

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

November 2020

October's Meeting

Over forty Club members gathered outside at the Aptucxet Trading Post for October's meeting. We were blessed with a warm sunny day.

Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized.
- Allan Armitage



Bringing a chair, food and a mask is getting to be a habit. Seeing friends from the club and learning more about being good *Stewards of the Earth* is a real joy!



Ask the Gardener

Our program was a panel discussion of gardening questions submitted by the members. Amy Fenton focused on organic gardening. Kathy Sargent-O'Neill spoke about invasive plants. Laura Murphy discussed annuals. Julie Saunders shared her love of perennials. Sally Baer moderated the panel. Many thanks to our knowledgeable panel members for a great program!



Lee Drugan out did herself with her floral arrangements for the meeting. She made six gorgeous fall arrangements. They were auctioned off and the proceeds were donated to the club.

“Art In Bloom” at the Plymouth Art Center

The annual “Art In Bloom” show at the Plymouth Art Center was held this year in October. Five of our Club members prepared beautiful floral presentations for the show.

The program had the following quote from James McNeil Whistler: *“An artist is not paid for his labor, but for his vision.”* Our Club members once again demonstrated their artistic vision. *Many compliments to each of these artists!*



Pond Lights by Sally Baer



Sail Away by
Laura Bergeron &
Darlene Chickosky



Saturated City Sunset
by Alda Barron

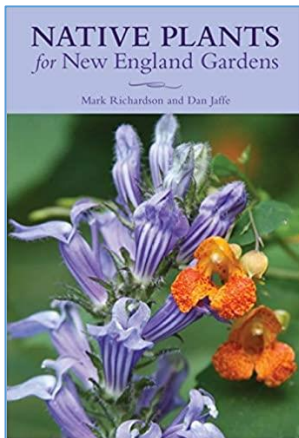


Life Forms by Judy Sheehy



Book Review Corner

“Native Plants for New England Gardens”, by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe, 2018



*“The ultimate goal for the ecological gardener is a beautiful garden that provides year-round interest, supports local wildlife, absorbs and filters rainwater, and improves air quality.”
– Mark Richardson*

A Look Inside:



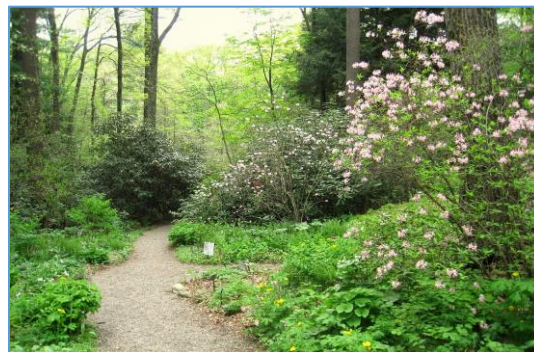
Mountain Laurel
Kalmia latifolia

As we work to improve the ecosystems in our gardens, increasing our knowledge of native plants is important. “**Native Plants for New England Gardens**” is a beautifully illustrated and thoughtfully written book. It is basic reading for all of us who wish to be *Stewards of the Earth*.

The introduction to the book is a great primer on native plants, which are defined as those who lived in New England prior to the colonists. These plants evolved to thrive in our ecosystem, and they support our native wildlife. The book covers 100 native plants, grouped by: herbaceous perennials, trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses, sedges, vines, and lianas.

We all know that every good gardening project is based on understanding the light, soil type, and space requirements of the plants being considered. In addition, a good goal is to have plants that will survive without supplemental irrigation once they are established. This book provides this information for each of the native plant included. The book also illustrates how many more native plants there are, than what we typically see in our local nurseries.

Yet we are fortunate to be close to the largest native plant nursery in New England. **Garden in the Woods** is the headquarters of the Native Plant Trust. It located in Framingham. This 45-acre garden has more than 1,000 native plant species, with many rare and endangered native specimens. Plants are on sale from mid-April through September at the Garden in the Woods Nursery.



Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA



Grandma's Apple Pie

From Amy Fenton, Hospitality Co-Chair

Recipe:

Pre-heat oven to 350°. Place cookie sheet with aluminum foil on the middle rack.

Prepare or buy a pie crust. *Note: See page 67 in our cookbook for a great pie crust recipe.*

Peel and thinly slice 9 large Cortland apples and 1 large Granny Smith. Mix apples with 1/3 cup sugar, 1 ½ tsp cinnamon and ½ tsp fresh grated nutmeg. *Note: The Cortland apple was developed in New York in 1898. It is a favorite apple for baking.*



Pour apples into pie crust. They should be highly mounded, as they will shrink and settle during cooking.



For the topping, cut 1 stick cold butter into 1 cup of flour mixed with ½ cup each of brown and white sugar. Pour over the pie.

Place pie on the cookie sheet and bake for 50 to 60 minutes. The hot cookie sheet will help the bottom of the pie bake and not get soggy.

Then enjoy one of the best parts of Fall ... fresh apple pie!

Great Website Reference

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has a robust website for the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment. This site provides information on research, landscaping questions, courses and much more. You can also sign up for their Newsletter. See <https://ag.umass.edu/>

Kokedama and Alda Barron



Our very own Alda Barron was the guest speaker at the Falmouth Garden Club in August. She opened her presentation by saying what we all know about Alda; *"I love to play in the dirt."*

Then Alda did just that! She gave a hands-on demonstration about how to make Kokedama planters. Alda's talk was featured recently in the On Cape magazine of the Bourne Enterprise.

Kokedama is a Japanese term that means moss ball. Alda first learned about this type of Bonsai gardening at the 2017 Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts annual convention. Since then she has made many Kokedama centerpieces and hanging planters. She likes to use ivy, ferns, and succulents in her moss planters.

Congratulations Alda on being recognized for your knowledge and design expertise!

Looking Ahead

November Calendar

9	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM at the Aptucket Trading Post Meeting will depend on the weather. Details will be sent by email. 🌈 Program: Greens Demonstrations Bring your chair, food and wear a mask. Dress warm as needed.
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December Note: Our Holiday Plant sale will be at the Briggs McDermott House on Friday, December 4th, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM, and most likely will continue on Saturday the 5th at 9:30 AM. Please let Jan Rogers know if you can help with preparations and the sale. You can reach Jan at jan.rogers430@gmail.com

New York Times, *A Smarter Fall Cleanup*

Excerpt from an article by Margaret Roach, 9/30/20



An overly aggressive approach to cleaning up in autumn can damage the environment. So, what is a responsible gardener to do?

In the fall, it used to be you cleaned up every leaf. It was considered good garden sanitation. But now we know otherwise. That is bad for the environment, killing beneficial insects that love all the leaf litter, which keeps them warm during the winter, and interrupting the food web.

Faded plants left standing all winter can play a critical role in the overwintering of beneficial insects, as well as birds and mammals. They may contain seed or fruit or offer hiding places for spending the off-season or reproducing, as the pithy stems of goldenrod, blackberry and elderberry do.

One worry voiced by some gardeners, is that less scrupulous cleanup creates a habitat for ticks. So, here is a compromise. Establish looser outer spaces that can accommodate leaf litter and a brush pile.

Nature's example — letting everything lie where it falls, or where the wind blows it — is the inspiration, but it may not prove feasible for every square foot of the garden.

Around ornamental plants with a reputation for harboring diseases that can survive in fallen debris — think peonies, roses or fruit trees showing signs of trouble — move spore-filled material away from the immediate area. In the vegetable garden, use a firm hand and remove diseased or fallen foliage as it occurs throughout the season — and also any fruit showing signs of rot. Sanitation is the organic gardener's best tool for insect pest reduction, too.

Weed while you work. Take notes and photos. Document what worked and what did not. Are some plants overrunning one another and in need of dividing, either now or in spring? Then in the spring, continue your commitment to ecological gardening.

What Is That?

Here come the oak leaves falling from the trees!
And with the leaves you may find curious looking fuzzy beige balls.



Woolly Oak Gall

The fuzzy ball is a woolly oak leaf gall. They can be as large as three-fourths of an inch and are often bright pink or yellow, fading to beige in the fall. It is created by the cynipid wasp. These insects are so small that they are barely visible. These wasps do not sting humans.

Galls usually do no lasting harm to the oak trees. You can reduce the gall-producing insect population by hanging bird feeders from your oak trees. Our feathered friends are natural predators of these insects.

An Exciting Surprise

From Susan Dmochowski, 1st Vice President

I was startled and thrilled at the same time to find this lovely lady on my house.



Praying Mantis



Egg Case (Ootheca)

About thirty feet away, attached to tall ornamental grass, were her babies ... growing in an egg case. The egg case was about the size of a walnut. I was so excited to find both!

Now I look everywhere as I am cleaning up my yard hoping to find another one. The eggs mature over the winter, and the nymphs hatch in the spring. So be careful to not cut down or throw away one of these marvelous insect eggs.

Note: Praying mantis help gardeners by eating moths, mosquitoes, roaches, flies, and aphids, as well as small rodents. With the ability to rotate its head almost 300 degrees and its mastery of camouflage, it is a most skilled hunter. They do not harm or bite people.



Caring & Sharing

Please consider donating a decorated table-top tree to the Caring and Sharing auction, being sponsored by the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library. The auction will be on-line this year. Proceeds benefit your favorite charities.

Photos of donations are due by November 16th. For more information, please contact Pat Nemeth at pat.nemeth@hotmail.com

Thank you for your generosity!



Interesting Plant Facts



Chrysanthemums

What would Fall be without chrysanthemums? They line our doorsteps, along with pumpkins. We celebrate their colors when our other perennials have begun to die back. The chrysanthemum is a symbol of autumn, harvest, and goodwill.

The chrysanthemum was first cultivated in China as a flowering herb in the 15th century. The plant has many hybrids and thousands of cultivars. It is divided into two basic groups: *garden hardy* and *exhibition*. The *garden hardy* plants produce an abundance of small blooms; and without staking they can withstand wind and rain. The *exhibition* plants require more tender care, with staking and overwintering.



A form of bonsai chrysanthemum was developed in Japan. The cultivated plants have a life span of about five years. What a beautiful art form!



Message from the President

Welcome to November and the month of thankfulness. I want to thank all of you that have been so supportive of our programs and constant improvising. I appreciate the new Board, the committees, and all the work done to date.

We have lots of opportunities coming up with a Greens Sale, to gather in small groups and put together centerpieces, wreaths, and boxwood trees. We are working on a "Greens Demonstration" meeting for November and hope we can squeeze one more in before it really gets cold.

As we look forward, we are considering Zoom meetings for January and February. Then at least we can all wave to each other over video. It doesn't look like the virus is going to go away any time soon, so stay safe and wear a mask.

- 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