



# Brighton Bloomer

MAY 2026

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



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

## MAY MEETING DETAILS



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# A letter from your presidents

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## Dear Members,

### Changing of the Guard

This time of year has us looking ahead in many ways. Our gardens are leaving behind the remnants of winter and bursting forth with new growth and even some flowers. The plants feel energized and seem to be bigger and better than they were in the previous year. The flowers are only looking forward to showing off their beautiful blooms at just the right time... to providing nectar for the pollinators... to showing us their eye candy. We can't help but smile as we watch nature unfold.

This is also true for the Brighton MI Garden Club. We are leaving behind the memories of a year of accomplishments and looking forward to the possibilities of the coming year. As a club, we came together to tend to the beautiful community gardens we care for, we organized two very successful fundraising events (Wintergreens Workshop and Spring Plant Sale), we awarded several scholarships and grants, we welcomed several new members who have become active with the club projects, and we enjoyed the camaraderie of an awesome group of people!

Like our gardens, we will cherish these memories but always keep an eye to the future to see how we can continue to grow. We want to thank the outgoing Board for their dedication and contributions, giving us a fantastic year to remember. Now, look forward to the awesome new Board ready to take the reins and run with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to see the Brighton MI Garden Club blossom and continue to provide the leadership we need to spring forward into the future. Let's all support the new Board and get ready for a year of fun!

**Lynn and Nola**



*Virginia Bluebells*



*Trillium grandiflorum*



*Wood Poppy*

# MAY Important Dates & Birthdays\*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> Full Flower Moon	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <i>*Hilary Sproule</i>	<b>4</b> <i>*Linda Wilson</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Spring Plant Sale set up <i>*Carmen Martin</i>	<b>9</b> Spring Plant Sale
<b>10</b> Mother's Day  <i>*Betty Steele</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> BMGC General Meeting: Installation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Club Booth at Farmer's Market
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> World Bee Day	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> World Turtle Day	<b>23</b> <i>*Jeanetter Darbe</i>  <i>*Mary Morand</i>
<b>24</b>  <b>31</b> <i>Last date for 2026-2027 membership dues</i>	<b>25</b> Memorial Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>*Cindy Morianti</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# The Official Stuff – April Minutes

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**Brighton Michigan Garden Club  
General Meeting  
Brighton Community Center  
April 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM**

Call to Order by President, Nola J. Hogge at 10:15AM with Co-President, Lynn O'Shaughnessy also present. There were 48 members present.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a poem created and read by Lynn O'Shaughnessy titled, "To Be a Tree."

## **Announcements:**

- Election of officers was held today.
- Reminder: Spring Plant Sale will be May 9th with set-up on May 8th.
- Installation of officers and awards will be on May 14th.
- Dues are now being collected for 2026-27 membership. See the Treasurers to pay your \$30.
- 50/50 led by Karen Rebinger was for \$54.00 with plants and photo from Lynn included in the raffle.
- April Newsletter "Brighton Bloomer" has been emailed to members.
- Michigan Garden Club State Conference is June 7th in Ann Arbor.

## **Secretary: Marsha Lesley**

March general meeting minutes were available to members via the Brighton Bloomer newsletter. Minutes were approved without additions or corrections.

## **Vice President: Dionna Guy**

Speaker today is Jolanta Piecuch on topic, "Control Weeds and Pests Naturally." Handout with recipes and information regarding online access provided.

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

- Current balance: \$21,099.72
- The \$10,000 CD has been set up at Bank of Ann Arbor.
- The Post Office grant approved from NGC was for \$230. The check received was \$172.50. The rest will come after the work in the garden is completed.
- We have a lot of generous members, and it was decided to ask any member who donates something that would normally be reimbursed out of the budget to turn in receipts (if possible) with a notation that it was a donation. This will help when doing the budget.

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

We have 82 members and 48 were present today. There was one guest.

Everyone was reminded to sign up for a luncheon and a garden.

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

- Final phase of organizing our **Spring Plant Sale on May 9**. Our committee will meet next week to review the Community Center setup, finalize details for sale day, and plan for the follow-up **Farmer's Market Sale on May 16**.

# April Minutes Continued

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## Ways & Means Cont.

- **Lynn has 75 species in total!** She will have approximately 1500 plants. She has also potted some surprise hellebore volunteers of unknown color and variety, which may be offered as a fun freebie for those interested. Lynn has prepared a detailed list of her plants, which we will post on our website.
- Thank you to everyone who responded to the request for plant donations. I know this is an especially busy time for our Public Garden Chairs with spring clean-up and preparations for the 250th anniversary—and the weather certainly hasn't made things easier. I've heard back from nine members so far, and every response is appreciated. Whether you have many plants, a few, or none this year, your participation matters. We are compiling a plant list and creating labels so shoppers know exactly what will be available—because we all know how helpful that is when choosing plants!
- We currently have four volunteers signed up as **Diggers and Potters** to assist anyone who has plants to share but needs help preparing them. We'll bring pots and soil and work with you to gather what you're willing to donate. Please reach out to me if you'd like to schedule a time—especially if we're lucky enough to get a stretch of good weather!
- Pots and some potting soil are available—please see Mary or me if you need supplies for your donations.
- A big thank you to everyone helping spread the word: Julie Amman for updating the website and distributing posters and getting the word out, Sue Diebol for placing posters around town, Nola for creating larger signs that will be displayed in key locations the week of the sale, and for anyone who has let folks in the community know.
- On **May 2 at the Farmer's Market**, we'll be promoting the plant sale while also sharing information about our club and the Gnome Adventure—helping raise awareness of all that BMGC offers to the community.
- **Sign-up sheets still have openings**, so please consider lending a hand where you can!

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and teamwork—this is truly a group effort, and it shows!

## Old Business:

- Lynn O'Shaughnessy donated \$1,068 from the proceeds of the calendar sales. Lynn would like it to be available to the community gardens for red, white, and blue flowers first, then any left over to native plant projects. It was decided to offer up to \$200 per garden (five gardens) for red, white and blue flowers
- Nominating Committee consisting of Jeannine Haag, Carole Estes, Peggy Fukuda did an excellent job recruiting members to run for Board positions. Thank you.
- Be sure to check out our wonderful website! <https://www.brightonmichigangardenclub.org/>
- Brighton City 250<sup>th</sup> Year National Celebration. Lynn and Nola attended meeting on behalf of BMGC on March 17. Plans in the works for a city-wide 250th Year National Celebration with July 4<sup>th</sup> floats and patriotic decorations.
- There will be a Flower Show at the 2026 Michigan Garden Conference in June. Specific details about the Flower Show can be found at this website:  
<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2026Flower-ShowB.pdf>
- The Conference is June 7-8 at the Doubletree Hilton North, Ann Arbor. Registration opens on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **2027 MGC Convention in Lansing.** BMGC in charge of vendors. Need volunteers.

# April Minutes Continued

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## **New Business**

- Victory Garden update: Nola was able to reach a person with Brighton NC Machine and find out that the Victory Garden is not going away. This person may also be able to get a grant for Gleaners for their garden.
- Marsha Lesley informed the members that no applications have been received yet from Brighton High School students for the \$1500 scholarship. She encouraged members to talk about the scholarship with any senior BHS students who are interested in pursuing studies in environmental science. She also explained that she will send email messages to the science teachers with our scholarship flier attached, and encourage them to publicize the scholarship to their students.

## **ELECTION of Board Members for 2026-2027:**

The Slate of Candidates running for office was read to the members. Keri Wasylk volunteered from the floor to run for Co-Ways & Means. Unanimous approval from club members present was obtained to waive the requirement stating "Candidates must be an active member for the last year" so that Keri Wasylk could run for office.

Ballots were distributed to all members present, and collected and counted by Secretary Marsha Lesley with the assistance of Board Member Mary Menosky.

All 48 members present voted. All candidates running for office were elected by a large majority.

The 2026-2027 Board Members will be as follows:

**President: Hilary Sproule**

**Co-Vice Presidents: Marsha Lesley and Terry Such**

**Secretary: Carole Estes**

**Co-Treasurers: Claudia Jablonski and Debbie Mille**

**Co-Ways and Means: Mary Menosky and Keri Wasylk**

**Co-Membership: Cindy Mann and Sue Diebol**

**April Birthdays** - April birthdays were read, and today's luncheon hostesses announced.

- 1 Karen Rebiger
- 2 Sara Nelson
- 10 Dee Rataj
- 12 Betty Steele, Sandy Markham, Elaine McIntyre
- 28 Christine Hobmeier

## **April Luncheon Hostesses**

**Head Hostesses: Sue Sutherland, Cindy Haas, Coral Adas,**

**Lori Walthers, Evelyn Dionise, Sally Bender, Keri Wasylk**

## **Prayer: Sandy Markham**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM in preparation for today's speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marsha Lesley, BMGC Secretary**



## Early Meadow Rue

*Thalictrum dioicum*

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy

This foliage looks sort of like columbine, doesn't it? But it is not. This is Early Meadow Rue ... a very interesting native plant. These unusual flowers are wind pollinated but the yellow stamens on male plants provide early spring food sources for bees and other pollinators. It acts as a caterpillar host for various moths, including the Pink-Tinted Beauty.

Each plant is either male or female, so when getting some to plant, you should try to get several ... or get one of each. The male flowers are nodding, the stamens dangle like tassels and they are usually shades of light green to yellow green. The female flowers tend to hold a more upright pose and be muted mauves and pale yellow green.

The columbine-like foliage is the part that can be attractive in your dappled sun/shade gardens. Once the flowers are done, the foliage persists (maybe about a foot tall). This would go well with shade ephemerals, like Virginia Bluebells as the foliage of Early Meadow Rue will provide nice interest after ephemerals die back.

Early Meadow Rue grows best in a woodland setting, preferring dappled shade and rich, moisture-retaining soils. This species can spread by rhizome, so a single plant will spread, but very slowly. It can also spread by seed if you have both male and female plants in close proximity.

## Gardeners on the Go

*By Dawn Montagano*

We have a field trip scheduled to visit John Blair's prairie and pollinator gardens in Brooklyn, MI on AUGUST 6TH. John was our speaker at the January meeting. If you were there you saw some of his pictures of the property and it will be exciting to see it in person.

I have a tentative time of 9:30 am. I believe it is about an hour drive. The property is pretty large so we may not be able to see it all if you have trouble walking long distances. I think he can take 1 person in his golf cart.

It may be a good idea to carpool. We are also exploring the idea of having lunch out there. More to come on this detail soon.



*Cinnamon Fern*

## Friends

*By Lynn O'Shaughnessy*

A friend is someone who knows us well,  
the good and also the bad,

They like us no matter what we do  
and cheer us on when we're sad,

They spotlight our value and lift us up  
when they see that we are down,

They celebrate with us when things go well  
and are great to have around.

So never discount the value  
of what having a good friend can do,

And be that friend when someone you know  
could use a good word or two.

## Battling the Boxwood Moth: Tips for Healthy Shrubs

By Nola J Hogge MG, MRG – MSU Extension, Ohio State Extension, Chat GPT

**The Box Tree Moth has become a severe problem in parts of the U.S., including Michigan, and it can quickly defoliate and kill Boxwood if not managed early.** The box tree moth is an invasive pest that can significantly damage and potentially kill boxwood (*Buxus* species) plants if left unchecked. The caterpillars are ravenous feeders, and heavy infestations can completely defoliate host plants. **After the leaves are gone, they feed on the bark which eventually kills the plant.**

The box tree moth can ravage plant life. Here is what to look for:



- **Appearance:** A female lays cluster of 5-30 eggs. The eggs hatch after three days. The lime green caterpillar, with black stripes, white spots, hair, and a shiny black head completes 7 larval instars in 2 weeks. Caterpillars pupate after an additional 2 weeks. Pupae emerge as adult moths after one week. The adult box tree moth has white wings with a thick brown border. The complete cycle is 45 days.
- **Brown leaves and defoliation:** Missing sections of leaves or skeletonized leaves.
- **Caterpillars and webbing:** Young caterpillars hide among twigs and leaves, which can grow up to 1.5 inches.
- **Frass:** Sawdust-like excrement from insects
- **Pupa:** May be wrapped in webbing
- **Adult moths:** The most effective strategy is early, initiative-taking management difficult to spot, as they are most active at night.

### Cultural and mechanical control options

- **Hand-pick** larvae from lightly infested plants. Drop them into a bucket of soapy water or freeze them in a sealed bag before disposal.
- **Clear away** leaf litter and debris in fall, especially around heavily infested plants, to remove potential overwintering sites.
- **Keep plants healthy with proper pruning and watering**, which can help reduce stress and support recovery from minor damage.

# Brighton Mi Garden Club Yard Care Continued

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## Key Treatment Strategies

- **Targeted Spraying:** Apply insecticides when young larvae are active, usually with two applications: one in late July and another in early September.

## Recommended Pesticides:

- **Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*):** An organic option best applied every two weeks starting in late June, effective when caterpillars ingest it.
- **Pyrethroids:** Products containing bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, or lambda-cyhalothrin are effective.

**Application Tips:** Thoroughly spray the inside and outside of the shrub, as larvae hide within webbing.

**Physical Control:** For minor infestations, hand-pick larvae and drop them into **soapy water**.

**Sanitation:** Clear leaf litter and debris around the base of plants in the fall to remove overwintering sites.



**You can find more information by clicking the link below for Insecticides for box wood moths at Michigan State University:**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/insecticide-options-for-box-tree-moth-management-ir4-project>

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

By Hilary Sproule, Ways & Means Committee

The preparations are in place for a lively and exciting **Spring Plant Sale on May 9**—we can't wait to see you there!

Kick things off early by visiting our booth at the Farmers Market on **May 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Stop by, say hello, and get a preview of what's to come.


### Important Dates & Times:

- **May 7 (1:30–3:00 p.m.)** – Boxes may be delivered to the Community Center
- **May 8 (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)** – Members deliver plants
  - Table set-up: **9:00–11:00 a.m.**
  - Plant set-up: **12:00–2:30 p.m.**

### Sale Day Reminder:

Please park along the High School street so our customers have easy access to the Community Center parking lot—thank you for helping make their experience smooth and welcoming!

We are thrilled to offer an incredible selection of plants this year.

 **Lynn O'Shaughnessy** is generously contributing approximately **1,400 plants representing 75 native species**, and our members have added another **500 plants across 30 species**. Final totals of plants available will be calculated on May 8.

**All plants will be just \$5 per pot—an amazing value!**

A vibrant yellow poster for the Brighton MI Garden Club Plant Sale. The poster features a floral border and text in blue and purple. It includes the event title, date and time, location, and activities. A QR code is present, and the text 'BMGC is a 501c3' is at the bottom.

BRIGHTON MI GARDEN CLUB

# PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 9  
9 am-1 pm

Brighton Community Center  
555 Brighton Street

## NATIVE PLANTS & MORE

YOUTH PLANTING ACTIVITY FUN



BMGC is a 501c3

### Raffle Highlights:

Don't miss your chance to win:

- A beautifully knitted floral throw
- One of Lynn's stunning butterfly photographs

 Tickets: **\$3 each or 3 for \$10**

Winners will be drawn at the end of the sale and notified afterward.

### Fun for Kids!

Our Children's Table will offer hands-on activities like plant propagation through division, cuttings, runners, and seeds.

 Activities are **\$2.50 or \$5.00**

### Bonus Bargains:

Browse our re-sale table featuring gently used gardening books and floral items priced from **\$0.50 to \$1.00**—perfect for a great find!

Any remaining plants will be available at the Farmers Market on **May 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**