

# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

As the Garden grows, so shall the Gardener

## Monthly Newsletter March 2020

### February Meeting

Ever look up while gardening and marvel at the song of a bird? You knew it was singing to you; but what kind of bird was it?



Doug Lowry and Sally Avery from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, presented **Dancing with the Birds.**

Doug Lowry opened the presentation by saying that, *"Gardeners were kindred spirits to birders."* So true! He presented Sally Avery who has the amazing skill of being able to "bird by ear."

Sally gave a wonderful presentation on the "dance" of a bird's life. She discussed migration, habitat selection, courtship, food and babies. And best of all, Sally sang bird songs to us!



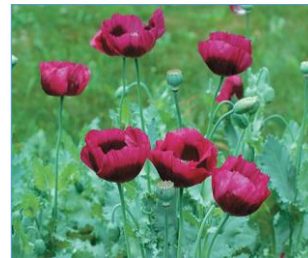
*A Carolina Wren sings "teakettle, teakettle, teakettle."*

Doug challenged us to name 40 birds that we knew. The members delightfully called out name after name. It was a great program and we all learned a lot.

*Cape Cod is home to: Great Horned, Screech, Saw-Whet, Barred and Snowy Owls.*



*I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow. – Abraham Lincoln*



Lauren's Grape Poppy

Ellen Hammond once again delighted members with her horticulture presentation. She presented Lauren's Grape Poppy. This beautiful poppy has leaves that are almost turquoise in color. She will have seeds available at the March meeting. If interested, please contact her at [hammondcapecod@comcast.net](mailto:hammondcapecod@comcast.net)

### Oh Boy! New AGC Aprons!

We have a new supply of large aprons for sale. Aren't they good-looking! They are \$15. To buy one, stop by the Ways & Means table.





### Protecting our Cape Cod Birds - Eight Actions You Can Take In Your Yard

1. Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use.
2. Create and protect water sources in your yard.
3. Identify the non-native invasive plants in your yard and work to remove them. These plants do not provide as much food as native plants; and, they disrupt our ecosystem.
4. Make your windows visible to birds to prevent collisions.
5. Let your yard get a little messy! Leave places for the birds to find cover during bad weather.
6. Close your blinds at night and turn off lights that you are not using. Urban light disrupts bird migrations for those that use the constellations for guidance.
7. Plant native plants. They are the best source of bird food.
8. Attract hummingbirds with sugar water.

Source: Audubon Society

### Festive Feast – Cooking with Herbs & Flowers! Advance Registration for the April 8<sup>th</sup> Program



*Liz Barbour*

On April 8, at the evening joint meeting, chef and gardener Liz Barbour will take us on a slide presentation tour through her cottage sized edible gardens. She will explore all the ways you can use herbs as part of an edible landscape. This program includes a **cooking demonstrations of seasonal recipes with generous samples** for everyone! Attendance is free to members.

We need to have a head count in advance for this program. We will have a sign-up sheet at the March meeting. **Advanced registration is requested.** Please sign up or let Betsy Woodley know if you plan to attend, 508-392-9256 or [betsy.woodley95@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.woodley95@gmail.com).

You can learn more about Ms. Barbour and her journey as a chef and gardener at [www.thecreativefeast.com](http://www.thecreativefeast.com)

### Getting Ready for Our May Plant Sale

To all members, now is the time to assess your garden's overall growth and make a list of what needs to be divided. As soon weather permits, dig, divide and place extra plants in pots for our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Alda has plenty of plastic pots, just let her know if you need any.







The best and most profitable part of our sale are the perennials from our gardens. We will need many hands to help. **Signup sheets will be available at the March and April meetings.**

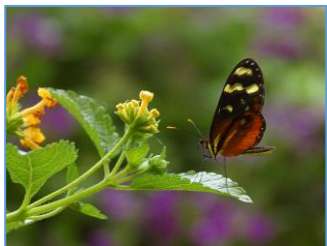


*Turtlehead*

Many Thanks,  
Alda Barron & Jayne Urso  
Ways & Means, Co-Chairs

# Looking Ahead

<b>March Calendar</b>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>10:45 AM Board Meeting</b>  <b>12:00 PM Tea</b>  <b>12:30 PM Day Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Artistic Design:</b> Designer's Choice based on the 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows</li> <li> <b>Horticulture:</b> "My Favorite Things" by Karen Cronburg</li> <li> <b>Program: Hip, Hip Hydrangeas! Go Native!</b>                      Andi Ross of <i>Its Nature's Way</i> will showcase many gorgeous new cultivars bred from native shrubs. Andi will explore the "best methods" for choosing, siting, planting, pruning, watering and preserving hydrangeas. Prepare to be dazzled!</li> </ul> <p><b>Tea Chair:</b> Gretchen Woodruff  <b>Committee:</b> Barbara Daniels, Susan Dmochowski, Judy Loomis, Connie Spilhaus &amp; Lorraine Young  <b>Décor Theme:</b> Parades</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>6:30 PM Social</b>  <b>6:45 PM Evening Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Horticulture:</b> "Send Out Invitations to the Vitacellas" by Ellen Hammond</li> <li> <b>Artistic Design:</b> Designer's Choice based on the <u>2017 Handbook for Flower Shows</u>, by Susan Dmochowski</li> <li> <b>Program: Bringing Back the Monarch Butterflies</b>                      Diane Miller of Soares Nursery will discuss the importance of creating good pollinator habitats. She will share some fabulous plant choices and other factors that will help you to create attractive pollinator gardens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hospitality Chair:</b> Janet Clay  <b>Committee:</b> Jan Casiello, Nancy Guimond &amp; Pat Nemeth</p>
<b>18</b>	<p><b>10:00 AM Garden Therapy</b>                      Bourne Manor</p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>6:00 PM Movie "Rising Tides"</b>                      Environmental Film Series at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library ... (admission is free)</p>
<b>26</b>	<p><b>10:30 AM Designing with Native Plants by the Massachusetts Horticulture Society</b>                      900 Washington St., Wellesley ... (admission fee \$15)</p>



Monarch Butterfly



Clematis Vitacella, "Polish Spirit"



Oakleaf Hydrangea, "Snow Queen"



## Floral Creativity in Bloom

[Advance Registration for the May 13<sup>th</sup> Workshop](#)



Oh Boy! We will have a flower arranging workshop at our May evening meeting. What do you get if you give 35 people all the same materials to create the same flower arrangement? We all know the answer to that. You get an evening of laughter, fun, camaraderie and 35 slightly different flower arrangements!

Challenge your design skills and sign up for this workshop. All participants will be given a container filled with an oasis and the same selection of flowers. They will be asked to copy a finished arrangement done according to The Principles of Design printed in our yearbook.

There will be helpers to assist you if needed. Attendance is free to members; and, you will get to take your design home. It is a fun exercise to see the different results that people have when doing the same thing.

We need to have a head count in advance for this Workshop, so we can order the supplies. **Advanced registration is requested. Please sign up if you wish to participate.**

We will have sign-up sheets at the March and April meetings. **Any questions feel free to call Sally Zeghibe (508-564-5484) or Judy Sheehy (508-888-6094).**

## Flower Arranging

When you step into the world of flower arranging, you step into a history that goes back thousands of years. You join with those who lived long ago, who brought greens and flowers into their homes, to create a moment of beauty.

Here is a little floral design history.



**Egypt from ~ 2,500 BC**  
Flowers were placed in vases and garlands were used to decorate their homes. The lotus and water lily were sacred. Wall paintings depicting roses have been found in many ancient tombs.



**China from ~ 470 BC**  
In the Han era, flowers were used for religious offerings. One of the first known flower design shows occurred during the Han Dynasty.



**Europe from ~ 500 AD**  
Flowers and herbs were used for religious and medicinal purposes. Many schools of design developed over time. Victorian arrangements often also included fruit.



**America from ~ 1600 AD**  
The colonists brought floral design with them from their homelands. Floral design shows in America became popular after WWI.

## Interesting Invasive Plant Facts

Invasive plants are one of the greatest threats to the ecosystem of Massachusetts because they out-compete, displace, or kill native species. A total of 66 plant species have been listed as invasive in Massachusetts and are banned for importation, propagation and sale. Here are a few of the culprits.



Yellow Iris



Common & Japanese Barberry



Kudzu



Multiflora Rose



Winged Euonymus -  
Burning Bush



Wild Chervil

See [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org) for more information on invasive plants; as well as advice on how to remove them from your yard.



## Message from the President

The theme of this Newsletter is Spring! When I think of Spring, I also think about Spring Cleaning. Years ago I found this soap recipe and I have used it ever since. I have a washing machine that uses minimal water; and, this soap doesn't create suds. It works great. It is very economical and environmentally conscious! Buying the ingredients is an investment, but it lasts a very long time.

### Soap Recipe

- ✿ 3 tbsp. each of Borax detergent boost and Arm & Hammer super washing soda
- ✿ 2 tbsp. of Dr. Bronner's Sal Suds biodegradable cleaner (no fragrance)
- ✿ 10 drops of essential oil (optional e.g. lavender, lemongrass, eucalyptus ...)

Mix Borax and Arm & Hammer in an empty gallon water jug; then add enough hot water to dissolve. Fill with cold water then add Sal Suds. Continue filling the water to top and add essential oils if desired. Cap and you're done! I use 2 empty laundry detergent bottles, so I can use the caps to measure it out.

Happy Spring Cleaning! - Laura Bergeron

**Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne is a member of the Southeastern District of Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, New England Region Garden and National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Newsletter Editor Pat Nemeth [pat.nemeth@hotmail.com](mailto:pat.nemeth@hotmail.com)  
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