

# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

As the Garden grows, so shall the Gardener

## Monthly Newsletter April 2020

### March Day Meeting



Andi Ross and "Hip, Hip, Hydrangeas"

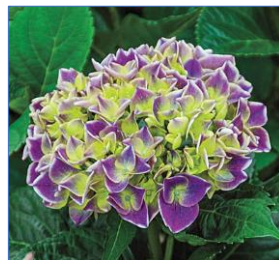
Its time to fall in love again with our beautiful hydrangeas! Now with their wooden stalks, beginning to show buds of future glory, we know that Spring is near.

Landscape designer Andi Ross, began her presentation with a host of beautiful photos of hydrangeas in all of their beautiful colors and sizes. She gave the members a wide range of hydrangea tips, from planting and pruning, to watering and preserving.

There are 76 species of hydrangeas and most are from China. The word hydrangea is Greek and means "water vessel." Our beloved shrub loves to be watered at its base or "crown." We also learned about an ancient fossil called "hydrangea alaskana" found in Jaw Mountain Alaska that is 23 million years old! Who knew?



Endless Summer



Violet Crown

*My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.*

- Claude Monet

### Artistic Design by Marilyn Crane



Would you believe that this beautiful arrangement was Marilyn's first floral design arrangement! She did her homework and read a number of books on floral design. The vase was a gift from her Mother. The arrangement of tulips, daffodils and thistles was just lovely. Our many compliments go to Marilyn!

### Our Members Make Our Hospitality

This year over sixty members have made our gatherings enjoyable by bringing food to our meetings. Wow! [A Special Thanks goes out to our Hospitality Co-Chairs, Isabel Mello and Janet Clay.](#) They make sure that things are perfect every month. **Many Thanks** to one and all for your service!



An "Irish" Duck by Isabel Mello

## Horticulture by Laurie York



Laurie York and her daughter Andrea

At 96 Laurie York remains amazing! Her knowledge of plants continues to impress all of us who know her. With her daughter to run the slide show, Laurie gave us what she called her “Swan Song” presentation. The topic was **Wildflowers on the Cape.**

Laurie used to wander the Cape, taking photos of our wildflowers. She wanted to capture the knowledge of what was here, before they might be gone. She divided her talk into two parts. Part one were the wildflowers that are native to the Cape. Part two were the wildflowers that have been brought here. A few of her many examples are shown below.

### Native to Cape Cod



Jerusalem Artichoke



Bergamot (Bee Balm)



May Apple



White Turtlehead

### Brought Here



Chicory



Dandelion

## May Events

Please stand by for further notice on whether or not we will hold the events currently planned for May. One nice thing to know during these dire times, is that working in your yard is a nice safe activity. Happy Gardening!



## May Plant & Bake Sale

Please continue to plan for our Plant and Bake Sale. This is our big fund raiser event and we need your plants and baked goods.

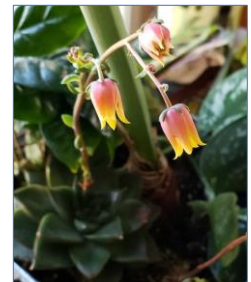
Instead of signing up at the April meeting, please e-mail Alda Barron at [aldabarron@gmail.com](mailto:aldabarron@gmail.com).

Let her know if you can bring plants and/or baked goods. Thank you!



## The Tale of a Hen and Chicken

I started out in Laura Bergeron’s succulent wreath. Then I joined an amaryllis in Dawn Labenski’s Christmas pot. And here I am, now in bloom! Life is good.



Sempervivum  
Hen and Chicken

# Looking Ahead

April Calendar	
7	Cancelled 3:00 PM Garden Therapy, Cape Cod Senior Residences
8	Meeting Cancelled as we practice SAFE Distancing Dear Members our meeting is cancelled due to the Coronavirus. The program "Festive Feast – Cooking with Herbs and Edible Flowers" by Liz Barbour will be re-scheduled.
15	Cancelled 10:00 AM Garden Therapy, Cape Cod Nursing Home

## March Evening Meeting - A Dream Garden for Monarchs



Milkweed



Lantana



Echinacea



Butterfly Bush, Pugster

Diane Miller, of Soares Nursery, shared with us her passion for Monarch butterflies. At one point in her life, Diane raised over 500 Monarch eggs. She had a 100% success rate as she released her "baby" butterflies. She said keeping the containers clean and feeding the caterpillars was a tremendous amount of work. She said it was personally rewarding; but, she wouldn't recommend it to anyone. Instead, help the Monarchs survive by planting a pollinator garden for them.

Monarchs will only lay their eggs on a milkweed bush. There are dozens of species of milkweed and most are toxic to humans. But the butterflies love them. A female Monarch will lay about 300 eggs on a milkweed bush. Only about 1% will survive. Monarchs go through 4 phases of life: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult butterfly.



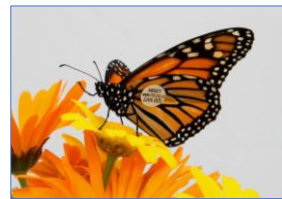
Monarch Eggs



Monarch Caterpillar



Monarch Chrysalis almost ready to hatch



Monarch Butterfly tagged to track migration

Monarchs arrive on the Cape around June 20<sup>th</sup>. They live about 2 to 6 weeks. The 4<sup>th</sup> generation however will live 6 to 8 months. This generation of the butterfly are the ones that will head south and migrate to Mexico. Amazing!

## Interesting Pine & Oak Tree Facts

In the period before European settlement, Cape Cod was covered largely by pine-oak forests, interspersed with smaller areas of hickory, beech, red maple, and birch. Currently, the dominant tree species are pitch pine, black oak, and white oak.



*Pitch Pine*

Pitch pines grow forty or fifty feet high away from the water. On the dunes, they are stunted by lack of nourishment and stormy winds, and grow only twenty-five feet or less high. In many places, however, pitch pine has declined in abundance, giving way to the shade-tolerant and longer-lived black oak and white oak.

(Source: [Cape Cod National Seashore](#))



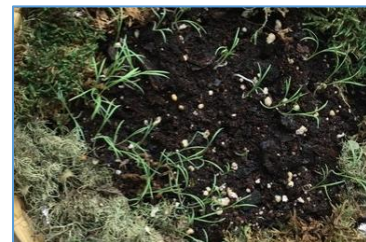
*Black Oak White Oak*

Pine and oak trees have been used for fuel, building and medicinal purposes for as long as man can recall. Native Americans relied extensively on acorns for food. Years ago, baskets of acorns were placed in streams to leach the bitter tannins from them. The acorns were then sun dried; and the nutmeat was ground into a coarse meal than could be used in many ways. White oak acorns are the sweetest.



## Message from the President

Don't you feel like we are all living in a story by Stephen King? Every day seems to get a little bit stranger. I'm not sure that even Stephen King could have dreamed up this pandemic. But compared to other events in history, staying home is not such a terrible thing. Yet, we worry. When is this virus going to stop infecting people? Will I or someone I love get infected? Will the grocery stores get more toilet paper or hand sanitizer, or food? I suppose we can't stop thinking that way. But we can try! We can feel grateful that we are all here! Grateful that we live in a country that is doing its best to find a vaccine, and medical professionals putting our needs before their own. We may not be able to visit our friends, but we can call them or email them. And most of all, we can start working in our gardens! Spending time doing something you love is key! Life will go on and the old adage, "This too shall pass" offers us hope. I recently planted these alpine poppy seeds and they are starting to sprout. There is joy in being alive!



**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.**

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