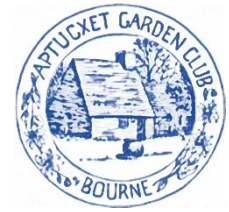


Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne



Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

December 2020



*November comes and November goes,
with the last red berries and the first white snows.
With night coming early and dawn coming late
With ice in the bucket and a frost by the gate.
The fires burn and the kettles sing
And the earth sinks to rest until next spring.*

-Clyde Watson

November's Meeting

Following Governor Baker's Covid 19 guidance, the outdoor meeting was limited to 25 members. Mother Nature gave us a warm and sunny day. Members gathered to see demonstrations of how to make holiday greens decorations. It was so good to see each other again!



Carolee Packard demonstrated how to make a tree from Holly.



Gloria Gammons demonstrated how to make a rectangular table center piece.



Sally Baer demonstrated how to make a wreath.



Sue Dmochowski demonstrated how to make holiday cups.

A Great Resource for Floral Design

At the end of Gloria Gammons demonstration, she recommended one of her favorite books on floral design. Here is Gloria with the book.



"Art in Bloom, at Home"
Museum of Fine Art, Boston

The chapters in the book include elements of design, designs by season, conditioning your plant materials, cutting times and tools.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book, please contact Jan Rogers (Chair of Ways and Means) at jan.rogers430@gmail.com. The book is \$25.



Gloria Gammons' Holiday Center Piece

November's Raffle Donation



This beautiful wreath center piece was made by Alda Barron. All the greens came from her backyard. Wow! The real crab apples are a delightful addition! The wreath was raffled off for \$35, with the proceeds going to the club.

We Begin the Holiday Season

Our President Sally Baer announced that the Board had voted to make a **\$250** donation to the **Bourne Friends Food Pantry**. Although the pandemic limits club activities, we can still share what we have with those who are less fortunate. What a good decision!

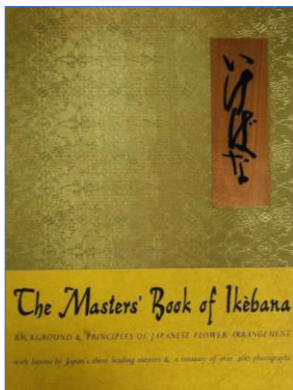




Book Review Corner

The Masters Book of Ikebana

Background & Principles of Japanese Flower Arrangement, with Lessons from the Masters of Japan's Three Foremost Schools, 1966



Ikebana calligraphy on the cover means “*Making Flowers Come Alive*”

Introduction: This beautiful book is like a trip to a museum and an art class all rolled into one. I am a dirt digger. I find my peace and meditation while working in my garden. Ikebana intrigues me. It is a call to the spiritual side of arranging flowers. Here is brief step into this wonderful book. – Pat Nemeth

The book begins by taking the reader back in time, to when people believed that rocks and trees were holy, and flowers were offered to the gods. The first half of this book is about the history of Ikebana. The art of flower arranging was brought to Japan in the early 6th century. The emperor of Japan and his nobles took up the pastime and began to develop the art. Schools and styles of Ikebana, along with design rules, began to be developed. Floral arrangements were placed in front of a painting at the entrance to a temple, palace or home. It is easy to see the connection to today's “Art in Bloom” flower shows.

A Look Inside:



Shoka

It has been said that you must understand *fruya*, the search for serenity in simple common objects, in order to understand Ikebana. What becomes clear as you read the book, is that beautiful Ikebana arrangements draw you into a world that is calm and peaceful.

There are four basic styles of Ikebana.

- *Rikka* means “standing flowers”. This is the oldest style. It seeks to represent a mythical landscape.
- *Shoka* means “three flowers”. This style seeks to represent the look of nature. It is characterized by a three-branch structure that rises free from the vase. The design represents the trinity of earth, man and the heavens.
- *Moribana* means “piled up flowers”. This style represents the detailed aspect of nature. It uses shallow containers that allow the arrangement to flow outwards.
- *Nageire* means “thrown in”. This style is meant to be free from the traditional rules. It is characterized by the use of a tall upright vase.

Book Review Continued



Rikka

Three Masters Schools

The second half of the book introduces you to three of the foremost schools of Ikebana design. The headmaster at each school discusses the philosophy of the school and presents a step by step illustration of the creation of one their floral arrangements.

The headmaster of the Ikebono School presents the Rikka that is on the left. This school teaches the traditional Shoka and Rikka styles of design.

The headmaster of the Ohara School presents the Moribana that is on the left. The Moribana school began in the late 1800's. It was the first to introduce western flowers into Ikebana designs and the first to welcome women students.



Moribana

The headmaster of the Sogetsu School presents the Sogetsu that is on the left. This school developed in the 20th Century. It broke from the rigged rules of the past and evolved a freer form of Ikebana.

This half of the book also includes guidance on cutting, conditioning your flowers and plant material, including a detailed instruction on how to bend twigs without breaking the bark. There is also a very useful section on the styles of vases that are appropriate for each style of Ikebana.

Ikebana Today

As is the case with all art, styles continue to evolve. This beautiful arrangement on the right is a wonderful example of today's Ikebana.

The vase is earth. The design invites you into a secret safe place. The cherry blossoms and branches surround you with their beauty. Rest and feel the *fruya* of the moment.



Sogetsu

This book is a great adventure for a few rainy afternoons. You can check it out through the Jonathan Bourne Public Library. I give it 5 Stars!

Looking Ahead



December Calendar

4	3:00 – 6:00 PM Holiday Green Sale at the Briggs McDermott House, 20 Sandwich Road, Bourne
5	9:30 AM (The sale will probably continue based on remaining stock.) Please email Jan Rogers at jan.rogers430@gmail.com if you can help to set up and sell. She is looking for volunteers.
16	The Board is planning on a short ZOOM Meeting to wish everyone Merry Christmas. Look for details in a future email blast.



Caring & Sharing

Online Auction for Charity

Sponsored by the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library

This year's Charing and Sharing auction will be online from **November 30 to December 8**. Go to <https://www.32auctions.com/CaringSharing2020> and buy a holiday gift that will help raise money for those in need.

At a time when the pandemic has taken so much from us, it is important to count our blessings. Caring and Sharing is a wonderful local holiday event. Once again you will find many lovely donations from AGC club members. Proceeds benefit the designated charity shown on each item.

The auction runs like an "ebay" auction. Please go online and bid on the special items that have been donated. You will find lighted tabletop trees, handmade artwork, jewelry and more. Here are a few items to spark your interest.



The State's Endangered Bog Turtle



Excerpt from Boston Globe article, by David Abel, 10-10-20

At an undisclosed location in the Berkshires, Mike Jones, state herpetologist, reached a boggy mound of moss. He spotted a narrow tunnel in the ground. He reached deep into the sodden hole and pulled out one of the rarest creatures in New England, one that has inhabited the region for thousands of years. It was a bog turtle, a squat reptile the size of a cellphone — one of only about 65 adults known to remain in Massachusetts.

Bog turtles are listed by the state as an endangered species. Jones and a small group of scientists closely monitor the native species, known for the orange blotches on their necks and the distinct pattern of rings on their shells.

Angela Sirois-Pitel, with The Nature Conservancy, pulled a 9-year-old female from the muck. She used a special file to carve five notches into its exquisitely patterned shell. The noticeable abrasions make them less marketable and easier for the scientists to identify.

The full article reports on the trade in rare and endangered species. Bog turtles sell on the black market for up to \$5,000. Turtles are the fourth largest source of wildlife on the black market. Both the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund have programs designed to save the turtle. See their websites for more information.

Great Web Site Reference Xerces.org

Xerces is the society for invertebrate conservation. Their November blog is on “Leave the Leaves to Benefit Wildlife”. Check out the site; read their great advice; and then relax.

You don't need to rake up all those leaves. They are food and shelter for butterflies, moths, beetles and more. There are so many animals that live in the leaves that support the birds and other animals in this circle of life.

You may want to clear part of your yard for play areas, tidiness, and safe walking areas. But where you can, pile the leaves into garden beds and the corners of your yard. And in the Spring dig them into the soil or put them in your compost.



Happy Holidays!

Interesting Plant Facts

At the November meeting a number of club members sang praises of the Skimmia plant, and how lovely it looks year-round. Here is a little more information on this plant.



Female - Fall & Winter Male - Mid-Summer
Japanese Skimmia

Skimmia is a genus of four evergreen shrubs in the Rutaceae family, all are native to Asia. Japanese Skimmia is a small evergreen shrub that displays clusters of fragrant flowers in the summer and bright red berries throughout the fall and winter. This slow-growing shrub reaches a mature size of three to four feet tall and four to five feet wide. It grows well in full to partial shade, no sun. It is great for holiday decorations!

The plants are **dioecious** (meaning there are both male and female plants). The female shrubs display bright red berries if they are pollinated. Plant a female and male plant close together and enjoy the beautiful red berries all fall and winter long.

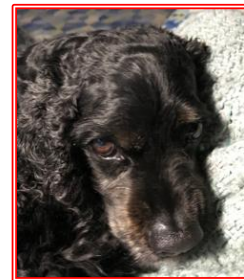
Skimmia are winter-hardy plants and grow in USDA zones 6 through 8. Once established they require little pruning. The plants are relatively deer resistive and songbirds love their berries. Unfortunately, all parts of the plant are toxic to humans and dogs. Fortunately, most dogs will instinctively avoid eating these plants. But exercise caution if you add them to your yard.



Message from the President

HO HO HO, from Santa's evergreen workshop here in Sagamore Beach. Tula and I are working hard putting together our wreaths and a few evergreen trees, in between all the raking of the leaves and pine needles. Luckily, this year, thanks to KSO, I am not really cleaning my gardens, just the lawns.

Sadly, the virus continues. I know it is hard to continue to shutter in place. We miss our families. But we are strong gardeners. We will have our first Zoom meeting in December; and we will plan some videos programs for the snowy months ahead. Meanwhile Tula decided it was time for a nap.



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Sally Baer & Tula!*

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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Visit the Aptucxet Garden Club Website www.aprucxetgardenclub.com