

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

June 2021

All gardening is landscape painting. - William Kent (1685-1748)

May 10 AGC Meeting – Hooray! Outside!

Over three dozen members gathered for the May meeting at the Aptucxet Trading Post. The day was gorgeous! The program speaker was Mike Paduch from Crystal Lake Gardens. He was bright, funny and loaded down with interesting plants! Everyone enjoyed seeing so many of their friends again!



Program: Michael Paduch, Crystal Lake Gardens

Mike gave us look into the multi-billion dollar plant industry, where most sales are based on “a pretty plant.” But what about performance? For the last 20 years, his company has focused on selling high performance annuals that will thrive on the Cape. Mike introduced us to many new annuals that have been developed to out perform prior editions. At the end of his talk, members got to buy the beautiful plants that he brought for his presentation.

Horticulture:

Jayne Urso gave a presentation on how to build a terrarium. Sally Baer held the poster, as Jayne described the layers needed for a successful mini eco-system. What fun!





Our Glorious Spring Plant Sale!

Our spring plant sale was a glorious success! The diversity of plants was amazing. We had a wide selection of trees (Rose of Sharon, Dogwood, Spruce), baskets for Mother's Day, shade plants (Hostas, Bleeding Heart, Azaleas, Turtlehead), and many sun loving plants (Irises, Montauk Daisies, tomatoes and chives). It really was one of our best stocked plant sales! In addition, we had Jane Urso's lovely glass art, and a tool sharpening service. Over a hundred folks came and bought plants. It was a rush of buying; but done with masks on and safe distances!



See the next page for more photos. Many thanks to the more than thirty club members who contributed time and plants!

thank
you!





A Special Thanks



Carol Doherty buying one of Jayne Urso's creations

Here is a special shout out for Carol Doherty! Thank you for taking many of the great photos used in the story on the plant sale. You captured both the day before and the day of the sale. Great work Carol!

Summer Garden Visits – Hooray!



One of our favorite things to do in the summer is to visit each other's gardens. These visits offer a chance to get gardening advice and to see each other's gardens. Cheryl Keown has offered to organize these visits once again. If you have questions about specific garden issues and/or would like to receive a visit from a group of your peer gardeners, please contact Cheryl at cherylkeown@jayebee.com by June 15.

Let her know if you have questions you would like to discuss during a visit of your garden, and she will send you a Garden Visit Questionnaire. Or if you just want to be a visitor, let her know. Once she knows how many folks want to participate, she will schedule the visits.

Scientists Rediscover a Wild Coffee Plant



Dr. Aaron Davis



Stenophylla

Rising temperatures threaten the global supply of coffee. Most of the coffee that we drink comes from *Coffea arabica*, a plant that likes tropical mountain locations, where there is no frost, ample sunshine, and plenty of water. Scientists predict that half of the Arabica farmland will be unproductive by 2050.

The search is on to find a wild coffee that tastes great and is heat and drought tolerant. This is "*the holy grail of coffee breeding*", said Dr Aaron Davis, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Dr. Davis and Dr. Jeremy Hagger (University of Greenwich), rediscovered *Coffea stenophylla* in Sierra Leone in 2018. Until then, the plant had not been seen since 1954.

Dr. Davis's research was published in April in the journal *Nature Plants*. Although there are 124 species of coffee plants, 60% of them are threatened, and many produce a bitter tasting bean. *Coffea stenophylla* is naturally sweet and tastes very similar to *Coffea arabica*. It grows well in warmer locations (up to 12 degrees higher than Arabica) and may well be the key to avoiding a global shortage of coffee.

"Coffee drives a multibillion-dollar global industry, supports the economy of several tropical countries, and provides livelihoods for more than 100 million coffee farmers. To find a species that flourishes at higher temperatures and has an excellent flavor is a once in a lifetime scientific discovery." - Dr. Aaron Davis

For more information you can see an interview of Dr. Davis on YouTube.

Looking Ahead - AGC June Events

June 7 (Monday) – Field Trip to Cochato Nursery

373 N. Franklin St., Holbrook, MA

4:00 PM – Tour Nursery

Join club members for a tour of this delightful nursery that specializes in unique native plants. The grounds are beautiful! The nursery is about an hour from Bourne. Travel details will be sent out by email.



June 16 (Wednesday) – Annual Picnic

Raindate June 17 - Members Only

At Sally Baer's (See Yearbook for address)



5:30 PM – Social and Business

Program: Surprise Guest Speaker!

Come celebrate our club, our friendships and our mission to be good *Stewards of the Earth*. Bring your chair and diner.



Please also bring your recycle contributions of:

-  Clean Styrofoam, and
-  Aluminum pull top tabs.



Update on Styrofoam Recycling!

The recycle company will now accept popcorn Styrofoam and colored Styrofoam! All Styrofoam needs to be clean. But you now can bring more types of Styrofoam to the June Meeting.



YES



YES



YES



YES

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.

Here Come Our Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds!



Male



Female

Hummingbirds are one of the real treats of summer. It is always so special when they come to visit you. Although there are 360 species of hummingbirds, most of them live in the tropics. Only the ruby-throated hummingbird migrates this far north. They usually arrive in May and stay through the summer. To attract them to your yard, plant native tubular flowers in bright red, orange and pink. Bee balm (*Monarda*), native honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempivirens*) and pink turtlehead (*Chelone lyoniana*) are great perennials that our little friends adore. And the annual firecracker plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*) is one of their favorites! A hummingbird feeder is also a nice extra source of sucrose.



Scholarship Winners!

In May, AGC awarded \$2,500 scholarships to two outstanding honor students. Here are our winners!

Amelia Kapuscinski from Monument Beach is graduating from Bourne High School. Amelia is a member of the Honor Society and has done many town-wide volunteer activities. She will be attending Northeastern University and will major in Environmental Science and Computer Science.

Caroline Curran from Pocasset is graduating from Sturgis Charter School East. Caroline has earned Outstanding Achievement Awards in Latin, Trigonometry, and Spanish. She has also served as the Editor of her school newspaper. She will be attending Harvard and will major in Environmental Science and Physics.

Congratulations Ladies!

- Chris Crane, Scholarship Chair

Ideas for Next Year's Programs?



Our Program Chairs, Susan Dmochowski and Nancy Selchan, are working on next year's programs. Please let them know if you have any ideas for speakers or topics.



Arranging a bowl of flowers in the morning can give a sense of quiet in a crowded day, like writing a poem, or saying a prayer.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh, [Gift from the Sea](#)



ART BLOOMS AT HERITAGE

Heritage Gardens & Museum, Heald Building

July 27 – 29, 10 AM to 5 PM

A No Judging Standard Flower Show

Garden club members here is a wonderful opportunity to show your talent at the Heritage. This would be a fun project to do with another club member. To register, send an email to Christine Decas at chrisdecas@comcast.net with your name, email, garden club affiliation, and your interest in participating. Please copy Judy Sheehy on your email, so we will know which of our members will be presenting arrangements.

Next, pick an art object of any kind to inspire you. The art might be a painting, a sculpture, needlework, or any other object of art. Then email a good picture of it to doloresma67@gmail.com by July 1. Your picture will be enlarged and displayed next to your floral design. (Tip: For best results, photograph your art against a plain white backdrop.)

Designs will be placed on Tuesday July 27, from 8 to 10 AM. Your floral arrangement should be as finished as possible. The designs will be displayed on a pedestal or on a table. The show will follow the Governor's Covid Guidelines. If you have any questions, contact Judy Sheehy, Chair Artistic Design.

Did You Know?



Dutchman Britches
Dicentra cucullaria



Squirrel Corn
Dicentra canadensis



Queen Bumble Bee

Two native wildflowers play a special role in the life of a queen bumble bee. Dutchman Britches and Squirrel Corn bloom just when the queen bumble bee emerges from her underground winter sleep. These lovely wildflowers will provide her with two things that she will need to start a new hive: nectar and pollen. She will use the nectar as food and the pollen will provide nest material for her eggs. The bee, in turn, helps the plants propagate. What a beautiful example of mutualism between plant and animal.

Wanted DEAD 2 Bad Plant THUGS!

Stewards of the Earth be on the look out for these two bad hombres! These invasive plants are causing trouble on the Cape! Both are **KNOWN KILLERS!**



Swallow-wort

Swallow-wort is also *known as black dog strangling vine!* It is a relative of the milkweed. The Monarch Butterfly is fooled by this bad actor and will lay its eggs on its leaves. BUT, the poison leaves will kill the caterpillar.

Leaves are large, shiny, dark green and grow in opposite pairs. Flowers are small star shaped and range from pink to dark purple. This vine grows in extensive patches and smothers native vegetation.



Garlic Mustard

Garlic Mustard was brought here by early settlers as a vegetable. BUT, the roots produce toxic chemicals that kill fungi in the soil that supports native plants.

The plant is green year-round, with dark triangular shaped toothed leaves arranged alternatively on the stem. The plant will grow to be 3 to 4 feet tall. In early June it produces delicate white flowers on single stems.

Destroy with Knowledge

Early detection and thorough removal is best. A good time to dig up these plants is after it rains, when it's easier to get all or most of the roots. Remove the root and the rhizomes of the Swallow-wort. Garlic mustard can be cut down prior to flowering. In both cases, cut the flower tops to prevent the plants from going to seed. All cuttings and roots are garbage and should not be put in compost. Avoid spreading the seeds. Both bad hombres are tenacious. Removal requires yearly and (for garlic mustard) even seasonal attention.

New York Times, Look Fast: It's Spring Wildflower Season

By Margaret Roach, April 30, 2021 (*Extract copy shown in blue.*)

My adventures in wildflower propagation began on my knees, as so many garden tasks do. I spied three small bits of green tucked just beneath the edge of the front porch and crawled down to investigate. "Whoever you are, you cannot grow under there," I thought. Then, with a trowel, I lifted the strangers out. How did they get there? Probably the work of ants.



The little plants under Ms. Roach's porch were Wake of Robin Trilliums.

With this delightful quote, Ms. Roach begins her article on trilliums and ants. Quickly you learn that these spring wildflowers do everything in threes. Trilliums are herbaceous perennials that grow from rhizomes. They are native to North America and Asia.

Ms. Roach quotes from a new book, Florapedia: A Brief Compendium of Floral Lore, by Carol Gracie. *One entry in the book, under "E," is elaiosome: the lipid-rich structure attached to each trillium seed that is the prize ants seek, grabbing one to carry back to the nest, to feed to their developing broods. By providing an enticement for ants to take its seeds, a plant ensures that the seeds will have a chance to grow in other localities, where they won't have to compete with the parent plant for resources. Ecologists call this ant-plant mutualism myrmecochory, from the Greek words "myrmex" for "ant" and "chorein" for "to wander."*

Our four most common trillium spring flowers are shown below.



Wake of Robin
Trillium erectum



Whip-Poor-Will
Trillium cernuum



Painted Lady
Trillium undulatum



Great White
Trillium grandiflora

The age of a trillium can be estimated by the annual ridges on the rhizomes. The ridges represent where the stem arose in a previous year. Although the oldest ends of old rhizomes may be missing, using this "count the constrictions" method has revealed trilliums as old as 70 years.

Ms. Roach goes on to say, *wild violets are definitely not weeds. Like ants, wild violets are too often disregarded by gardeners. Violets offer benefits besides their homespun beauty. They are host plants for caterpillars of fritillary butterflies. In late summer, adult butterflies lay their eggs on or near them. Is your respect for violets increasing yet, alongside an appreciation of ants?*

Wow! I will never look at an ant or a wild violet the same way again. Many thanks to Kathy Sargent-O'Neill for sharing this informative article.



Viola sororia

See the next page for a review of Carol Gracie's book.



Book Review Corner
Florapedia, A Brief Compendium of Floral Lore
By: Carol Gracie



Carol Gracie fell in love with wildflowers as a young girl. She fed that love with years of walking in the woods, photographing plants and reading, reading, reading! Along the way she worked for 30 years at the New York Botanical Gardens, where she taught the children's education program, and ran the foreign travel program.

While there she met and married her husband Scott Mori, a distinguished botanist. Together they traveled to the Galapagos Islands, French New Guinea, and the Amazon to study plants. Scott passed away last year.



Carol and Scott in the Amazon



Carol Gracie

Carol continues the legacy of their love of plants, with her latest book, **Florapedia**.

As you might imagine, a lady with a life as interesting as Carol's, has some amazing stories to tell. **Florapedia** is a collection of short articles about plant botany and related topics. It is illustrated with sketches by Amy Porter. Pour yourself a cup of tea and enjoy browsing through a diverse array of topics ranging from: Picasso's Bouquet of Peace poster, to *Jeffersonia diphylla*, to the roadside weed Queen Anne's lace.



- Other books by the author:
- Wildflowers in Field and Forest (2006)
 - Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast (2012)
 - Summer Wildflowers of the Northeast (2020)

This is a fun reading experience, that is sure to give you new nuggets of information. There are over one hundred topics, each covered in a page or two. I give book 3 stars. – Pat Nemeth

Interesting Plant Facts: The Peace Rose



The story of the Peace rose begins with a famous rose-breeding family in France. In 1935, the Meilland family crossbred hundreds of roses, hoping to create new viable variety of the flower. One of the crosses produced a unique bloom with yellow petals edged with pink, which the family named *Rosa Madame A. Meilland*.

As World War II escalated and France was threatened with invasion, two packages of the new rose's budwood were sent to gardeners in Germany and Italy. A third package was sent to the U.S. Consul, who took it with him as he left France. He then sent the budwood to an American breeder, who cultivated the rose and sent cuttings to test the plant in various climatic zones and soil conditions.

The trials were so successful that the rose was introduced on April 29, 1945 and given the name of the Peace Rose. Peace roses were given to each of the delegations at the first meeting of the United Nations, with a note that read, *We hope the 'Peace' rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace*".

This hardy hybrid tea rose is a favorite in many gardens. What a lovely history!



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

It was wonderful to see so many of you turn out for the plant sale and our meeting. I, for one, loved being in person.

It has been a tough year for all of us. But the light is dawning. In the upcoming months, the club will wrap up our year and start planning for next year. We get to welcome family and friends to our gardens and the Cape. And as noted, there are several club events still coming up. Your interest and participation are very much welcomed.

For the annual picnic bring your chair, dinner, and come and greet your fellow gardeners. Our speaker is one not of gardening per se; but is a person of local interest to us all. If you can guess who it might be, or the topic they will speak about, please drop me an email and you will win a surprise.

I end by thanking all of you for the work that you do for the club and the community.

*Happy Gardening to my fellow **Stewards of the Earth!***

- 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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