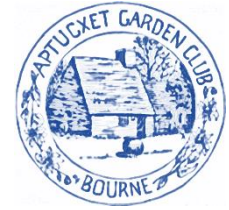


# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



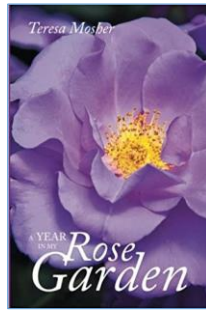
## Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

April 2021

*We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses.*  
- Abraham Lincoln

### March 8 Zoom Meeting Easy Rose Care, by Teresa Mosher



Teresa is a Master Rosarian and past President of the New England Rose Society. She is the author of [A Year in My Rose Garden](#).

Over two dozen club members gathered to hear Teresa talk about her beloved roses. She shared photo after photo of magnificent blooming plants in her backyard. Many members were amazed at how prolific some of the roses were that were growing in shady locations! The cultivars “New Dawn”, “Mother of Pearl” and “Daydream” will all bloom in semi-sunny locations.

At one point in time, Teresa had 200 roses in her yard. When asked how she managed to take care of so many roses, Teresa said she loved working in her yard. But as she has gotten older, she has had to reduce the number and size of her roses. No longer does she want to climb on a 20 footladder to prune her climbing roses. That is good advice for all of us!

It was a delightful program!

### March 24 Zoom Meeting Floral Designs Made Easy, by Anna Holmes



Anna is the host and co-producer of a floral design show on Falmouth Community TV. She is the owner of [Flowers By Anna](#) in Falmouth.

Anna produced four beautiful arrangements. As she worked, she explained her vision for each piece. It was a pleasure to watch her create. The arrangements were raffeled off. Here are two of the winners.



Parallel Design  
Won by Nancy Buckley



Spring Bouquet  
Won by Karen Cronburg

In addition, Laura Murphy won a hydrangea wreath. And, Marilyn Crane won a “picture” made by flower pounding.

Anna gave us a great class in foral design!

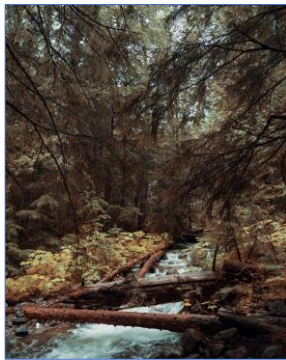
**Interesting Article: The Social Life of Trees**  
**New York Times, December 2, 2020, by Ferris Jabr**

This fascinating article is worth reading. It reports on the work of Dr. Suzanne Simard. Suzanne grew up exploring Canada’s old growth forests. As young girl she wondered why saplings planted in clear-cut forest areas were puny and often died. She suspected that the answer lay underground. This moment of wondering has defined her life.

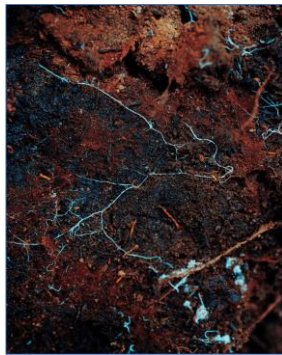
Simard began to study the partnership between tree roots and fungi. Called *mycorrhizas*, the threadlike fungi fuse with tree roots. This reciprocal relationship helps the trees extract water and nutrients from the soil; and the fungi extract sugar from the trees. This network of threads connects every tree in the forest. Seedlings separated from the network are likely to die. She calls the oldest, largest, and most interconnected trees the *mother trees*.

In grad school, her theories in about mycorrhizas were considered “girlie”. Today her work has been characterized as “cutting edge” and has influenced forest management practices throughout Canada and the northwest United States. When *mother trees* are protected, regrowth productivity is enhanced.

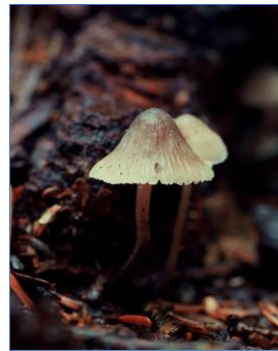
The complete article is available online. To read more about Dr. Simard’s work, check out her book *Finding the Mother Tree*. The book is available at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library.



Old forest



Mycorrhizal network



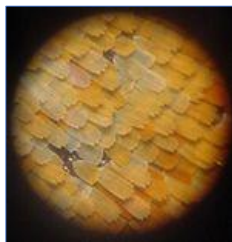
Fungi fruit



Dr. Suzanne Simard

Photos by: Brendan George Ko

**Did you know?**



Scales on Peacock Butterfly    Microscope image

Butterflies and moths are the only two insects that have scales on their wings. Scales evolved to both provide insulation and camouflage. They also have scales on other parts of their bodies.

**Good Website Resource:**  
**Grow Native Massachusetts**

[www.grownativemass](http://www.grownativemass)

Grow Native Massachusetts exists to “inspire people to action across the Commonwealth, on behalf of native plants and the diversity of life they support.” See their website for interesting articles and events.



**Bourne Food Pantry**

20 Commerce Park Rd, Pocasset



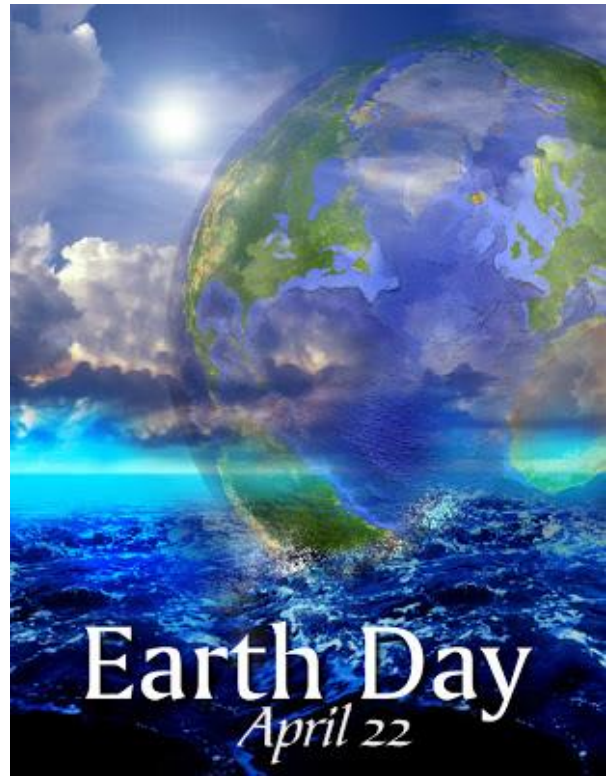
The Bourne Food Pantry is now accepting donations of food on Thursdays from 9:00 – 12:00. Or you may call 508-759-3351 to make special arrangements.

Monetary donations should be sent to the Council on Aging, PO Box 144, Buzzards Bay, 02532, and noted as a donation for the Food Pantry.

*Happy Birthday Laurie!*



Congratulations to our dear friend Laurie York who turned 97 in March! Expert gardener, lover of wildflowers and herbs ... you are amazing!



Earth Day 2021 will mark the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this holiday. This year's theme is *Restore the Earth*. What a perfect complement to our mission to be *Stewards of the Earth!*

Most of us gardeners can remember one or more projects that we worked on for an Earth Day event. I remember making posters, planting flowers, and mostly celebrating each spring my love of the earth. What shall it be this year?

It could be a gardening project with a child, or flowers for an elderly person. Maybe you will paint something, or write a poem, or take a great photograph? Or perhaps you will put on gloves, grab a trash bag, and head out to pick up litter. This would be a great project for club members to do in small groups.

Please share what you do this year. Send me your story with a photo, and next month we will post a collection of our Earth Day projects. What fun!

Send your story to: [pat.nemeth@hotmail.com](mailto:pat.nemeth@hotmail.com)

Thank you!

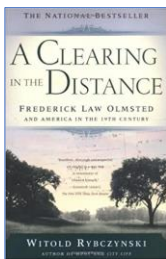


## Book Review Corner

### A Clearing in the Distance, Frederick Law Olmstead and America in the Nineteenth Century

By: Witold Rybczynski

Book Review by Sylvia Wahl



Frederick Law Olmstead is called “The Father of American Landscape Architecture.” *A Clearing in the Distance* is a good book about a worthwhile person.

Frederick was born in 1822 into a comfortable family in Hartford, Connecticut. His mother died when he was very young. His father soon remarried and started another family. His early education was mostly away from home and in a series of rural boarding schools. Olmstead described himself as “active, imaginative, impulsive, enterprising, trustful, curious and heedless.”



Sylvia Wahl

As a young man, Olmstead did a stint as a sailor, travelling to China; came home and began a life as a farmer first in Connecticut, and then more permanently in Staten Island. When he was 28, he went on a six-month backpacking tour of England to study farming. This trip turned out to be an “awakening” for him where he recognized his abilities and ambitions. On this trip he visited Birkenhead Park and saw his first “People’s Park.”

When he came home, he began to write articles and books about the land. His focus was on farming, nurseries, water, and drainage systems.

In 1857 Olmstead was selected to be the Director of Central Park. On these 800 acres, he could use his skills and his love of the land, to create a backyard park for the people of New York City. The English architect Calvert Vaux invited Olmstead to partner with him and enter the design competition for the park. This would be Frederick’s first landscape design! They won the competition in 1858.

For the next 40 years, Olmstead worked industriously designing both public and private landscapes throughout the United States. He was a prolific workaholic. Some of his other famous parks are: Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Arnold Arboretum at Harvard, Boston’s Back Bay Fens, and the U.S. Capitol grounds. He was a visionary landscape architect! He died in 1903 at the age of 81.



Frederick Law Olmstead,  
by John Singer Sargent

I enjoyed getting to know Frederick Law Olmstead, and his excitement for living and learning. – Sylvia Wahl

## A Restless Creative Mind, Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932)



*The love of gardening is a seed  
once sown that never dies.*



Munstead Wood



Lindisfarne Castle Garden

Gertrude Jekyll was born in 1843 in London, a member of the Victorian upper class. As a child, she was recognized as being a very creative artist. She was inspired by the work of the Impressionists. At 18, she enrolled in the South Kensington School of Art, where she studied botany, anatomy, and painting. Here she became interested in what she described as the “*creative art of planting.*”

Gertrude was a horticulturist, a garden designer, a painter, writer, and a businesswoman. Gertrude would go on to define the fine art of planting in England. Her gardens were laid out to resemble brush strokes of texture and color.

It is said that genius loves company. When Gertrude was in her 50’s and already independently wealthy from her work as a garden designer, she was invited to a tea party. There she met the 20-year-old architect Edwin Lutyens. Together they would work as partners for the rest of her life. His buildings and her gardens would become hallmark creations of the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

Gertrude hired Lutyens to design a home for her and her mother called Munstead Wood. She constructed walking paths through the chestnut woodlands; and created four seasonal gardens that flowered with carefully arranged shades of color. The gardens have been privately restored and are open to the public by appointment.

In addition to her commissions for garden designs, Gertrude wrote over 1,000 articles, many of which were for Country Life. Through Gertrude, Lutyens met the owner of the magazine (Edward Hudson). Together Gertrude and Lutyens would do four homes and gardens for Mr. Hudson. One of those projects was the walled garden at Lindisfarne Castle.

Gertrude Jekyll was an amazing creative force! In addition to her gardens, articles, and dozens of books, she also designed glass vases, wicker garden baskets and ran a plant nursery. What a lady! Her mind truly was a creative and restless force. No garden designer has had a more enduring influence on the British garden.



Gertrude Jekyll Roses in a Gertrude Jekyll Vase

# Looking Ahead

## AGC Zoom Meetings

Join your AGC friends through Zoom. Log on and say hello at 6:30 PM. Each program begins at 7:00 PM.

### April 14 Program

**The 10 Most Popular Container Plants & Why You Shouldn't Use Them, by Deborah Trickett**



**Deborah Trickett**  
**Owner of The Captured Garden**

Deborah is an award winning container garden designer and a certified horticulturist. She also teaches classes at the Arnold Arboretum. Her work has been featured in the Boston Globe and on the TV show New England Dream Home.

Deborah is an energetic and talented speaker. Come to the meeting, say "Hi", and enjoy an interesting program. What are the 10 most popular container plants? And why should we avoid them? This sounds like a gardening mystery too good to be missed!

*Look for a future email blast from Kathy Sargent-O'Neill for the Zoom link to the meeting.*

## Spring Plant Sale

**May 8, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**  
Pocasset Community Building



**Calling all members! It is time to get ready for our Spring Plant Sale.** Survey your garden and look at what needs to be thinned out. And perhaps you have plants that you have wintered indoors that have babies or can be propagated with cuttings.

It is a good idea to get your plants ready two weeks before the sale; and be sure to label each container. If you need extra containers, contact Marcia Willmott at [marcia1willmott@gmail.com](mailto:marcia1willmott@gmail.com)

Bring your plants to the Pocasset Community Building anytime from May 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. Place them in the back next to the big tree.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday morning for the sale. Please contact Jan Rogers at [jan.rogers430@gmail.com](mailto:jan.rogers430@gmail.com) and she will assign you a time and a duty.

**Plan to come and shop!** In addition to the donated plants, we will have a limited supply of spring May baskets, tomato plants and hardy herbs. So, come early!



Because of Covid, there will be no bake sale and no white elephant sale.

**Sandy Neck Beach Park, 425 Sandy Neck Road, West Barnstable**



Photo: CapeCod.com

Waterbirds galore are the specialty at Sandy Neck Beach Park. This park is one of the great gems of Cape Cod, with 4,700 acres of lovely dunes, marshes, and woods. Plan a big walk and bring your binoculars. Stay on the trails and keep your distance from these beautiful birds. Happy bird watching!

**News from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) on Ocean Acidification**

In 2020, the State Legislature established a Special Commission to study Ocean Acidification. WHOI is a member of the Commission and helped co-author the [Ocean Acidification Report](#) released in February.

Increased carbon dioxide levels, plus increased nutrient runoff from farms and roads, have made the ocean more acidic. Acid affects the ability of shellfish to form healthy protective shells. Rising ocean temperatures also impede shell formation.



These growing problems in the coastal waters have a direct impact on our seafood industry economy. In 2016 the seafood industry in Massachusetts supported 87,000 jobs and generated \$7.7 billion in sales. Most of the sales came from scallops and lobsters.

The shellfish industry in the U.S. is predicted to lose more than \$400 million annually by 2100 because of ocean acidification. The Massachusetts seafood industry, which is the second largest in the country, could be crippled if corrective action is not taken. The report recommends actions to improve ocean acidification monitoring, restoration of wetlands and marshes, and the reduction of nutrient pollution.

As we gardeners seek to do our part, step one is to avoid the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. We know our gardens can make a difference!

### Interesting Plant Facts:

#### Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)



Anise Hyssop is a hardy perennial that is native to the north and central plains of North America. It is a member of the mint family. It grows 36-40 inches tall, with a 24-inch spread. It bears 4-inch spikes of blue flowers. Flowers range in color from white, to blue, to lavender.

This herbal plant has long been used by Native Americans as a tea, cough medicine and respiratory tonic. Its flowers are edible and can be used in salads. It is also known as a “honey plant” and is much loved by bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Honey made from this plant is light and fragrant. The anise can be used as a seasoning that imparts a licorice flavor.

Anise blooms from mid-summer into the fall. Deadhead flowers to promote additional blooms. Dried leaves can be used in potpourri. Stalks can be used fresh or dry in flower arrangements.

The plant is deer and rabbit resistive. It has a lifespan of about 3 years; and it self-sows easily. Seeds need cold stratification; and do best when sown in the fall.



#### Message from the President

*Dear Gardeners,*

*I so enjoy seeing all your smiling faces on our Zoom meetings. While I would love to see you in person, it is coming. The ladies have put together another great Zoom meeting for April. By May, we hope we can be outside. So, hang in there, get your shot, and welcome spring.*

*Now is a great time to fertilize your perennials and edge your beds. I love the 'tone' products (Plantone, Hollytone, etc) and generally only do it in the spring. Edging can really make all your beds pop. But my main reason for edging is to increase my beds and decrease my grass, moss, and clover.*



*Hopefully, your hellebores, snowdrops and crocuses have blossomed. Remember to start digging up your plants for the sale; and let Jan Rogers know if you can volunteer. This is our major fund raiser for the year.*

*Take care and enjoy the warmer weather.  
Sally Baer*

**The Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne is a member of the Southeastern District of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, the New England Garden Clubs and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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