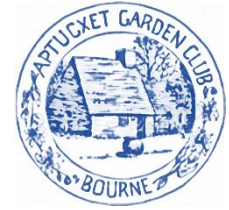


# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



## Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

December 2021



*Everybody needs beauty as well as bread,  
places to play in and pray in, where nature  
may heal and give strength to body and soul.*  
- John Muir

### November Meeting

About three dozen members gathered for our first indoor meeting since the pandemic hit our world in the spring of 2020. It was especially nice on a cool November day, to be back indoors. Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee for serving a variety of finger sandwiches, baked goodies and apple cider. Here are a few highlights from the meeting.



*Suzanne Mahler*

Our program was very diverse and interesting. Alda Barron kicked it off with a discussion on the basic design elements in floral design. Next, Jayne Urso demonstrated how to make your own decorated concrete stepping stone. Then, Sally Bayer discussed submittal criteria for the category of needle evergreens for the winter horticulture show. *(See page 3 for a summary of her presentation.)*

Suzanne Mahler was the program speaker. Suzanne is a passionate gardener and photographer. She gave a wonderfully illustrated talk about pollinator plants and birds. A number of her photos were taken at the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden. *(See the next page for more information on this wonderful garden.)*



*A lovely lunch*



*Beautiful flowers*



*Friends catching up*

**Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, 106 Barters Island Road, Boothbay Harbor, ME**



*Children's Garden*



*Garden of the Five Senses*

A casual conservation between friends in 1991, launched this magnificent Botanical Garden. The original seven founders and numerous other sponsors bought 323 acres and went to work. The site is laid out with hiking trails and a number of themed gardens. Two of the gardens are shown above. Also, not to be missed is the Native Butterfly and Moth House that opened in 2018.

Go to <https://www.maine gardens.org/> to learn more and plan a visit! The garden is open to visitors from mid-April until the end of October.



**Santa's Helpers Behind the Scenes!**



As we get ready for our wreath and centerpiece making workshops, many of our members have been hard at work getting everything prepared. Making the bows and picks, getting the basic green wreaths, assembling the makings for the boxwood trees ... all these behind-the-scenes activities have been done by the AGC elves! Many thanks to all of Santa's helpers for setting the stage!



*Bags with boxwood, oasis and a dish are packaged for the trees to be assembled. Plain wreaths lie waiting to be fancied up. And fancy they will be, with decorations of additional greens, ribbons, and ornaments!*



## Looking Ahead - AGC December Events

<b>Dec. 1</b> Bourne United Methodist Church	<b>Holiday Centerpiece and Mug Workshop</b> Please bring greens, gloves, clippers and your holiday spirit. All other materials will be provided. This is a fun event and all members are urged to come and help make beautiful items for our Green Sale.
<b>Dec 3 &amp; Dec 4</b> Briggs-McDermott House – Outside	<b>Green Sale</b> Friday the 3 <sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 - 6:00 pm Saturday the 4 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 am
<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>Evening Meeting ... CANCELLED</b> Due to Covid the holiday potluck and gift exchange has been cancelled.
<b>December 16</b> Bourne Manor	<b>Garden Therapy</b> 10:00 am

Happy Holidays!



### The Flower Show Corner – Horticulture Specialty Flower Show Getting Ready for our February Show



Sally Baer

In preparation for the winter horticulture show, Sally spoke at the November meeting on the topic of **Needle Evergreens**. Firs, pines and spruces are known as needle evergreens. Sally brought in numerous types of greens and discussed the merits of each branch.

A good branch presents an “ideal” representation of its type of evergreen. The branch should not more than 30” long. The branch should be balanced in its growth pattern and display cones or berries if proper to its type. Branches will also show apical tip growth. Keep in mind that the branch will be presented standing up in a bottle.

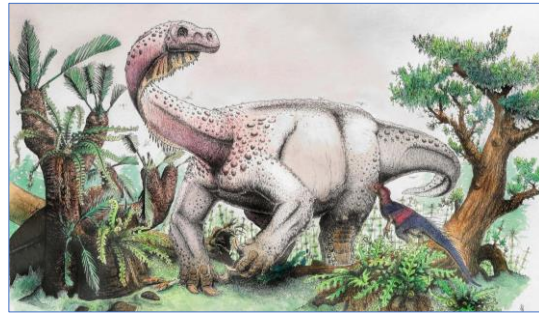
The AGC Horticulture Flower Show will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Pocasset Community Building. Additional tips will be provided. Sign-ups for entries and support positions will be circulated at future meetings. In addition, educational “tri-board” exhibits are invited. Please think about how you would like to take part in this educational event.

## Did you know?

### Proteas and Dinosaurs



Pink King Protea



Proteas date back 300 million years, making them one of the oldest flowers on the planet. The family Proteaceae was one of the earliest groups of flowering plants, dispersing and diversifying throughout Gondwana before the breakup of the supercontinent. Proteas were around and blooming at the same time that dinosaurs roamed the planet.

Protea is a genus of around 50 species of flowering shrubs and trees native to South Africa and Australia. They are also called *sugar bushes*. Their flowers come in shades of pink, red, orange, white and yellow. The genus *Protea* was named in 1735 by Carl Linnaeus, after the Greek god *Proteus*. In the 1800s, nectar from the Protea was used medicinally as a cough syrup.

The King Protea is pollinated by insects, birds, bats, and small mammals, making it essential in many ecosystems. The outer ring of petals on the King Protea resembles a crown, which befits its name. The King Protea is South Africa's national flower.



### Caring & Sharing 2021

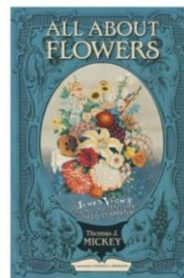
**Please shop!** Donations will benefit a dozen charities. Auction items range from tabletop trees to books, from art to many handmade gifts, and much more. You will find over 50 lovely items to consider. The auction will be held from November 29 to December 8. To shop the auction go to

<https://www.32auctions.com/CaringSharing2021>

Drop off and pickup of the items will be on Saturday December 11 at the Library. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library.*

### A Small World Connection

Our Book Review in September featured the new book by Dr. Thomas Mickey, ***All About Flowers: James Vick's Nineteenth Century Seed Company.*** Somehow our little Newsletter travelled to the desk of the author in Quincy, MA. He wrote us back!



*Hello,  
I just read your review of my book in your Garden Club Newsletter. Thank you so much. I appreciate the kind words.*

*- Tom Mickey*

I thought the club members would enjoy this small world connection. - Pat Nemeth

### Please Shop Our Green Sale

December 3, 2:00-6:00 pm

December 4, 9:00-11:00 am



Bring family and friends and come and shop our green sale. Its time for Christmas in Old Bourne Village. Nothing kicks off the holidays better than being outside at the Briggs-McDermott House selling our beautiful handmade green decorations.

This is our big sale of the year. Come and support your club. Go home with beautiful green decorations!

### Think recycling as you unwrap all those Christmas gifts!



Oh Boy! Lots of cardboard for the Recycling Bin! BUT let's do more! There will be a special **Styrofoam Collection at our January Meeting.** Please save the Styrofoam packaging from your holiday gifts and bring it bagged to the January meeting. Make sure the Styrofoam containers are rinsed well, if they contained food. Your Styrofoam will be recycled into building insulation.

See Kathy Sargent-O'Neill with your donations. Many Thanks!

### Great Ikebana Workshop



Late in October, the Design Committee sponsored an Ikebana workshop at Alda Barron's home. Judy Sheehy and Alda, taught 12 members of the club how to make an Ikebana arrangement. The ancient Japanese art of Ikebana flower arranging began as a spiritual offering. The floral designs are meant to be a reflection of man and his place in the universe.

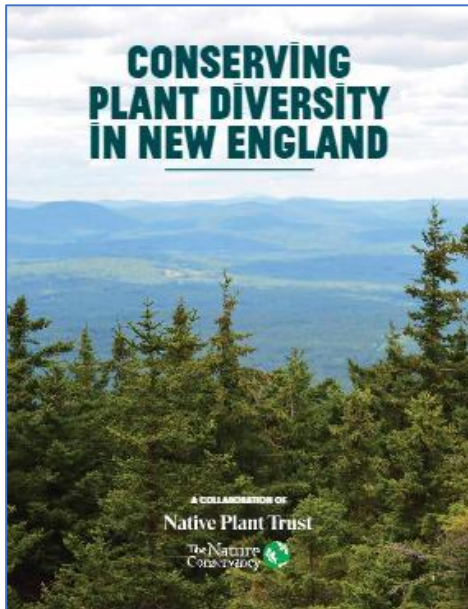
AGC members learned that a Moribana design begins with the diameter of the container. **Shin** branches are the tallest and most upright, **soe** flowers and branches are medium height and at a right angle, and **tai** branches and flowers are the base elements. And there are rules for the lengths and angles of each.

The spirit of Meredith Chase was at the workshop. Our dear friend donated all the frogs (kezan holders) and low containers that were used. Members learned the basic principles of Ikebana design and made an arrangement to take home. And then to top it all off, participants were treated to tea and a scrumptious apple crisp!

Many thanks to Judy and Alda for the workshop!







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*Plants are the basis for life on earth.*



*Wetlands are critical to sustaining almost half of our plants, birds and other wildlife.*

## Report Review – New England Summary

The new report *Conserving Plant Diversity in New England* is the result of a two-year study done by Native Plant Trust and The Nature Conservancy. The report is the first to identify specific sites to protect to ensure the survival of biologically diverse landscapes across New England.

The United Nations Global Strategy for Plant Conservation calls for protecting 30% of the world's ecosystems by 2030. This report provides a scientific framework and a detailed roadmap for achieving this goal.

Mark Anderson is the Director of Conservation with The Nature Conservancy. He is quoted as saying, *"The key question is, has a century of conservation protected enough land in the right places to save the region's plant diversity as the climate changes? And the answer is, not yet."*

The report assesses the progress made in the last century to conserve the region's plant diversity. First, the study mapped the distribution of forests, wetlands and other unique habitats in the six state region. Then, it identified 234 most Important Plant Areas (IPAs). Each IPA is a climate resilient area with a relative abundance of rare and endangered plant species. Finally, it recommends the acreage that needs to be conserved in each IPA.

The report concludes that we need to conserve an additional 2.3 million acres in New England. It identifies which areas are priorities in each state. See the next page for a summary of the recommendations for our state.

## Report Review – Massachusetts Summary



*Salt Marsh Hay*  
*North Atlantic Plain Heathland & Grassland*



*North Atlantic Pitch Pine Barrens*



*North-Central Interior & Appalachian Rich Swamp*

Massachusetts has 35 mapped habitats, covering 3.7 million acres. On average each habitat is 9% protected and remains open to other uses such as logging, mineral extraction and recreation.

We have 88 Important Plant Areas. Of these IPAs, 17 are permanently secured by ownership; and 2 are protected as dedicated conservation areas. The report names 11 unprotected habitats that are threatened by conversion; and half of these are listed as *“high responsibility to conserve.”*

In Massachusetts globally rare habitats like the coastal plains, pitch pine barrens, and sand dunes met the minimum requirements for protection; but are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Michael Piantedosi, Director of Conservation with the Native Plant Trust (and co-author of the report) said, *“A lot of sand and silt based habitats in Massachusetts are disproportionately eroded ... and it makes sense to invest conservation effort into (these areas). Coastal plain habitats are also at risk. Time is running out and we have quite a crisis on our hands.”*

In Massachusetts, 382,000 acres are identified for additional conservation on climate-resilient land.

To read the report and check out the impressive interactive mapping tool go to the website of Native Plant Trust. The full report is 250 pages. But you can start with the Executive summary, dive into the MA Summary and then use the mapping tool to zoom down and explore detailed habitats in our local area.

Education, knowledge and action are all linked together as we work to be better *stewards of the earth.*

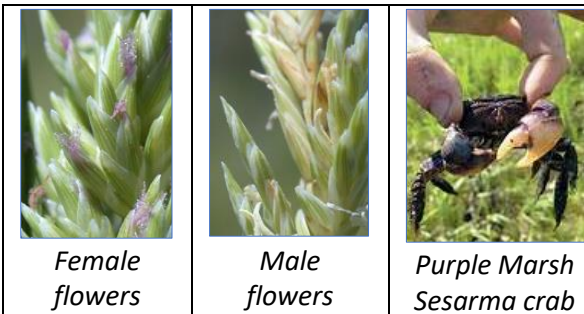
- Pat Nemeth

### Interesting Plant Facts: Salt Marsh Hay



One of (if not the last) marsh hay harvesting boats is located at the Salt Pond Visitor's Center of the Cape Cod National Seashore in Eastham. As you stand at the Center, looking out upon Nauset Marsh, it's easy to travel back in time to a warm summer day August in the 1800's. The hay is ready to be harvested.

Salt-marsh cord-grass (*Distichlis spicata*) is a common salt meadow hay species. It forms large mats of low vegetation. The grass flowers August to October. It is an unusual grass, with the male and female flowers on separate plants.



Marsh hay was used for bedding, fodder for cattle, and mulch in gardens. Today salt-marsh cord-grass is in decline on Cape Cod, due to over-grazing by **Sesarma crabs**. The over-population of the purple marsh crab has been caused by over-harvesting its natural predators, such as blue crabs, striped bass, and cod.



### Message from the President

*My Dear Fellow Gardeners,*

*Winter is just about here, and my garden is covered with leaves. The upcoming holidays are a good time for reflection and thinking of others. I am grateful for all of you; and I thank you for your participation in the green workshops. I know the Greens Sale will be a big success.*

*As the cold weather moves in and brings with it a new strain of the virus, the Board has decided to cancel the Christmas meeting. Instead, we will send a donation to the Bourne Food Pantry. We ask that everyone share their own good fortune with any neighbors or friends that may need a hand. Although it is unfortunate that we will not meet this month, our friendships and love of gardening unites us.*

*We will continue our meetings in January, most likely on zoom. We have many wonderful speakers lined up and ready to bring us knowledge and fun in 2022! So, stay safe, mask up, and enjoy your holiday.*

*Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas!*

*- Sally Baer*

**The Aptucxet 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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