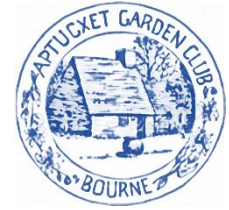


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



Stewards of the Earth

Monthly Newsletter

April 2022



*If you take a flower in your hand
and really look at it,
It's your world for moment.*

- Georgia O'Keeffe

March Meeting Report

Our March meeting was amazing! We had beautiful topiary examples made by Alda Barron, Darlene Chickosky, and Judy Sheehy. The Hospitality Committee outdid itself, with our first lunch of treats in many, many months! And the program speaker Thelma Shoneman was inspirational!

Now if you think that is just too many superlatives in one paragraph, you just weren't at the meeting. More details and photos follow on the next page.

Amy Fenton reported on a class she attended on the invasive Asian Jumping Worm. She described the life cycle of the worm. Their eggs hatch in the spring. The worms will grow until the ground freezes and they die. They are bigger than earthworms. If you see them in your yard, kill them by dropping them in a zip lock bag, and then throw it into the trash. See page 5 for more information.

As gardeners we know not to offer unhealthy plants at our plant sales. But in the spring, you may have jumping worm eggs, and not know you have a problem. The solution is to wash the roots of your transplanted plants, and then repot them in fresh soil.



President Sally Baer opened the meeting.



A Lovely Tree by Darlene Chickosky

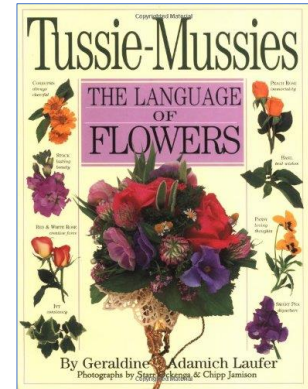
Floral Design by Thelma Shoneman

Thelma Shoneman is a nationally accredited Master Flower Show Judge. But boy is she more than that! She began her lifelong passion for floral design by arranging flowers for her church. She would read the scripture for the Sunday service and use it as inspiration for her arrangements.

The language of flowers intrigued her. Their historic meaning became musical notes that she would weave into her designs. She brought with her three books that she recommended. Here they are:

- The Language of Flowers by Geraldine Laufer,
- A Victorian Flower Dictionary by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, and
- Floral Art in the Church by Jack Inman.

Thelma is also known for her skill at leaf manipulation. Members learned how to: weave leaves, make fans, reinforce leaves with wires to bend them and then how hide the wire. We also learned about the magic of Da-Hes glue dots.



Thelma is an amazingly creative designer. She prepared five floral designs. One was a conventional massed design. All the others were asymmetric. Each one was gorgeous with its colors and textures. With each design, she began by describing a vision for the experience that she wanted to create. More than just pretty flowers in a vase, she wanted us to feel something when we looked at her designs. Her presentation was truly a master's class!



Wedding Centerpiece



Woodland Expression



Window of Hope



Garden Stroll

A Touch of Gracious Hospitality

After so many months of no home-made goodies, it was so nice to see a table filled with items lovingly offered. **Special Thanks** goes to the March Hospitality Committee: Alda Barron, Sally Curtin, Amy Fenton, Isabel Melo, Helen Migliaccio and Marcia Wilmott!



Here are two recipes from the luncheon.

Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwiches

Recipe from Isabel Melo

Ingredients

2 cups shredded cooked chicken
½ cup mayonnaise
Juice of ½ lemon
1 tbs chopped parsley
¼ cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup diced celery
½ cup quartered red grapes
¼ cup chopped walnuts
½ tsp black pepper
½ tsp kosher salt

Preparation

In a large bowl combine mayonnaise, lemon juice, salt, pepper, and parsley. Add all other ingredients. Stir well to combine.

Serve on toasted bread, croissants, or lettuce wraps.

Note: You can substitute dry cranberries or apple or pear cubes for the grapes. If you use apple or pear cubes, drizzle them with lemon juice to prevent browning.

Cream Cheese Brownies

Recipe from Alda Barron

Ingredients

Brownie Layer:

1 cup flour
½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
4 tbs butter
½ cup sugar
2 eggs
¼ cup milk

Cream Cheese Layer:

1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese
¼ cup sugar
1 egg
1/3 cup sour cream
½ tsp vanilla
2/3 cup sliced almonds

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 8" square pan, line w greased waxed paper, then dust with flour.

Mix the brownie layer and spread in the pan. Bake for 10 min.

Cream the butter and the sugar, beat in 1 egg at a time. Add dry ingredients and milk and beat well. Pour over brownie layer, sprinkle almonds on top and bake for another 20 to 25 minutes.

Let cool and then cut into 15 bars.



California Bans Gas Powered Lawn Mowers

Starting in 2024, the sale of gas-powered landscaping equipment will be prohibited in California due to their emissions. In 2020, daily emissions from these sources were higher than emissions from light-duty passenger cars. This ban will require the move from gas-powered equipment to zero-emission options such as battery-powered or plug in.

Don't Mess With The Cape!



It is sad but true, that some folks don't pick up after themselves! Whether walking a beach, or driving along one of our roads, you can't help but notice the bottles, papers, food wraps, and cigarette butts that **trash** our beautiful Cape. As Charlie Brown would say, **"Aaugh!"**

We celebrate **Earth Day** on **April 22nd**. There would no better way to honor the day, than to **gather with a few friends and head out for a trash pick-up walk!** Take a trash bag, wear gloves, and have fun!

There you have it! A great idea for the members of our club!

If you have kids in your circle, invite them along. This would be a great lesson in being good **Stewards of the Earth!**



Many thanks to Joan O'Brien for suggesting that this note be added to the Newsletter!

Art in Bloom is BACK at the MFA!!!



What a wonderful way to celebrate the return of spring! Art in Bloom is back, in person, for the first time since 2019. Yay! This year there will 50 beautiful exhibits to enjoy. And if you can't make it in person, there will be a virtual tour. Enjoy these best of class floral designs.

Art in Bloom at the MFA April 29 – May 2

Included with general admission at \$27
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Virtual Art in Bloom April 6 – 13

Two 45-minute guided tours, feature 8 works of art and the floral arrangements inspired by them.

Tickets at \$15, viewing access all day

Program highlights include presentations from two famous floral designers, Françoise Weeks, and Michael Putnam.



On Saturday, Françoise Weeks will hold 2 two-hour master classes. Mr. Weeks specializes in textural woodlands and botanical haute couture. On Sunday, Michael Putnam will demonstrate creative techniques for using color to inspire breathtaking, romantic floral arrangements.



Invasive Asian Jumping Worms

Excerpt from article published by Cornell University, May 2021

Nearly all earthworms in the Northeast today are non-native. Asian jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species, but they are rapidly spreading across the United States.

Asian jumping worms devour organic matter more rapidly than their European counterparts, stripping the forest of the layer critical for seedlings and wildflowers. Jumping worms grow twice as fast, reproduce more quickly, and can infest soils at high densities. These invasive worms can severely damage the roots of plants.

The Asian jumping worm has a prominent band around the body of the worm, called the clitellum, where cocoons are produced. The band completely encircles the body, is milky white to light gray. The body looks metallic.

There are currently no viable jumping worm control methods, but we can prevent their spread. Check your property for jumping worms using a mustard pour (it won't harm your plants!). Mix a gallon of water with 1/3 cup of ground yellow mustard seed and pour slowly into the soil. This will drive any worms to the surface where you can easily remove them.

To learn more, go to:

<http://warren.cce.cornell.edu/gardening-landscape/warren-county-master-gardener-articles/invasive-asian-jumping-earthworms>

Many thanks to Amy Fenton and Ellen Migliaccio for this important information.

May 7 Spring Plant Sale

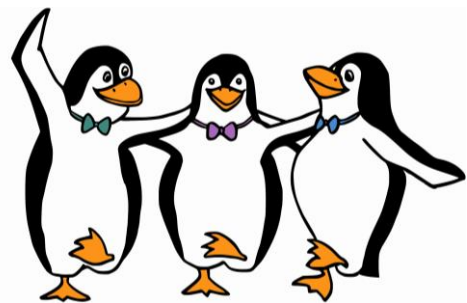
Here comes our big Spring Plant Sale. As you know people line up for this one!



All members are encouraged to dig and divide, your favorite and overgrown perennials. Please prepare your plants before Easter. This will give them time to recover, look their best, and make the sale a success! Follow the advice herein on the Asian Jumping Worms. Wash the roots of your transplanted plants to remove any possible jumping worm eggs; and then repot them in fresh soil.

Club members are encouraged to volunteer to help with set up on Friday May 6th and to help with the sale on Saturday morning May 7th. Sign up at the next meeting or email Jan Rogers Jan.Rogers430@gmail.com for a shift from 8:00 AM to noon on Saturday.

Good news! Don Cross, the sharpening guy, will also be at our plant sale. So, plan to bring your tools for a springtime tune-up.



Ta Da! The Nominating Committee is happy to announce that they have a full slate of officers to present at the April meeting!

Frederick Law Olmstead

Celebrate His 200th Birthday with a visit to the Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site

Our beautiful Boston parks, our emerald necklace, began as the vision of Frederick Law Olmstead (1822-1903). Last year’s April Newsletter contained a book review by Slyvia Wahl on a biography of his life, titled **A Clearing in the Distance**. If you missed it, you can read it on our website.



Slyvia Wahl



Frederick Law Olmstead

Now a year later, we celebrate Olmstead’s 200th Birthday on April 26th. Long recognized as the father of American landscape, his parks, and city planning concepts stretch across America from coast to coast.

In 1883, he moved his family to a home in the Boston suburbs. Here he opened the nation’s first office for landscape design. Today this home and office is a National Historic Site.



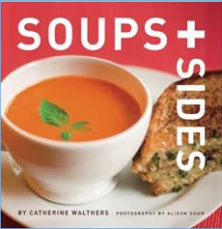
**Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site
99 Warren St, Brookline, MA 02445**

The National Historic Site will open April 15th, on Fridays and Saturdays, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is free.

The site’s Junior Ranger Program uses the historic design office and home to introduce kids to the story of Frederick Law Olmstead. Here they can learn about his vision of creating parks for all people. And they can earn a certificate, patches, pins, and badges. Park Ranger guided tours are available. For more information, go to [nps.gov/frla](https://www.nps.gov/frla)



Looking Ahead - AGC April Events

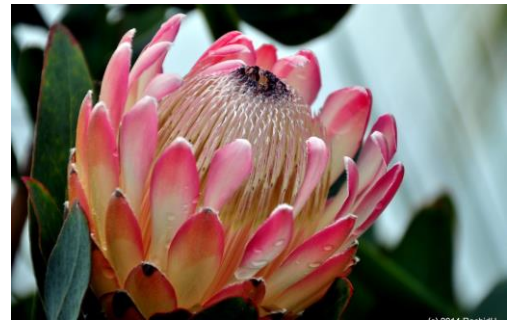
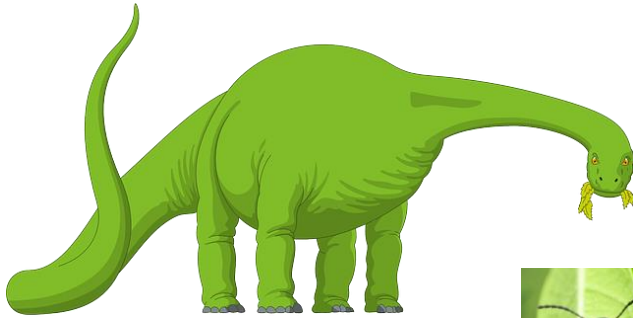
<p>April 11 Bourne United Methodist Church</p>	<p>Social 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:00 pm Slate of Board Officers to be presented. Election at May meeting.</p>
 <p><i>One of Ms. Walthers Books</i></p>	<p>Artistic Design Horticulture</p> <p>Program: Herbal Inspirations and Accents, by Catherine Walthers Catherine Walthers from Martha's Vineyard is a food writer, cookbook author and cooking teacher. She is a regular contributing writer for Martha's Vineyard Magazine, focusing on island food, farming and fishermen. Ms. Walthers will demonstrate how to use herbs and edible flowers to accent recipes; and the program will include a sample taste!</p>
<p>April 20</p>	<p>Garden Therapy 10:00 am Bourne Manor</p>
<p>Date & Time TBD</p>	<p>Kokadama – Japanese Moss Ball Planter Workshop Sign up required</p>

NOTE: Save June 8th at 5:30 PM for our Annual Dinner at the Pocasset Country Club.

Other April Events of Interest

From	Date	Program
<p>Highfield Hall & Gardens Falmouth</p>	<p>April 2 12:30 – 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Spring Indoor Garden Workshop, with Anna Holmes ... \$55 (members) / \$65 Materials provided.</p>
<p>Register on line by 3/28</p>	<p>April 6 10:00 – 11:00 am</p>	<p>Drawing Nature in Nature, with Eliza Renz ... \$10 (members) / \$20 Bring simple drawing tools.</p>
<p>Aptuxet Trading Post</p> <p><i>Come and enjoy the beauty of all those bulbs the Club help plant last year!</i></p>	<p>April 9 - 16</p>	

What Do We Have in Common?



The answer lies in the past, some 300 million years ago. The plant eating dinosaurs are gone. No more do Sauropods roam the earth. Scientists estimate that about 65% of the dinosaurs were plant eaters. It is fascinating to look at plants that lived then and now. Here are some of the plants that the dinosaurs ate, that are still around today.

Ginkgo biloba

Millions of years ago, dinosaurs as big as houses ate their way through ginkgo groves in North America, munching on the fan-shaped leaves. Ginkgo became almost extinct when continents shifted, and glaciers bore down during the Ice Age. Ginkgos, ferns, and cycads are considered primitive vascular plants.

Angiosperms, such as the Star Magnolia and Protea

Proteas and Magnolias are considered among the oldest of the flowering plants. They date back 300 million years and are believed to have originated on the supercontinent Gondwana. Back before there were bees, the wind and beetles pollinate the plants.



Tiny flowers in amber

Fossils of flowers are rare. This year scientists reported the amazing discovery in Myanmar of seven tiny flowers preserved in amber. The flowers date back a 100 million years. Dinosaurs may have knocked the branches that dropped the flowers into resin deposits on the bark of an araucaria tree, which then fossilized into amber.

As *Stewards of the Earth* doesn't Mother Nature continually amaze us!

Celebrating Arbor Day – April 29, 2022



Arbor Day, Nebraska, 1872

The 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day

As pioneers began moving into the Nebraska Territory, the lack of trees was felt deeply. Not only did the settlers miss the trees they had left behind, but they were also left without the trees they needed for windbreaks, fuel, building materials, and for shade from the hot sun.

Newspaper editor, J. Sterling Morton, loved trees and encouraged people to plant them. When he was appointed Secretary of the Territory by President Grover Cleveland, he proposed the first tree planting holiday, to be called Arbor Day. Prizes were offered to counties for the largest number of trees planted on that day. It was estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

By 1920, 45 states and territories were celebrating Arbor Day. A tree planting tradition became prominent in our schools and children were often given a tree to take home and plant in their yards.

Today

Today tree planting days are celebrated around the world. Although different countries celebrate tree planting on different days, the spirit of Arbor Day connects us all. Companies, civic organizations, religious groups, and individuals all join together in their commitment to plant more trees. Today we understand that trees are the lungs of the world; and a great tool to help fight climate change.



Interesting Plant Facts:

*Is an Artichoke a thistle or a beautiful Greek girl?
How about both!*



Artichoke, *Cynara cardunculus*

According to a Greek legend, Zeus fell in love with a beautiful Greek girl named Cynara. But she grew tired of him. Amazing! As she turned to walk away, Zeus threw a lightning bolt at her and turned her into an artichoke!

The artichoke is a member of the thistle family. They are one of the oldest cultivated vegetables. This perennial is originally from Southern Europe and North Africa. Thomas Jefferson grew them at Monticello; and it is said that the Quakers brought them to New England. Today, Monterey County in California produces most of the artichokes grown in the United States.


The plant grows in zones 5 to 9. The flower buds are edible. Once the flower blooms it is no longer a human delight; but birds love it. The plant will grow 5 to 7 feet tall and makes a great back border. It can be grown from seed or root cuttings. It will produce edible flowers in its second and subsequent years. The "Northern Star" cultivar reportedly does well in our zone.



Message from the President

Hello Ladies,

I am sitting here with my tea this Sunday morning watching the fog and listening to the cardinals and song birds ring in the morning. SPRING!!! It's coming!

Gigi  and I walk the yard every day. I look for little bits of green, and she looks for sticks and squirrels to chase. The squirrels have eaten most of the crocus buds and Gigi loves to nibble the Hellebores. Oh well, I continue to wait to clean up in the garden until I start to see some bees. Meanwhile, I am attacking the many sticks on the lawn, and doing a bit of pruning my shrubs and trees. I am so impatient to be working in my garden beds.

The March meeting was wonderful. It was so great to see so many of you in attendance. The artistic designs of the topiary trees were for amazing. And the program was terrific. I learned a lot. Many Thanks to the program ladies and the Hospitality committee as well.

I look forward to our April meeting. Hopefully we can be in person again. Until then Happy Spring and enjoy the nicer 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.

Newsletter Editor: Pat Nemeth pat.nemeth@hotmail.com
Visit the Aptucket Garden Club Website www.aptucketgardenclub.com