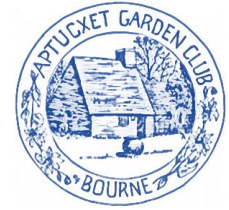


Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne



Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

Stewards of the Earth

Each of our Presidents brings a theme to their term. Our new theme is **Stewards of the Earth**. Our programs and Newsletter will explore what this means to the AGC.

We all know that everything we do is linked in our ecosystem. Be prepared to go deeper into this knowledge. Together we'll explore the benefits of native plants and the link to pollinators, bees and butterflies. We'll learn more about best gardening practices. And, this theme may even influence some lovely new floral designs!

As **Stewards of the Earth**, AGC members can share their knowledge with one another.

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed that's all that ever has." – Margaret Mead



*The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt,
head in the sun, heart with nature.*

- *Alfred Austin*



New Meeting Schedule

During the summer the new Board met to develop plans for club activities during these times of social distancing. Our new schedule will be as follows.

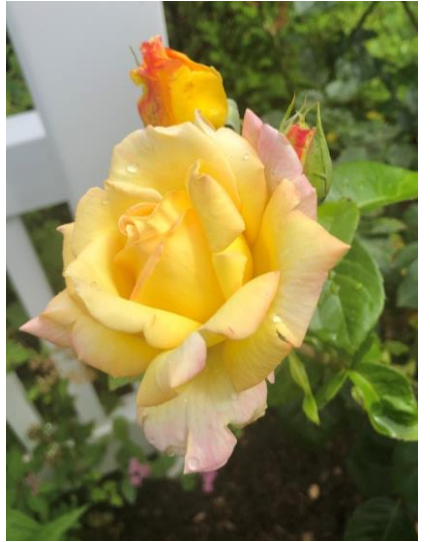
- One meeting a month has been planned for September 2020 through June 2021. Meetings will switch back and forth from evenings to days.
- See Yearbook for program details.
- Meetings may be limited, pending the Governor's Guidelines.
- Meetings will be confirmed in advance via the Newsletter and with E-Mail Blasts 30 days in advance.

Summer Garden Visits

COVID-19 changed so many of our opportunities to gather with friends. But the pleasure of gardening and seeing each other's gardens remains. This summer a few garden visits were organized. Pictures of those gatherings follow on the next few pages.



2020
Summer
Garden
Visits







The Plant Detective



Coltsfoot
(Tussilago farfara)

Sylvia Wahl’s garden tour guests were amazed at the size of the leaves on this plant in her yard. Sylvia wasn’t sure what it was. So Kathy Sargent-O’Neill went to work and did her usual thorough job of research. It turns out this beauty is listed as an invasive plant!

Coltsfoot is a perennial herbaceous plant that spreads by seeds and rhizomes. It is native to Europe and parts of Asia. It is common in North America, where it was introduced by settlers for its herbal medicinal properties. It has been used to treat colds and coughs.

Many thanks to Sylvia for introducing us to this plant. And many thanks to our best Plant Detective, Kathy Sargent-O’Neill for sharing her knowledge with us.

Buzzards Bay Beautification

Compliments to Connie Spilhaus, Susan Barlow, Laura Bergeron, Nancy Buckley, Jan Clay, Sally Curtain, Amy Fenton, Elizabeth Ferris, Nora Grant, Pam Matheson, Joan O’Brien, Nancy Selchan, Judy Sheehy and Jan Sudol for all their work to plant and maintain the planters in our Town. Thank You!



Jonathan Bourne Public Library

Joan O’Brien and Cindy Williams deserve kudos for keeping the planters at the entrance to the Library always looking so nice! Thank you Ladies!

With the Library presently closed, these ladies have even had to bring their own water. Now that’s dedication!

Horticulture from Jane Urso ... My Favorite Things

One of my passions is creating art projects. So as your new Chair for Horticulture, I decided to incorporate art with plants and flowers into each month’s program.

This spring I was determined to grow flowers from seeds that I had collected from my garden last fall. Success! “*Zinnia elegans*” plants sprouted. These pink beauties are now 5 feet tall! They continue to provide unexpected joy now that numerous goldfinch snack on them daily.

During a quiet afternoon, I painted an old basket lid inspired by these cheery annuals! Gardening, flowers and art ... it doesn’t get any better than that!

Let me know if you would like some of these seeds in October. Sharing gardening success is one of AGC’s goals.



News Article Review

Last summer, the Boston Globe published an extensively researched story by Nestor Ramos titled, “**Cape Cod Climate Change**”. Here is a brief review of the article.

Our beautiful Cape Cod is its own bell ringer to reflect climate change. Sticking like a thumb out into the Atlantic, we know we are the product of eons of climate change. Our very sandy rocky soil, and captured ponds of fresh water, remind us daily of whence we came. Floating down from the North Pole, some 18,000 years ago, we were welded onto these shores.

Today we see around us much evidence of our changing times. As members of AGC, we all aware of the impact of urbanization on our pollinators. And I for one, have found this summer to be painfully bereft of monarch butterflies.

This article tells the tale of change by looking at four key indicators: “**Erosion, The Whimbrel, The Catch, and Our Weather.**” Each of these stories are told through the eyes of residents of the Cape. Their stories are real reflections of the changes occurring in our backyard.



Erosion

Dave Sprang and his wife Gwen record the height and frequency of the waves near their home in Truro. They have been doing this for the last 15 years. During this period they recorded a 50 foot drop in the sheer edge near them. Their work has helped to document the fact that the ocean is rising faster and hitting the shore harder than it has in years. *“Today the beaches on the outer Cape lose on average about 3 feet of shoreline a year.”* The march of time means that buildings built near the shore may need to retreat to higher ground.

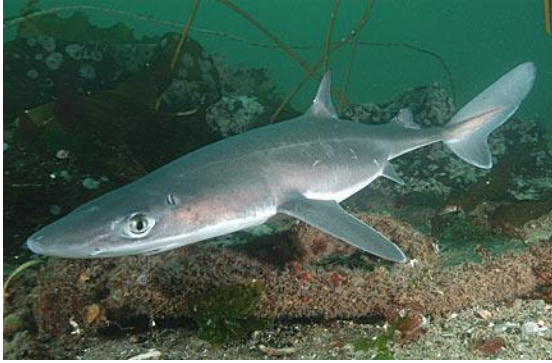
The Whimbrel bird, also called Ahanu (Laughing One), loves the fiddler crabs found in the salt marshes of the Cape.

Brad Winn monitors the migration of the Whimbrels to the Cape. Brad calls the Whimbrels “an ambassador for health.” Whimbrels migrate from the Arctic to Brazil, stopping off on the Cape from July through September. As the salt marshes begin to vanish under rising seas, the appearance of the Whimbrel is at risk. Their time on the Cape is tied to the food supply. The circle of life is made visible through the presence (or not) of these birds.



The Whimbrel

News Article Review - Continued



Dogfish – The Catch

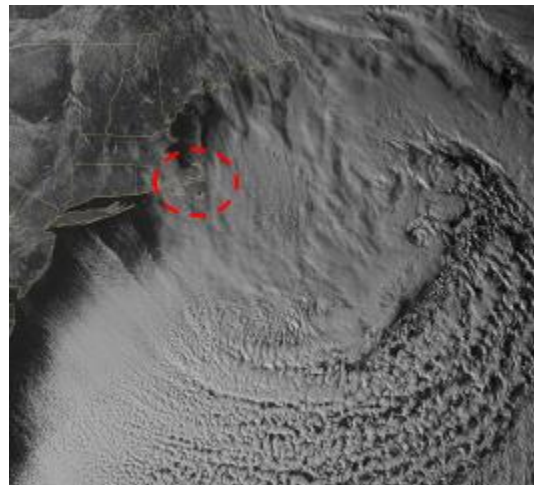
Recently I took my grandchildren to the commercial fishing dock in Chatham. There the boats were unloading Dogfish. We were told that the fins of this small shark will be sent to Japan for soup; and most of the fish will be used in cat food.

The days of the plentiful Cod catches, that once gave Cape Cod its name, are a thing of the past. Jared Bennett tells his story of being a Chatham fisherman. Dogfish sell for 20 cents a pound as compared with Cod that used to sell for \$2 or more a pound. And today's oysters are, more often than not, grown in a local hatchery.

Last winter was a mild one; and we just survived a mild swing by from Hurricane Isaias. But we live in the land of hurricanes.

Jeff Donnelly and a team of researchers from Woods Hole are using computer stimulation to understand the devastation potential of future hurricanes on the cape. They have developed a program that shows the damage on the Cape from Category 1 to Category 5 hurricanes.

NOAH has predicted a very active 2020 hurricane season, due to the fact that the Atlantic Ocean is considerably warmer than normal and Africa has had a large monsoon season.



Weather



The message of the article is clear. To be good stewards of our Cape, we need to look, see and understand the impact of climate forces on our ecology. The article ends with a quote from Chuckie Green, Natural Resources Director for the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, "I do what I can ... to preserve a little portion of what I had." We can each, do what we can.

To enjoy the full article, go to:

<https://apps.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/09/26/cape-cod-climate-change/story>

- Review by Pat Nemeth
Thank you to Sally Baer for providing the link to the article.

Looking Ahead

September		
<p>12 Sat.</p>	 <p>Perennial Only Plant Sale Pocasset Community Building 314 Barlows Landing Road 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Come One and All! Please help support our first (post COVID-19) FUND RAISING event!</p> <p>Please bring your potted plants on the 10th and place them under the large apple tree in the back yard. An identifying tag would be helpful for pricing the plants.</p> <p>Your perennials for sun and shade, are our best fund raising items. Due to the virus, we will not be selling baked goods or any white elephant items.</p> <p>We are counting on our members to volunteer and contribute. Please let Jan Rogers know if you will be bringing plants; and, if you can help set up and staff the sale. Jan can be reached at jan.rogers430@gmail.com or at 540-539-3134.</p>
<p>16 Wed.</p>	 <p>Evening Meeting Aptuxet Trading Post 5:00 PM</p>	<p><u>Note the earlier start to our meeting and the change in venue.</u> Sun sets at 6:42 PM. Bring your mask, bug spray, chair, picnic dinner and drink.</p> <p>Artistic Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Art in Bloom by Alda Barron, Isabel Melo, Judy Sheehy and Sally Zeghibe <p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Officer Installation ✚ Floribunda Award ✚ Roundtable discussion of Board and Standing Committees <p>It will be so fun to see everyone again!</p>

Going Forward

AGC will follow Governor Baker’s guidance about the number of attendees for inside gatherings. Watch for an E-Blast from KSO about 30 days prior to each meeting to determine whether or not we will be gathering.

Member Projects to Make You Smile

Marcia Willmott missed seeing her two granddaughters during the quarantine. They had Facetime; but boy it wasn't the same as getting sweet hugs from her 1 and 2 ½ year old babies. So Marcia came up with the idea of making sock puppets to entertain them. And of course her puppets needed a stage with a butterfly! Then a friend wrote her a play for these little characters.

So in the midst of Covid-19 separations, a little off-Broadway magic has been born! What fun!



Meet "Moo Cow", "Miss Ewe", "Buzz" and "Rohr Bear"

Recycling News from Bobbie Dwyer



Please save your aluminum pull tabs. In Massachusetts, the Garden Club Federation recycles all aluminum pull tabs from any container. i.e. tuna cans, soda and beer cans. The tabs are donated to the Shriners. They are then sold to a recycling company and the money is used to fund transportation for needy children to and from Shriners Hospitals.

The Shriners Club in Boston began this program in 1989. Since then they have collected a half a million pounds of pull tabs. The pull tab is the only pure aluminum part of the can; and as such, it has the greatest recycle value.

AGC collects the tabs at our meetings; and then takes them to Federation meetings. This is an easy way to help others. So save those pull tabs; and start bringing them to our meetings. I would love to have your donations at our September meeting!



Summer Delight Salad Amy Fenton & Linda Wagner, Hospitality Co-Chairs

Mix together:

2 ears cooked corn cut off the cob, 1 cup edamame beans, 2 nectarines, cut into wedges, 1 each peeled and sliced avocado and orange bell pepper, 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved.

Wisk dressing:

1 tsp finely grated lime zest, ½ cup fresh lime juice, ¼ cup EVO, 1 each thinly sliced scallion, seeded jalapeno (optional) and small shallot and a dash of salt.

Add dressing to salad and refrigerate 2 hours. Then just before serving fold in: 12 cooked shrimp, 1 cup crumbled feta cheese and ½ cup coarsely chopped cilantro.

Interesting Plant Facts



Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

Late summer brings the Goldenrod into bloom and gives butterflies their last great meal before they migrate south. There are more than 100 species of this perennial pollinator in North America. Three of those species that do well in our area are listed below.

- Fireworks' – *Solidago Rugosa* grows 3-4 feet tall and has impressive clumps of delicate airy cascading stems of gold flowers.
- Goldenmosa' – This *Solidago* grows 30 inches tall with foot-long sprays of golden yellow flowers atop leafy stems.
- Little Lemon' – *Solidago Dansolitlem* grows 12 to 18 inches tall and has feathery yellow flower clusters.

Goldenrod is an herb that is native to North America. It grows wild in meadows and fields, and it is deer resistive. Its flowers and leaves are used in a tea to reduce inflammation and urinary pain. The Latin name "Solidago" means "to make whole or heal."



Message from the President

Ladies,

September is almost here; and I can't wait for cooler weather. Again my thanks to all of you for allowing me and the team to represent you; and I thank them for saying yes. With E-Mail Blasts and the Newsletter, we will stay connected.

For October, we have decided to change our program. Instead of a presentation from C.L. Fornari, we will have a panel on "Ask the Gardener." The change was made based on the Governor's guidelines. So start thinking of your questions; and submit them to Nancy Selchan or Sue Dmochowski.

While I want to be working in my garden, it is too hot! Remember while we want to conserve water, it's important to water your large trees and shrubs with a deep soak. Also our Perennial Only Plant Sale is an opportunity to refresh your gardens. Jan Rogers and her team will be looking for volunteers and PLANTS!!!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meeting. Stay safe, wear a mask and Happy Gardening.

- Sally Baer

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
Visit the Aptucxet Garden Club Website www.aprucxetgardenclub.com