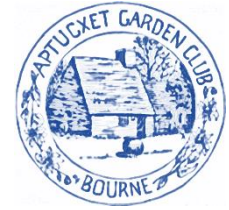


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

May 2021

April 14 AGC Zoom Meeting

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



What are the ten most popular container plants? And why should we avoid them? Maybe, because everyone uses them and that is a bit boring!

Over two dozen members joined the Zoom meeting to hear Deborah's presentation. She was a wonderful energetic speaker. Her love of gardening really showed through!

Deborah challenged us to step away from the ordinary and think creatively about the composition of our containers. Why be ordinary and use plants that everyone uses? As Dr. Suess said, "Why sit in, when you were born to stand out."

Deborah reviewed common container plants, from petunias, to impatiens, to vinca. She compared our love of these plants to our thirst for color after the long days of winter. Then she gave us numerous and unique alternatives.



Deborah shared her love of coleus plants in containers. The colors are magnificent!

We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it is our garden that is really nurturing us.

- Jenny Uglow



Calling all members! Help make our Spring Plant Sale a big success!

Bring your plants to the Pocasset Community Building anytime May 4th through the 6th. Put them in the back, next to the big tree. Make sure each one is labeled.

Volunteers are still needed on Saturday morning for the sale. Please let Jan Rogers know by May 5, if you can help, at jan.rogers430@gmail.com.

Mark Saturday May 8th on your calendar and come and shop! Come early and check out all the great native perennials, the May baskets, tomatoes, herbs and much, much more! We will also have a tool sharpening service. What a great way to get ready for working in your yard!

MFA Art in Bloom - Three Online Virtual Tours, April 30 – May 3

MFA is offering three floral design tours, with the best of the best from past shows. You can see: ***Mothers, Women Artists*** and ***Women through Time: Grace and Power***. View these 45-minute recorded tours any time over the Art in Bloom weekend. Presented by a team of art and floral guides, each video features 9 works from the MFA collection alongside the floral designs that the art inspired. On sale April 15, free for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Here is a little preview.

Majestic Interpretation of a Somber Sarcophagus



Gold vases, soaring gladiolas, protea and anthurium evoke the grandeur of Egypt.
By Beth Paisner

Soaring Interpretation of Artificial Rock



Tall blossom twigs create the framework, with a variety of white flowers to create movement.
By Julia Lizza



In Loving Memory of Sally Zeghibe 1935-2021

Sally had a special talent for design. She especially enjoyed doing period pieces like the colonial design in this picture. It was one of her many blue-ribbon winners.

For several years, Sally has been our club's Artistic Design Chairwoman. She shared her expertise at many meetings, as well as bringing design workshop opportunities to our members.

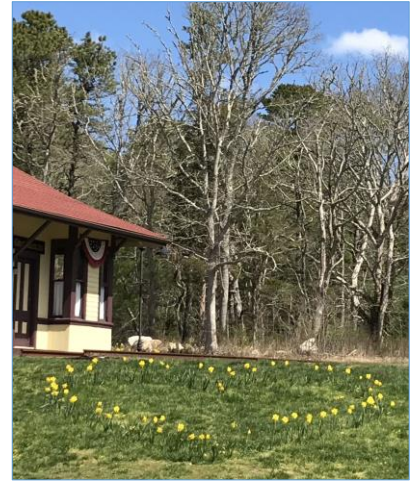
Farewell Sally. You will be missed.

- Your Dear Friend, Judy Sheehy

Donations in her memory may be made to the 2016 World Championships Scholarship Fund, at The Skating Club of Boston, 750 University Ave., Norwood, MA 02062.

Daffodil Glory at the Aptucxet Trading Post

Last fall club members planted almost TWO THOUSAND daffodil bulbs at the Aptucxet Trading Post! Just look at the beauty we helped to create! Many thanks to Dorothy Haney and Jan Casiello for organizing our dig.



Bulbs for Books

Please support your library and buy bulbs! The Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library are selling Dutch Mill Bulbs to raise money for the Library. The bulb selection is great and 50% of the revenue will go to the Library! There are eighteen wonderful choices. Here is a sample of what you will find.



Jaguar Flowers



Lavender Astilbe



Peacock Orchids



Spectacular Gladiolus

Go to <https://groups.dutchmillbulbs.com/shop/?affiliates=JBPLFriends> When you see the box titled Organization, type in Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library. Thank you!

Looking Ahead - AGC May Events

May 10 Program – OUTSIDE at the Aptucxet Trading Post

✚ 12:00 PM – Social and Business

✚ Program: Care of Plants and Combos and Gardening Tips by Michael Paduch

Learn about new annuals, old stand-by plants and plants to avoid. Come listen to this entertaining and knowledgeable speaker.

Bring a chair and your lunch. It will be wonderful to gather in person again!



Michael Paduch
Crystal Lake Gardens
252 Summer St., Plymouth &
19 West St., Carver

May Field Trip

✚ Cochata Native Plant Nursery Tour 373 N. Franklin St., Holbrook, MA

Visit this great nursery for a tour, discussion and shopping for fabulous hostas and other great plants. Drive time is about 40 minutes. *Date and driving details will be announced by email.*



Recycling Styrofoam Into Insulation

By Bobbie Dwyer, Chair, Recycling



Have you ever have wondered about recycling styrofoam? Styrofoam does not have to end up in a landfill. It can be reused. Now you can help.

Please bring your styrofoam to the meetings in May and June. However, there are some rules:

- Only clean white styrofoam, (no greasy, food-stained items),
- It can have printing on it, such as coffee cups with a logo, and
- No “peanut” foam packing.



Yes



Yes


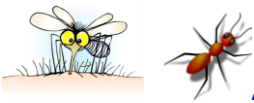


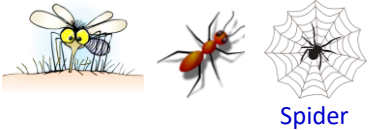

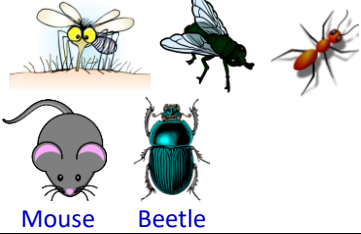



No

Bring your items in a clear plastic bag. Kathy Sargent O’Neill will bring what we have collected to **Insulation Technology, Inc.** in Bridgewater. This company recycles styrofoam into building insulation products.

Plants That Repel Insects

It has long been a custom to use plants near the doors of your home to naturally discourage the intrusion of mosquitoes, flies, and ants. Here is a quick check list of what plants can deter certain insects.

| Plant | Deters These Insects |
|------------|--|
| Basil |  Mosquito Flea Fly |
| Catmint |  Ant |
| Lavender |  Tick Moth |
| Marigold |  |
| Peppermint |  Spider |
| Rosemary |  |
| Tansy |  Mouse Beetle |
| Wormwood |  |

See **Interesting Plant Facts** on page 9 for a closer look at the Tansy.

Native Plants in the News

If you are a butterfly, not all native plants are equal. Only a few “keystone” native plants produce the majority of food for bees, moths and butterflies. The National Wildlife Federation has developed lists of keystone plants for specific regions of the country. Check out the **Native Plant Finder** on their website at nwf.org/garden

Plants are ranked by the number of butterfly and moth species that use them as host plants for their caterpillars. Here are the top six flowering plants, with their 🦋 scores.



Goldenrod
Solidago (Asterales)
125 species 🦋



Strawberry
Fragaria (Rosales)
81 species 🦋



Sunflower
Helianthus (Asterales)
56 species 🦋



Deer Vetch
Lotus (Fabales)
32 species 🦋



Joe-Pye weed
Eupatorium (Asterales)
31 species 🦋



Violet
Viola (Violales)
30 species 🦋

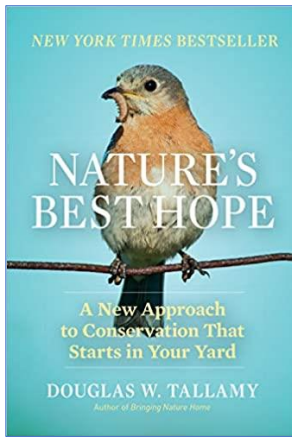
The **Native Plant Finder** is a tool you can use to identify keystone plants for your garden and help support biodiversity. To quote Doug Tallamy, *this is a global issue with a grassroots solution.*



Book Review Corner

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach

By: Douglas Tallamy



Doug Tallamy is an entomologist and author. He teaches in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.



We can save nature itself. To do that we have to change how we landscape.
– Doug Tallamy

Doug Tallamy's first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, focused on the decline of wildlife due to the decline in native plants. For many, his work help ignite a movement to grow native plants. Doug's latest book, *Nature's Best Hope* is great book to add to your reading list.

Doug begins with the importance of the caterpillar. This phase of life for moths and butterflies is a major building block in our ecosystem. Most birds feed their young on insects and most of those insects are caterpillars! Caterpillars are a bird's best source of carotenoids. And birds, just like people need carotenoids to improve their immune system and thrive!

Tallamy urges each of us to build a park in our yards. He lays out four key steps to success.

1. Shrink the lawn. It is a dead space. Think about cutting it in half.
2. Keystone native plants are essential. (See the companion article on page 4.)
3. Lose the yard lights, or at a minimum put them on a motion detector and make the bulb a yellow LED. Keystone plants do better where there are few night lights. And remember a moth's flight to a night light is a one-way trip.
4. Allow caterpillars to complete their development. Many larvae once hatched needs to burrow into soft ground, or under leaf litter to develop. So, plant a layered landscape below your trees.

No yard is too small to make a difference. Doug also chides us to stop calling Milk Weeds a "weed." Call them instead a "Monarch's Delight"; and rethink how to use them in your garden.

As we work to be *Good Stewards of the Earth*, there is no better place to start than in our own yards.

Nature's Best Hope is a wonderful book that I know you will enjoy. The book is available at our Jonathan Bourne Public library. You can also catch a few interviews with Doug on YouTube. His enthusiasm for backyard conservation is contagious! I give his book 5 Stars!

- Pat Nemeth

Know Your Cape Cod Seals

There are four types of seals found on Cape Cod. They are “true” seals. A “true” seal lacks external ears. Also, true seals cannot rotate their hind flippers, so they inch along on their bellies when they are on land. Two of our true seals, the grey seals and the harbor seals live here year-round. The other two types of seals are the harp seals and the hooded seals. These two types migrate here during the winter and spring months. However, it is rare to see a hooded seal.

Harbor and harp seals are ~ 5.5’ long and weigh ~ 300#. The male grey seal is the largest at ~ 10’ long and weighs ~ 800#. Hooded male seals are ~ 8.5’ long and weigh ~ 770#. Here is a closer look at each of these magnificent creatures.



Grey Seal

Grey seals are also called “horseheads” because of their longer snout. Pups are born December through February with a grayish white fur. Pups nurse for about 18 days and then are all by themselves. Males can be up to twice as large as females and have a large head and snout. Typically, males are dark with light spots, while females are light with dark spots.



Harbor Seal

Harbor seals have spotted fur and puppy dog-like faces. Pups are born May through June, primarily in Maine. They will nurse for about 4 weeks. Pups can swim a few minutes after birth and will sometimes accompany Mom at sea during her foraging trips. Pups may produce vocalizations that sound like “ma, ma” or “no, no”.



Harp Seal

Harp seals are also called “saddle-backed” because of the black mark on the back of adults. They are the most vocal of the seals, though when threatened they tend to play dead. Pups are born February through March up in the Arctic, and nurse for about 12 days. Pups have a white coat; juveniles have a light coat with a widely spaced spot; adults have a silver-grey coat.



Hooded Seal

Males have an inflatable hood that they can blow out to look like a large red balloon. They use this to attract mates and to intimidate other males. Pups are born in mid-March in the Arctic, and nurse for only 4 days. During this time, pups will double in size each day. Adults have bluish grey coats with irregular black splotches. Males are larger in size than females.

A Tale of Blooms and Bunnies! *By Pat Nemeth*



The Kitchen Garden freshly planted, May 2020



My echinacea eating "friend"

Last year I replanted the herb garden at the Briggs-McDermott House. I did a fair amount of research on what should be planted in a Victorian Kitchen Garden. I got advice from Margot Jenkins and Laurie York, and a helping hand from Marilyn Crane. I knew there were deer in area, so I chose deer resistive plants. And I thought all would be well. Little did I know!

The garden had: rosemary, lavender, parsley, white iris, bee balm, scented geranium, tansy, chives, echinacea, chamomile, and a border of calendula and marigolds. The chamomile never took hold. Everything else did well ... except for the echinacea! I put in 3 good sized plants and envisioned a beautiful patch of cone flowers. But the bunnies had other ideas.

I love bunnies. Everybody loves bunnies. But oh no, they ate my echinacea to the ground! I researched non pesticide methods. One suggestion was to shave Irish Spring soap around the plants. Pretty silly, huh? But I did that and bought 3 more plants to put in. Nonsense, the bunnies just ate the new plants. They didn't just eat the flowers; they ate everything!

Now I will freshen up the garden for 2021. No more echinacea and no chamomile. Back to the drawing board. Here are some herbs that are supposed to be both bunny and deer resistive.



Bee Balm



Chives



Lavender



Rosemary

All of these plants did well in the garden.



Germander



Anise



Sage



Yarrow

I will give some of these herbs a try; and we shall see what the bunnies have to say.

**Interesting Plant Facts:
Tansy (Tanacetum vulgare)**



Tansy is an herbal perennial. The ancient Greeks give us the first record of growing this plant for its medicinal properties. By the 1600s, it was a necessary home garden herb in both England and North America. It was grown for its medicinal properties and as an insect deterrent.

In Medieval times, Tansy cakes were made to celebrate the end of winter. The cakes included pounded up young leaves from the plant, along with a little wine, sugar, and nutmeg.

The name of the plant comes from the Greek word for immortality, *athanasia*. The belief in tansy's ability to arrest decay comes from the longevity of its scent and color. Tansy was often packed into coffins; and tansy wreaths were placed on the dead.

Tansy was planted near doors and windowsills to repel flies; and sprigs were placed in bed linen. In Colonial times, tansy leaves would be rubbed onto meat to keep the flies away.

Tansy has been grown in the Kitchen Garden at the Briggs-McDermott house for the last twenty plus years.



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

I write this with heavy heart as I think of Sally Zeghibe. She was a very special member of our club and one whose talents and generosity, in so many ways, will be missed. I fondly remember all of her magnificent floral designs and just smile.

Yet we go on. Spring is here and the rain is gently falling. Hooray! And hooray, we will have two OUTSIDE meetings, to complete our year. I am so looking forward to seeing all of you.

For our annual picnic, we will have a surprise guest. I hope all of you will come and enjoy the event. Bring your favorite dish and we will provide the rest. First though in May, we will have both our plant sale and a great program at our May meeting.

As we wrap up this tough year, I would like all of you to think about what the club means to you. What would you like to see more of or less of? How best can we contribute to each other, our community, and Mother Nature? I truly do mean that I would like to hear from you. Please let me know your thoughts about how we might work on things next year and going beyond.

- 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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