

Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne

Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

January 2022



The truth is, the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water, and air. It is the most precious thing we have; and we need to defend it. – David Attenborough

December Events

The month began with a flurry of activity as club members worked to finish all the preparations for the Greens Sale. The sale was big success. The community turned out to buy the wreaths, swags, centerpieces, and mugs. Here are Santa's helpers getting everything ready for the sale. It was a beautiful sunny day; but just a little nippy! See the following pages for photos of more of the club's holiday happenings!







Greens
Sale!






Beautiful wreaths,
swags and
centerpieces!



Looking Ahead - AGC January Events

<p>Jan. 10</p> 	<p>Evening ZOOM Meeting, 6:30 PM Look for email from Kathy Sargent-O'Neill for connection details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Meeting Artistic Design – Demonstration Horticulture – Tips for the Horticulture Flower Show in February • Program – Raptors of Cape Cod Chris Wade from MASS Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, will discuss various raptors and their amazing migrations.
<p>Jan 19</p>	<p>Garden Therapy, 10:00 AM Cape Cod Nursing Home</p>

Garden Therapy Nursing Homes News Kindness At Work

When the time comes that one needs assisted living, the world begins to shrink a bit. You step away from the place you have called home and many friends and activities. Often you lose the freedom of mobility. And in the last two years, Covid further restricted the world. So many doors close.

The Garden Therapy Committee works to open a door and bring in the light. Every month the Committee brings flowers to either the Cape Cod Nursing Home or the Bourne Manor. This is true kindness at work! The Committee Chair and all members of the club send special holiday thanks to the committee.



At work at Bourne Manor

To the Garden Therapy Nursing Homes Committee Members:

The Garden Therapy committee has done all they can to continue the good will toward Bourne residents who are in Bourne nursing homes. When we were not able to visit, we arranged flowers and delivered them to Cape Cod and Bourne Manor nursing homes. We know the flowers are very appreciated.

I want to thank our committee members for their commitment.

- Paula O'Neill, Committee Chair

Please see email from Kathy Sargent-O'Neill about help needed in January and February. Paula needs an interim Committee Chair for these two months. If you can help, contact her at pollykayak@comcast.net

January Styrofoam Collection



So many things come with Styrofoam protection. As you open your holiday gifts, please think recycling. Then bring your saved Styrofoam packaging to the Bourne United Methodist Church parking lot on **January 12, from 10:45 to 11:00 AM**. Kathy Sargent-O'Neill will be there to pick up your donations.

Please bag the Styrofoam and make sure containers were rinsed well if they held food. Your Styrofoam will be recycled into building insulation.

Thanks for being good *Stewards of the Earth!*



College Scholarship Applications

GCFM offers eleven scholarships. Applicants need to be seniors with a minimum "B" or better GPA, plan to major in related field, and have financial need. Scholarship awards may vary, but in the past have been about \$1,000. To learn more about the program go to:

<https://www.gcfm.org/gcfm-scholarships>

Applications for a GCFM Scholarship are due March 1. See the website for details on the application requirements, which include an essay on the student's career plans.

Caring & Sharing 2021

Many thanks to all who participated in Caring and Sharing. The auction raised \$1,972 for 17 charities. AGC members gave 16 items and raised \$601 with their donations! Here are four of those donations



Geometric Needlepoint
by Sally Bear



Irish Basket
by Pat Nemeth



Santa Flag
By Pam Matheson



Beach Stone Tree
By Nancy Selchan

Happy Holiday Greetings



The club received a lovely handmade card from our past President Joan Bolton.

Just a note to say how much I enjoy the newsletter, which keeps me informed of the club's many activities. I so miss everyone and pray that sometime soon things can return to normal. Good luck with the Flower Show. I know how much work a show is for everyone.

Happy Holidays to you all.

- Joan Bolton

**A Holiday Treat
Betsy's Brickle**



*Betsy Woodley's Brickle
with her AGC Boxwood Tree!*

Recipe:

Line a 10" X 15" cookie sheet with tin foil and spray with PAM. Line the bottom of the pan with Saltine crackers. Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees.

Melt 2 sticks of butter and 1 cup of sugar and cook (stirring) until thick and it starts to boil. Pour over the crackers and bake 6 to 8 minutes.

Remove from oven and sprinkle with 12 oz. package of semi-sweet chocolate bits. Spread gently. Sprinkle with finely chopped walnuts and red, white and green sprinkles. Then press down gently.

Freeze on cookie sheet for about 1 hour. Then remove from freezer and cover with Saran Wrap. Freeze for at least another 2 hours, or overnight.

Remove from freezer, peel off foil, and break into pieces to enjoy! The pieces will not melt or get too soft if left out when serving.

Betsy shares this recipe that she got from Beth Ellis of Barnstable Village. For other great recipes check out AGC's Cookbook!

February's Horticulture Flower Show

**Section B: Soft and Shiny
The Broad Leaf Evergreen Category
By Sally Baer**

This category of the flower show incorporates some of my favorite shrubs: broad leaf evergreens. We will have 6 categories: Leucothoe, Pieris, Skimmia - with and without fruit, and Any Other worthy specimen - with and without fruit.

The "Any Other" category can include other broad leaf specimens, such as: Prunus laurocerasus 'Schipkaens' (Skip Laurel), Rhododendrons, Sweetbay Magnolias, Ilex crenata (Japanese Holly), Ilex x meserveaea (Blue Holly), Euonymus and Leatherleaf Viburnum. Here are some photos that will help you identify these specimens.



Leucothoe



Pieris



Skimmia



Skip Laurel



Euonymus



Viburnum

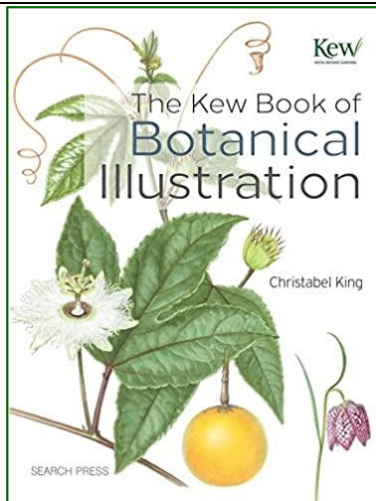
Requirements for presenting these evergreens are similar to other categories. Make sure that there are no brown areas, branches are nicely formed, and do not to exceed 30" in length. Check out your yard and bring a few into the flower show for presentation.



Book Review Corner

The Kew Book of Botanical Illustration

By: Christabel King



Published 2015



Christabel King

Botanical art is science and art fused into one. Here is a wonderful guidebook to drawing botanical illustrations.

Kew is an eminent worldwide center for botanical science and the preservation of plant species. Christabel King has been doing illustrations for them for 40 years and is their foremost botanical artist.

In her book she explains both scientific botanical illustration and the looser form of botanical art. She covers materials, collecting and preserving plant specimens, drawing, painting techniques, magnification, composition, light, shade and transferring drawings. She illustrates how to paint leaves, flowers, cacti and succulents, wildflowers and trees. And like every good teacher, she gives encouraging advice. Here is one excerpt.

A detailed botanical drawing or painting takes a long time to do, so the best type of plant for beginners is something which does not change too quickly. To start with, drawing the details can seem like a daunting task; but practice brings confidence. If you don't succeed the first time, scrap the drawing, and start again, perhaps from a different angle. The more drawing you do, the faster you will improve.

I love her words, *practice brings confidence*. Like many club members, I like to sketch. This book was fun to read and study. And it motivated me to want to do a botanical illustration. If you have ever had that urge, this is the book for you. This can be a fun winter pursuit in the warmth of your kitchen, with a cup of tea at hand.

A chapter on travel drawings gives a flavor of the author's passion and worldwide experience. The book is illustrated with beautiful drawings and paintings. It is available from the Jonathan Bourne Public Library. I give the book 5 stars! I hope you will enjoy it.

– Pat Nemeth

Interesting Plant Facts: Holly, *Ilex*



Holly is a genus of over 560 species of plants. Holly bushes are broad leaf evergreen shrubs that reach heights of 9 feet. Many are hardy to USDA zones 8 and 9, such as winterberry, inkberry, and American holly.

The common ancestor of most of today's species appeared about 50 million years ago. Most of the species require male and female plants to thrive in your garden. Having male and female plants from the same species encourages healthy cross-pollination.

The Nellie Stevens holly is a fast-growing holly tree and makes a good privacy screen or windbreak. This female holly is unique in that it will produce berries without a male holly.

Holly berries are an extremely important food for numerous species of birds. In the autumn and early winter, the fruits are hard and unpalatable. After being frozen or frosted several times, the fruits soften, and become milder in taste. During winter storms birds will often take refuge in hollies, which provide shelter, protection from predators, and food.

Druids held that holly offered protection against evil spirits and thus wore holly leaves in their hair. In heraldry, holly symbolizes truth. And Harry Potter's wand is made from holly wood. How great is that!



Message from the President

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Winter is trying to arrive, but fall keeps popping back up. While I enjoy the warmer weather, I must admit I would love to have a white Christmas! Yes, I am writing before the holiday. I send you greetings for a Happy New Year!

Covid continues to nix our ability to meet in person. We will have a Zoom meeting in January. Much thanks to our Program Chairs, Sue Dmochowski and Nancy Selchan. They have worked hard to ensure that our programs can be enjoyed through Zoom. I am excited to see our January program.

We have also decided, at this time, that the Flower show will continue, masked and distanced. At our January meeting, I will answer any questions about the show. Also, I still need a few more volunteers. Please let me know if you can help.

Lastly, Ladies our nomination committee will begin their quest for our new slate of officers. If you have any interest in serving our club, please let Kathy Sargent-O'Neill know. It is an honor that I have enjoyed immensely.

- 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.

Newsletter Editor: Pat Nemeth pat.nemeth@hotmail.com
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