

Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne

Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

January 2021

Holiday Green Sale

December 4th opened with warnings of a Nor-Easter wind. But the weather was fine and the sale was a “sold-out” success. Even Santa made it on time! The spirit of the club showed through as dozens of Santa’s elves made the greens, set up the sale and bought gorgeous decorations!

*In winter, Mother Nature dims the lights,
sleeps late, hides from the world,
and regenerates.
- Terri Guillemets*



Many, many thanks to all of Santa's elves!

Butternut Squash Soup



Ingredients:

1 large butternut squash ~3#, halved vertically, seeds removed,
1 tb. olive oil, plus more for drizzling,
1/2 cup chopped shallot, 4 minced garlic cloves,
1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and quartered,
3 to 4 cups (24 - 32 oz.) vegetable or chicken stock
2 tbs. of butter, salt & ground pepper, to taste
1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg (optional)

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the butternut squash on the pan and coat lightly with olive oil. Sprinkle with a little salt and pepper. Turn squash face down and roast till tender and completely cooked through, 40 to 50 minutes. A little brown is ideal. Cool.

Meanwhile, in a large soup pot warm 1 tbs olive oil, add chopped shallots, stir and cook till golden. Add minced garlic and cook for one more minute. Add the stock to the pot, bring to a boil and add the squash flesh, discarding the skin. Add apple and cook for 4 to five minutes. With an emerged blender, blend the soup until creamy. Add salt and pepper to taste. You can thin the mixture to the preferred consistency by adding a little more stock or a little apple cider.

Serve with croutons, toasted pine nuts or cubed apple pieces. YUM!

Recipe courtesy of Isabel Melo

Decorating Highfield Hall

Alda Barron and Isabel Melo joined with designer Rita Pacheco to decorate Highfield Hall for the Holidays. The theme of “Home for the Holidays” is reflected in the use of natural materials found here on the Cape.

The Wash Ashore Tree was decorated with all wash ashore items. The clear ornaments were filled with rope and other items found at our seashore. Isn't it lovely!



The Wash Ashore Tree



Alda Barron, Isabel Melo & Rita Pacheco

Buzzard Bay Holiday Beautification

Some of our members took the left-over greens from our Green Sale and got Buzzards Bay all dressed up for the holidays. Sue Barlow's dog Cupcake was a hard-working member of the team!



Happy Holidays
From
Cupcake!

Interesting Plant Facts

Begonia



Begonia is one of the largest genera of flowering plants. It offers a wide spectrum of colors for indoor winter blooming. The species is native to South and Central America, Africa, and southern Asia. Begonias require warm temperatures, bright indirect light, and a well-drained soil.



The plants are *monoecious*, with male and female flowers on the same plant. *The male flower is on the upper left. The female flower is on the lower right.*

A *Rieger Begonia* is a cross between a fibrous and tuberous begonia. They are a magnificent indoor plant that will bloom for months.



They were developed in Germany and introduced to the market in 1955 as a Christmas flowering plant.

Like the tuberosa begonia, Riegers have dramatic blooms in bright colors. Like the wax begonia, they have stiffer stems, and bloom for a longer time.



Caring & Sharing

Online Auction for Charity

Sponsored by the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library

This year sixty lovely items were donated to the Caring & Sharing Charity Auction. Fourteen of those donations were made by members of our club! Here is quick look at what we donated.

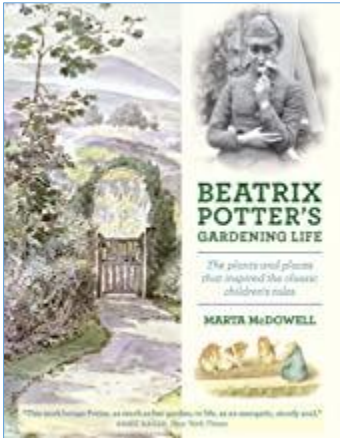


The auction was held online, and it ran for nine days. When it ended, **\$3,008 had been raised to benefit 19 charities.** Our AGC donations raised **\$911** of the total. In addition, one other member of our club helped donate four more items through her church club. Those donations brought in another \$320. This was a very good Christmas gift to the community! **Many thanks to all who participated as donors and buyers!**



Book Review Corner

Beatrice Potter's Gardening Life, by Marta McDowell



We all grew up with the tales of Peter Rabbit. We loved his mischief and the delightful illustrations of him and his friends. Little did I know that the lady who wrote his stories was a pioneer before her times. This delightful book tells the story of the life of Beatrice Potter and her gardens.

Beatrice was born into an upper middle-class British family in 1866. As a Victorian lady, she was educated at home. She loved nature and sketched the world around her. She was not expected to be a scientist, a businesswoman, an author, or a landowner. But she was all these things. She was an independent woman, determined to follow the interests of her mind.



Beatrice Potter 1913

In her twenties Beatrice became fascinated by mushrooms. She studied them and painted them for years; and then she wrote a dissertation on her research. The paper was submitted to the Linnean Society in 1897. The paper was rejected because of her sex and her amateur status. One hundred years later, the Linnean Society issued her a posthumous apology for the sexism displayed in its handling of her research. Today her fungi sketches and paintings may be seen at the Armit Museum in England and at the Perth Museum in Scotland.

Beatrice wrote many letters to her friends and their children. She included sketches of animals in her letters. This was the beginning of her career as an author of children's books. The first "Tale of Peter Rabbit" was published in 1902 when she was 36.



Tales of Peter Rabbit

Beatrice would have been considered a spinster for most of her life. She married when she was 47. She had already published dozens of books and become well to do as an author. She became a patron of land conservation in the Lake District of England. She was a good "steward of the earth".

The book closes with a section on her farm at Hill Top. Through her watercolors and sketches, you get to see her world. *This book speaks to us as gardeners and women with our own pursuits. I give this book 4 stars. – Pat Nemeth*

Winter Indoor Flowering Plants

Winter is a wonderful time to brighten our homes with indoor flowering plants. We live in a world market. Here is a quick look at where these plants originally came from.



Poinsettias

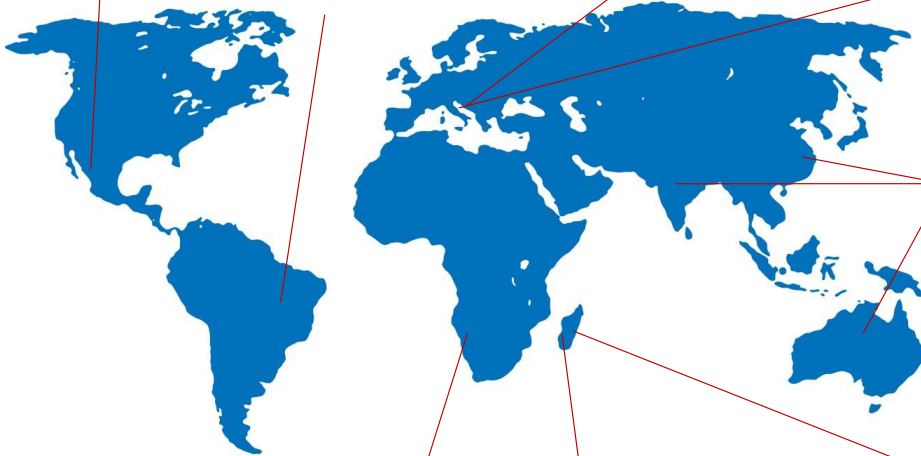


Christmas Cactus

Persian Cyclamen



Geraniums



Moth Orchid

Amaryllis



Hawaiian Wedding



Kalanchoe

Looking Ahead

January Calendar

Due to Covid 19 and our winter weather, our in person meetings have been put on hold. Other opportunities to connect through Zoom and You Tube program videos will be announced by email. Look for updates from Kathy Sargent-O'Neill. Stay warm, safe and well.

Winter Gardening Tips

1. Enjoy your indoor plants and don't forget to feed them.
2. Catch up on your gardening notes and journal entries.
3. Clean your gardening tools.
4. Feed the birds and enjoy their color!
5. Read, plan and dream of your 2021 gardening projects.



Happy Holidays!





Message from the President

Happy Holidays to all. I want to thank all the volunteers for the Greens sale, especially our Chair Jan Rogers, for all of her hard work. Many members sent in compliments. Here a just a few. *“Awesome!”* *“This makes club history!”* *“This shows that AGC has a reputation for quality and artistic ability.”* *“The club worked like a well-oiled machine to bring beautiful greens to our community.”* Wow! The Green Sale was a great success. We made a nice profit for Scholarships and Village Beautification. And compliments to the ladies that decorated Main Street with the left-over greens. What a nice job. I especially loved the canine assistance.

As we enter the winter months, I invite you all to a President’s Challenge. First, let’s get outside! We are rugged New Englanders and gardeners. My challenge is to grab a friend or two and walk one of our many trails in Bourne. Go to www.bourneconservationtrails.org and see all that the Town has to offer. Then share your adventure and pictures with Pat Nemeth for a future Newsletter. It’s an opportunity to see other parts of Bourne; and to see one another at a safe distance.

The next challenge ties to our *Steward of the Earth* goal to advance the use of Native Plants. We can begin with our Village Beautification program. I have asked Marilyn Crane to propose using native plants with our Village Beautification Invitees and ultimately recipients. This can be one of the ways AGC participates in the GCFM’s Native Plants Project. Check it out at <https://www.gcfm.org/> and let me know if you can take up the challenge.

The front page of the GCFM site, has a link to some floral design videos, titled *“FUN with Floral Design”*. I challenge our floral arrangers in January, to review the videos, make your own designs, and send us pictures. We could even do a quick Zoom meeting to share. Let me know what you think and if you would like to participate.

Also, don’t forget to review the Winter 2020 Mayflower Newsletter.

Happy Holidays, stay safe and warm,

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.

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Visit the Aptucxet Garden Club Website www.aprucxetgardenclub.com