>*Dee Rataj</i>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>*Betty Steele</i>  <i>*Sandy Markham</i>  <i>*Elaine McIntyre</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> National Gardening Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> National Orchid Day	<b>17</b>  Gardening School Course 3	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b>  Landscape Design School Course 1	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Arbor Day
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>*Christine Hobmeier</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

# The Official Stuff – March Minutes

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

Meeting called to order by President Lynn O’Shaughnessy at 10:15 AM with Co-President Nola J. Hogge also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a poem by Lynn O’Shaughnessy.

## **Announcements:**

- Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. There were 39 members present today.
- Elections will be held at the April 9, 2026 general meeting. Another call was made by the current Presidents for a member to run for President for the 2026-2027 year. There was a lot of informal discussion throughout the room concerning who might step up.
- Spring Plant Sale will be May 9th with set up on May 8th.
- Installation of Officers and Awards will be on May 14th.
- Dues of \$30 are now being collected for the 2026=27 year. Give your money to the Treasurer.
- April hostesses were asked to stay for a quick planning meeting today.
- 50/50 raffle led by Karen Rebiger yielded \$40 for the winner. There were also several other prizes given out.

## **Secretary: Marsha Lesley**

Marsha reminded everyone that the February 2026 General Meeting Minutes were included in the March 2026 edition of the newsletter, Brighton Bloomer. There were no additions or corrections from the members who then approved the minutes as submitted.

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

Today’s speaker is Susan Betz. Her topic is “Planting for Pleasure and Purpose.”

Final speaker for this year is as follows:

- April 9: Jolanta Piecuch. “Control Weeds and Pests Naturally.”

Installation of new board and Awards will be on May 14.

Final meeting of the year: June 11, 2026: “Making Baskets from Materials in Your Garden” led by a member of the BMGC.

## **Treasurers’ Report: Claudia Jablonski & Debbie Miller (not present)**

Our current balance is \$20,856.13

Treasurers are in the process of purchasing a CD with some of our funds.

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

Total members present today was 39. Kathy Christina is a new member. Guests were Donna Burns and Sandy Darby. Awaiting to attend third meeting is Linda Szafran. Awaiting to attend second meeting are Karen Ziegler and Guy Pardee.

# March Minutes Continued

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## Ways & Means: Hilary Sproule & Mary Menosky

Preparation continues for the Spring Plant Sale. Lynn O'Shaughnessy has been working long hard days in her Greenhouse. Some seedlings did not go as planned but she reports that she will be able to potentially donate 1300 plants for our sale. Native plants, some tree seedlings (tulip tree and Northern Red Oak and Zinnas which will be available in 4 packs. These are Lynn's babies, she has planted, nurtured and cared for them. We are truly fortunate that she is willing to donate her time and resources for our sale. Thank you Lynn.

Also, we sent out requests for donations from our members and the chairs of our public gardens. The list combines the names of plants sold at previous sales. Thank you to Sue Rusnik and Linda Battison for advising us on that and other points of the sale. The list is a starting point and some are adding plants.

I realize it is early, but we need to get a handle on what we have to offer. So far, I have heard from one public garden - Sculpture Garden and 6 individual members. This gives us potentially 169 plants. Included in that potential number is 50 patio tomato plants from Laura Carr.

We will send out those lists again beginning of April. We can accept donations until May but we want to put a list of plants out on the website so people can view and plan. I am away for the next two weeks so I will get that list sent out when I get back.

Today, opportunities abound for people to sign up and lend us your talents and good humor to put towards Tasks that need to be done.

Sign-ups are divided into:

- Preparation in April to May 3. Diggers and Potters for those members who would like help with their plants. Getting specific size boxes for the sale. Working the Farmer's Market on May
- 3. Advertising the Sale and BMGC.
- Set-up May 8 -Table set up, Drivers to pick up Lynn's plants (large vehicles, alert), Helping to sort the plants (under Lynn's direction for her plants and Mary's direction for Members' plants.)
- Sale Day- Distribution of notices of the sale at the Farmer's Market for 2 hours, Greeters to orient people to the sale, give them boxes to collect their plants, and guide traffic, holding back people if the sale area is too full. Counters - all plants will be \$5, so counters will count the plants as people go out to the cashier and write it on post it notes that goes to treasurer.
- Raffle: we need people to sell tickets that people must write their information on.
- We need to have 2 folks to help people with their plant selection, two for Lynn's Native Seedlings and two for Members Transplants. People with some comfort with plants would be good.
- Children's Activity – There is a Sign Up.
- People to help Carole with her Resale Table.
- Sale End-Remove plants (Drivers to go back to Lynn's) Foster Parents for Member's. If we have any left.
- Farmer's Market May 16 - Folks to man the booth and sell the few remaining plants. ALL DONE! Sale was a great success and we can rest until we start to think about 2027.

## Old Business:

- Post Office Garden received the \$230 NGC Grant
- Lynn O'Shaughnessy contributing proceeds from the calendar sale to other community gardens who need money for their red-white-blue gardens.
- Nominating committee: Jeannine Haag, Carole Estes, and Peggy Fukuda continue to work on the slate on candidates for the election of officers.
- Scholarship and grant information have been added to our club website.

# March Minutes Continued

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## New Business

- Gretchen Gomolka, City Hall Manager, requesting to meet with club presidents on March 17 to discuss Brighton City 250th anniversary year celebration plans.
- Gardeners on the Go: Dawn Montagano and Sonia Davis: Trip planned to John Blair's gardens on August 6th. Looking into Ceramics Studio event in May depending on interest.
- MGC photographers Flower Show: during the June Conference in Ann Arbor. Judged by professional photographers. Four different classes of photography.
- 2027 MGC Convention in Lansing. BMGC in charge of vendors. District 2B is the Sponsor. Date not available as of yet.
- Yearbook Committee needs volunteers.

## February Birthdays

- 7 Mary Menosky
- 8 Hazel Yarnevich
- 13 Carol Couillard
- 18 Jane Wilson
- 26 Debra Wagenmaker
- 27 Kathryn Rockol
- 30 Anna Dunk

## Luncheon Hostesses

Head Hostesses: Sharon Burnett, Lynn Ayuab, Linda Coffman, Marsha Lesley, Karen Alberts, Jeannette Darbe, Hilary Sproule

## Prayer: Sandy Markham

10:45 Break

11:00 Speaker: Planting for Pleasure and Purpose

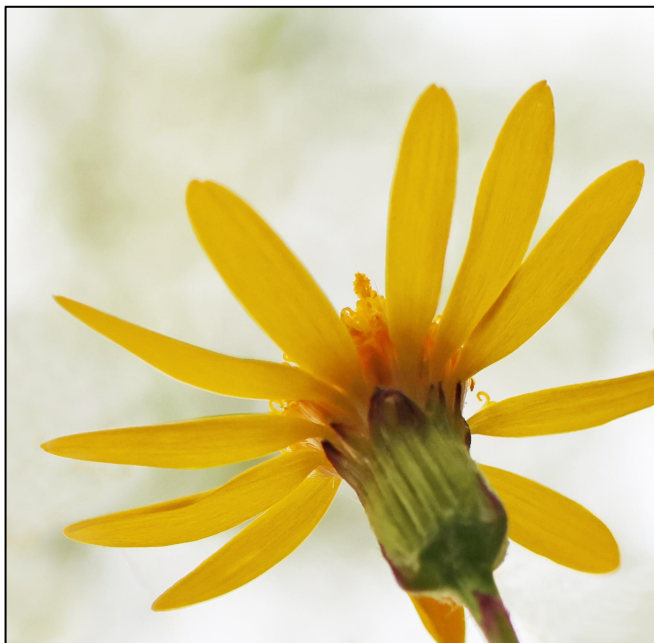
12:00 Luncheon

- **Gardening School Course 3** | *April 17 & 18, 2026; In-person – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:15 PM, Saturday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM – Sawyer Mi*
- **Landscape Design School Course 1 | Series 24** – *April 23 & 24, 2026; In-person Thursday & Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM; The Boardman River Nature Center – 1450 Cass Rd.; Traverse City, Michigan 48685 – Registration opens March 1, 2026*
- **Environmental School Course 3** | *April 6-7, 2026, In-person; Monday 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM Tues 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Michigan State University, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Conference Center and Bird Sanctuary – 3700 E Gull Lake Drive; Hickory Corners, Michigan*
- **NCG Standard Flower Show** | *The 2026 MGC State Conference; June 7, 2026 – Double Tree Hotel by Hilton; 3600 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor*

Respectfully submitted,

**Marsha Lesley, BMGC Secretary**

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## Golden Groundsel

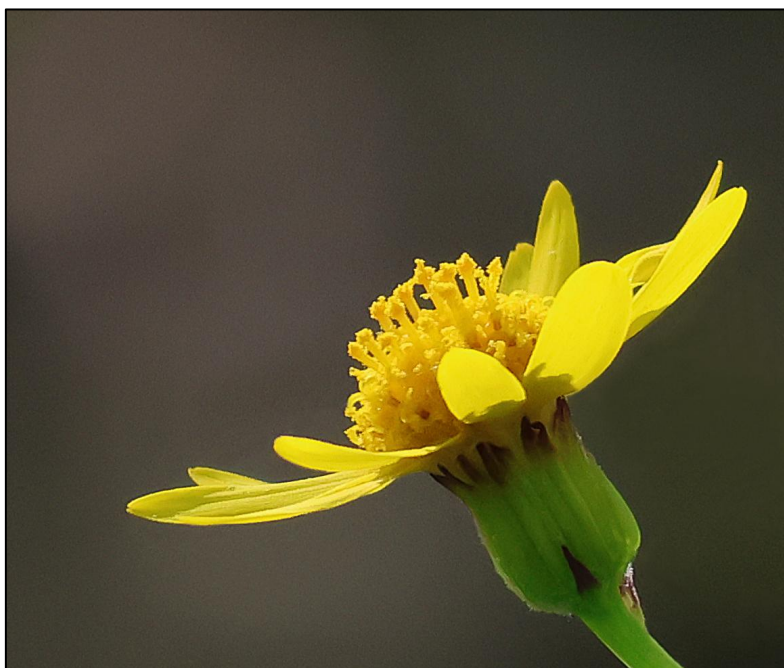
*Packera aurea*

by Lynn O'Shaughnessy

Golden Groundsel, also called Golden Ragwort, is a spring blooming native plant that adds a pop of yellow color to woodland borders. It is also considered a nice ground cover as it can spread semi-aggressively by rhizome. I planted five plants five years ago and now have a nice colony of them in my wooded area. They get to be about one and a half to two feet tall when in bloom but the plants themselves are shorter. They can grow anywhere from sun to part sun to shade. Mine do well with morning sun and dappled shade the rest of the day.



Golden Groundsel prefers wet to medium soil. I have the 50/50 blend (topsoil/peat) in that area and they do well. Mine bloom in May and usually only for three weeks or so. Once the blooms are done, the plants stay green for the remainder of the year. You can deadhead if you don't want them to spread by seed. They pair nicely with Virginia Bluebells.



## Grants Elementary and Middle School Project

*By Hilary Sproule*

This year, a \$500 grant was awarded to Eric Howe and Jenny Sobolevski for their Spencer Garden Club. The club is developing a new native plant bed while teaching students how to winter sow seeds. The seedlings will later be planted in the newly established garden.

The Spencer Garden Club's goals are to promote the benefits of horticultural therapy, enhance local flora and fauna, and foster a sense of pride and stewardship in the school grounds. The project began in spring 2025. Last year, Lynn O'Shaughnessy supported the effort by donating native plants and speaking to the students about the value of incorporating native species into the landscape. Currently, the club involves 40 students from junior kindergarten to fourth grade and parents volunteer to help.

Our committee will visit the Spencer Garden Club in May to view the garden and receive an update on past and future plantings.

Thank you to Carol McKeon, Marsha Lesley, Sharon Burnett, and Coral Adas (our advisor and mentor) for their diligent work in reviewing applications and refining our application process. Be sure to visit the BMGC website to see the updated application form and a list of past grant recipients. Submitted by Hilary Sproule, committee chair



*Virginia Bluebells*

## Sky Blue

*by Lynn O'Shaughnessy*

Blue is a color you don't  
often find  
On flowers in the  
middle of spring,  
It tickles the senses  
and slows you down  
To the soothing that  
blue can bring.

So take some time to  
enjoy these hues  
When springtime invites  
you to see,  
All the beautiful sky  
blue flowers  
That bring calmness  
and serenity.



## Minimalist Photography

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy



*"Minimalist photography is an art form focused on simplicity, using the 'less is more' principle to strip scenes to their bare essentials, creating powerful, uncluttered, and often, emotional images. By leveraging strong, isolated subjects, generous negative space, and, often, clean lines or color, photographers can evoke calmness or intrigue while highlighting, for example, a single, compelling element."*

This is a definition you can get from the internet and it describes this type of photography quite well. The National Garden Clubs Photographers Facebook group has played with this as a theme a few times, which is where I started playing with it. Here are four samples of what I have done with this.

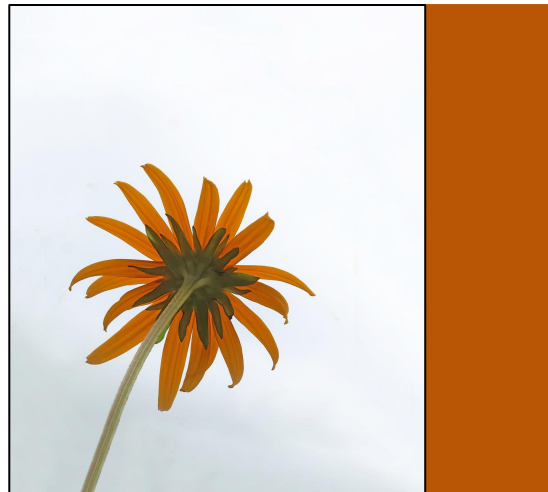
### Pond at Sunrise

1. This first photo is taken of my pond at sunrise. This works as a minimalist photo because there are no clouds in the sky, no foreground or background and no ripples in the water. Simply a mirrored image of the silhouetted trees against a sky that is beginning to light up for the morning.



### Hoar Frost Blades of Grass

2. This second photo was taken in the winter when I spotted three blades of grass sticking up out of the water covered in hoar frost. They are isolated with no other objects in the photo.



### Flower Upshot, Overcast Sky

3. Then there is photo number three. I like playing with upshots of flowers and did this with a single flower. I prefer having an overcast sky over a bright blue sky as the blue sky tends to distract from the subject you are trying to isolate. Also, do not crop in tight since the idea of minimalism is to have negative space around your subject.



### Isolated Thistle

4. You can achieve the same thing as the photo in #3 with a shallow depth of field and a background that is a ways away. In this photo, the green compliments the thistle rather than competes with it, making a nice minimalist photo.

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You can also try taking a photo of a lone tree on a hill in a field where the tree stands up against the sky without a background. Maybe even make the tree a silhouette. Give minimalist photography a try sometime and see what you think.

# BMGC Spring Plant Sale – Let's Make It Bloom!

*By Ways & Means Committee*

The BMGC Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner—Saturday, May 9 at the Community Center, with set-up on Friday, May 8. We'll also be out in the community during Farmers Market days on Saturday, May 3 to spread the word, and again on May 16 to offer any remaining plants.

Excitement is building as preparations are well underway! Lynn O'Shaughnessy has been hard at work nurturing native seedlings in her greenhouse and planting zinnia seeds. Thanks to her incredible efforts, we may have up to 1,300 native and zinnia plants to kick off our sale—a fantastic foundation!

A big thank you to our Public Gardens Chairs and all members who have already committed plant donations. We currently have 169 plants pledged, and we're hoping even more members will join in during April. Every plant makes a difference! A plant list is in the works for advertising and for labels to help shoppers make informed choices. Our wonderful "Diggers" and "Potters" are also ready to lend a hand to anyone needing help to prepare donations. Please let us know so we can schedule times.

At the March meeting, it was inspiring to see so many members signing up and sharing how much they enjoyed last year's sale. The enthusiasm is contagious, and there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved and be part of the fun! An updated sign-up list will be sent before the April meeting. If you have questions or want to jump in, contact Hilary Sproule at [hilsproule@gmail.com](mailto:hilsproule@gmail.com).

To make things easy and consistent, a digging and potting protocol has been created. Supplies—including 4-inch pots, labels, and potting soil—will be available at the April meeting for those donating plants.

We're also excited to include children's activities focused on seed planting and propagation, coordinated by Linda Battison—another great way to engage our community.

Carole Estes is gathering gardening books and floral-themed treasures for her resale table, adding even more interest to the sale.

Special thanks to Nola Hogges for her beautiful posters and flyers, and to Julie Amman for promoting the event and keeping the BMGC website updated. And thank you to everyone who has already signed up—your energy and support make this event possible!

Let's come together, have fun, and make this year's Spring Plant Sale our best one yet!

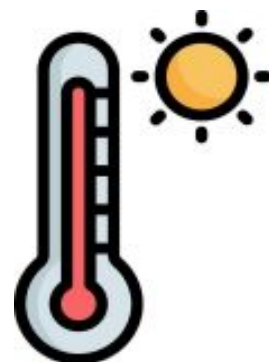
# Brighton Mi Garden Club Lawn Care

## MSU has great lawn care tips to help our lawns

By Nola J Hogge MG, MRG



Typically, homeowners should begin their spring lawn maintenance routine when the average daily temperatures consistently rise above 55°. Wait until the risk of frost has passed before starting aggressive lawn care activities such as proper irrigation, fertilization, and aeration.



### MSU Spring Lawn Care 2026 Recommendations:

- **Cleanup:** Lightly rake the lawn to remove dead grass, debris, and snow mold.
- **Soil Test:** Test soil through the [MSU Extension soil testing lab](#) to avoid unnecessary phosphorus use, which is restricted in Michigan. The ideal lawn pH is slightly acidic to neutral, generally between 6.2 and 7.0. Soil that is too acidic (under 5.8) or too alkaline (above 7.0) leads to yellowing, poor growth, and increased weed infestation.
  1. Test soil annually to determine if the pH is too acidic or alkaline.
  2. Low pH (Acidic): If the pH is below 6.0, add lime (ground limestone) to raise it.
  3. High pH (Alkaline): If the pH is above 7.0–7.5, apply sulfur, iron sulfate, or aluminum sulfate to lower it.Purchase the Kit
  4. The Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailer is available for purchase online: <https://shop.msu.edu/products/soil-test-mailer> \$26 or buy a pH tester \$10.
- **Fertilization:** Avoid early spring fertilizing. Wait until May when turf is actively growing, using slow release fertilizers, and avoid "weed and feed" products on young seedlings.
- **Crabgrass Control:** Apply pre-emergence herbicides when soil temperatures hit 55°F (usually late April to early May).
- **Mowing:** Maintain a high mowing height of at least 3 inches to encourage deep roots and shade out weeds.
- **Watering:** Water deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root growth, rather than shallow daily watering.
- **Overseeding:** Spring is a good time to repair winter damage; keep the area moist for consistent germination.

# Brighton Mi Garden Club Lawn Care Continued

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## Michigan State University Monthly Michigan Lawn Care Schedule

**March:** Wake Up Rake debris, check for snow mold, and apply pre-emergent herbicide for crabgrass before soil temperatures reach 55°F.

**April:** Cleanup & Prep Start mowing as needed, spot-treat weeds, and consider a soil test for pH.

**May:** Growth & Nutrients Dethatch if needed, fertilize with nitrogen, and increase watering.

**June:** Protection Increase mower height to 3-4 inches to protect roots from heat. Check for pests/grubs and apply fertilizers.

**July:** Heat Management Water deeply and infrequently (1-1.5 inches per week). Spot-treat weeds and avoid over-fertilizing to reduce stress.

**August:** Recovery Prep Begin watering heavily. Aerate and begin over-seeding in late August to repair summer damage.

**September:** Optimal Seeding This is the best time for core aeration and overseeding. Apply phosphorus rich fertilizer to encourage root growth.

**October:** Winter Prep Final leaf removal and mowing. Apply a "winterizer" fertilizer to store nutrients for spring.

**November - February:** Dormancy Keep heavy traffic off the frozen grass to prevent damage.



Best Pre-emergent



SONKIR Soil pH, soil moisture/light tester  
\$9.99 Amazon