



Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

November 2022



“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”

~F. Scott Fitzgerald

October 10 Day Meeting Report

The President's Day Luncheon was a wonderful well attended event. A huge **Thank You** to the Hospitality Committee, Linda Wagner, Amy Fenton and Laverne Newman for organizing, decorating and hosting the event. **Thank You** to the Special Committee; Alda Barron, Anna Holmes, Isabel Melo, Paula O'Neil, Julie Saunders and Jane Urso who also helped. **Thank You** to the Corsage Committee Paula O'Neil, Anna Holmes, Laura Bergeron, Judy Sheehy, Isabel Melo and Alda Barron for creating the lovely corsages presented to the Presidents. **Thank You** Jane Urso for making the picture gifts also given to the Presidents.



Pat Nemeth announced the Presidents from the Garden Club Federation and other Presidents from surrounding towns who all received a corsage and gift for their service. Next Pat announced the Past President's of the AGC who also received corsages and gifts.



Pictured from left to right are Judy Sheehy (2016-2018), Sally Baer (2020-2021), Joan O'Brien (2010-2012), Cindy Smith (1984-1986), Laura Bergeron (2018-2020), Helen Farrington (2004-2006), Kathy Sargent-O'Neil (2014-2016), Carolee Packard (2012-2014 & 2007-2009) and Bobbie Dwyer (2014-2016).



Recognizing Laurie York

Kathy Sargent-O'Neil made a wonderful speech recognizing Laurie York for her thirty-six years of service to the garden club as well as the community. Laurie has been extremely busy designing and creating gardens around the Town of Bourne. She was presented with a gift and corsage.

[Thank You Laurie](#)

Decorating with Succulents Demonstration by Anna Holmes

After the presentations Anna Holmes showed how to decorate with succulents, creating a wreath & seasonal pumpkins. Anna started with explaining how to create a wreath out of succulents. Steps include:

1. Use grapevine or box wreath as the base
2. Use peat moss (straw colored or sheet moss (greenstone) soaked and excess water squeezed out. Any extra moss can be use out in the perennial garden.
3. Use fishing line to lightly wrap around moss and adhere to the wreath.
4. Starting with the largest succulent material, using a pencil to create a hole, put in succulent adding additional moss to fill in any holes.
5. Continue to fill in around the wreath using the smaller succulents and secure with fishing line.
6. Keep moist by misting and plants will grow.
7. It is a time consuming process taking about an hour.

Decorating Pumpkins is a similar process.

1. Use Spanish moss for these and glue to the top of the whole pumpkin.
2. Cut the stems a day in advance, allowing the stem edge to dry, preventing mold.
3. Starting with the larger succulent pieces start glueing to the moss working around the outside. If you put the glue on the base of the leaves and not on the stem, the succulent can continue to grow out of the sides of the stem.
4. Continue to fill in using smaller succulent pieces.
5. Can also add some decorations like acorns or dry straw flowers.

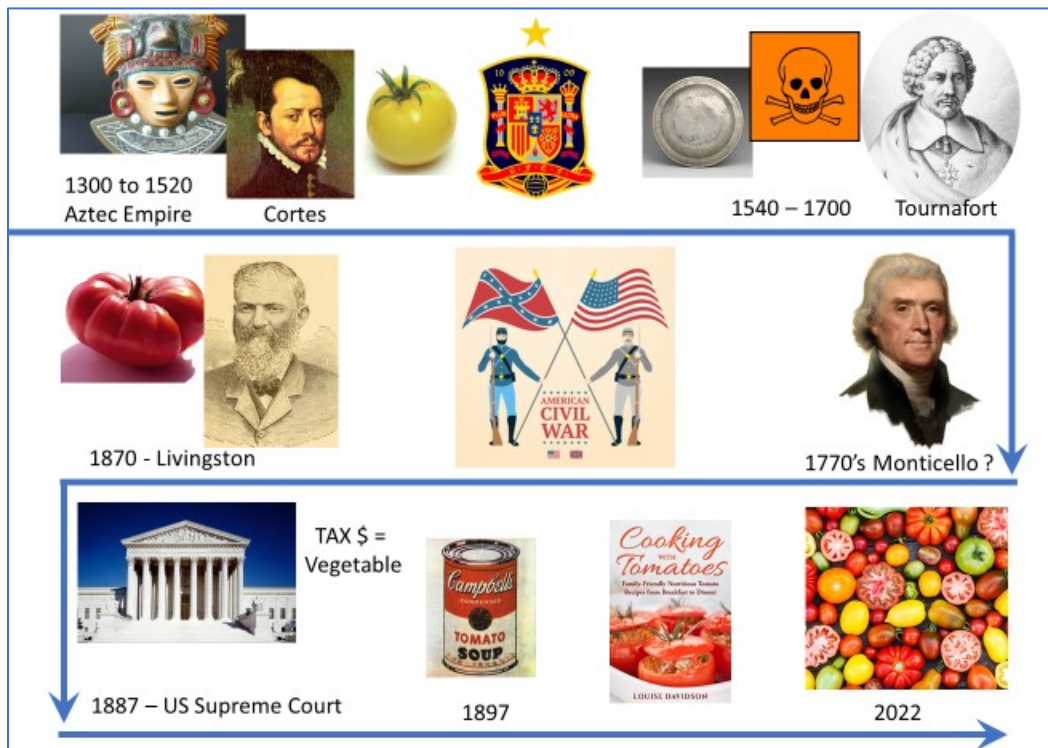


October 19 Evening Meeting Report

Thank You to the Tea Chair Melissa Fox for the wonderful food and flower arrangements based on the theme Boo to You. Also **Thank You** to Harriet Place, Kathy Sargent-O'Neill and Denise Wright for their assistance. Another **Thank You** to Pat Nemeth who made a wonderful tomato salad after her presentation on the History of the Tomato which was next on the agenda.

The Fascinating History of the Tomato By Pat Nemeth

A native of Mexico who journeys to Europe, only to be accused of being poisonous, becomes the world's favorite vegetable. My goodness, what a tale! To help tell the story, follow the pictograph below.



The Spanish Conquistador Hernan Cortes discovered tomatoes when he conquered the Aztecs in 1521. A Friar on that trip wrote that he saw, *large and small tomatoes, leaf tomatoes, sweet tomatoes, large serpent tomatoes, nipple-shaped tomatoes, and of all colors from the brightest red to the deepest yellow.* He wrote about Aztecs cooking, *with tomatoes sauces, fried tomatoes shredded with smoked chili, hot chili, with a "bird excrement" sauce, and served with squash, cooked beans, mushrooms and avocados.* It is even said that the Aztecs thought the seeds of the tomato were an aphrodisiac.

Cortes took the seeds of a yellow tomato back to Spain. They called it the "golden apple." By 1540 tomatoes were grown in Spain, Italy, and France. But in Northern Europe the fruit was considered to be poisonous. And in the 1700's the botanist Tournafort named the tomato the "wolf plum." So, was it poisonous? Yes and no. The wealthy ate on pewter plates. Put a tomato on pewter and it will leach the lead out of the metal. Also, the leaves and stems of the plant are poisonous, but not the fruit.

(Continue October 19 Evening Meeting Report)

In the 1800's immigrants from Europe brought the tomato to America. But it was not until after the Civil War that the tomato really became a part of our basic cuisine. The "father" of the commercial tomato industry was a farmer in Ohio named Alexander Livingston. After 15 years of work, he cultivated a sweet tasting red, round tomato. His success quickly led to the development of products like Campbell's Tomato Soup and Heinz 57 Ketchup.

Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? That question was answered by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the late 1800's an importer of tomatoes pulled into New York harbor. The harbor master said he had to pay a tax on this "vegetable" if he wanted to unload it. He paid the tax and then sued the city. He argued that the tomato was botanically a fruit and not subject to the tax. The counter argument was that the tomato was commonly eaten as a vegetable in salads. The Supreme Court agreed; and thus, for taxation purposes the tomato became a vegetable. Amazing!

However, by the late 1990's many folks found the tomatoes in grocery stores to be tasteless. Breeders went back to the tomatoes of Mexico to develop cultivars that were sweet. Today the tomato is the most popular vegetable in the world.

Program: Floral Design Workshop

The floral design workshop was presented by Alda Barron, Ann Holmes, Judy Sheehy and Paula O'Neil. The workshop was designed to review construction techniques for the greens items that members will be making in November for the holiday green sale.

Alda Barron demonstrated how to make wreaths. She showed how to create bundles of different types of evergreens tied together with wire. These will be added to enhance the standard wreath. This year the wreaths will be decorated with natural elements such as pinecones, sticks and shells, instead of using plastic. A big bow is added to finish the wreath.

Anna Holmes demonstrated how to create centerpieces, both oval and round. This year some of the centerpieces will have candles. Starting at the base add the evergreen pieces going around the lip of the container. Then add evergreen pieces at the base of candles to hold candles in place. Finish by filling in the center. Add natural elements for decoration.

Judy Sheehy demonstrated how to make a basket centerpiece using the same method starting on the outside then working in towards the middle to fill in. Again add natural elements for decoration.

Paula O'Neil demonstrated creating festive mugs, using the same techniques. Start going around the base of the rim with evergreen pieces, then determine how tall by measuring an evergreen and finally fill in the rest.





Art In Bloom at Heritage Museum & Gardens

Lovely Flower Arrangements based on museum artwork were submitted for the show. Flower arrangers listed from top left then clockwise; Paula O'Neill, Laura Bergeron and Ellen Hammond, Alda Barron, Isabel Melo, and Judy Sheehy.



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

<p>November 7 @ 12PM Day Meeting @ Pocasset Village Community Center (change in location)</p>	<p>Program: Innovative Septic System Technology, by Brain Baumgaertel Mr. Baumgaertel is a Senior Environmental Specialist/ Public Health Sanitarian with the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, and Director of the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center. He is a member of the Mashpee Board of Health. This program will introduce us to the use of alternative septic systems to help protect our beautiful environment.</p>
<p>November 16 @ 3:00PM Cape Cod Senior Residences (Royal)</p>	<p>Garden Therapy</p>
<p>November 19 10:00AM- Noon @ Jonathan Bourne Public Library</p>	<p>Program: Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop Offered by the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library. Presented by Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy See Library website to register. \$10.00 registration fee to supplement the cost of plant material and container.</p>
<p>November 28 10:00AM-3:00PM @ Bourne United Methodist Church</p>	<p>Wreath Workshop Come help make our 70 wreaths; 15 are for the town offices; the rest are for the Holiday Green Sale. More Volunteers are needed!</p>
<p>November 30 5:00 PM-8:00PM @ Bourne United Methodist Church</p>	<p>Centerpiece & Mugs Workshop Come help make our centerpieces and mugs for the Holiday Green Sale. More Volunteers are needed!</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>Xerces Society <i>We need to Talk About Honey Bees</i> November 10 Webinar 10AM-11AM</p>	<p>To help ensure healthy ecosystems and successful harvests, pollinator conservation is essential. For many people, pollinator conservation is synonymous with the honey bee and beekeeping,. But the story is bigger than that; much, much bigger then that. As we work to conserve pollinators, we need to ensure that our efforts are best directed where they are needed most, not just at what is easiest to accomplish. While honey bees are important for our current agricultural systems, their role in our natural areas, and even in our urban and suburban areas, is more complicated. Join Xerces Society Senior Conservation Biologist Rich Hatfield for an honest conversation about the unseen consequences that a focus on honey bees can have, and how we can focus our actions in ways that create positive change, for all pollinators.</p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens Happy Hour <i>Preparing Your Plants & Gardens for Winter</i> November 18 Webinar 5PM-6PM</p>	<p>Join CL Fornari to discover what can be done to help your plants through the coming winter. Hear about whether you should be protecting perennials, roses or hydrangeas. Learn how to give marginally hardy plants the best chance for winter survival. Plus all your specific questions about your plants and garden answered. Register at the Hyannis Country Garden Website.</p>



Interesting Plant Facts: Fall Vegetable Garden Clean-Up

Along with flower gardens the vegetable garden also needs some fall clean up. This usually begins after the first frost. To start, remove dead crops and debris as they will invite disease and pests. If you have not had your soil tested in at least three years this is a good time, as you can amend the soil, if needed. This allows all winter for amendments to naturally work into the soil. You can remove healthy plant material and add to the compost pile. Add mulch or compost to the garden which will protect the top soil from erosion and improve the health of the soil. Use shredded leaves or clean straw without seed heads or weeds and cover the vegetable garden.

Consider planting a cover crop which will provide food for valuable soil microorganisms, suppress weeds and return organic material and nutrients to the soil. Be sure to turn the top growth over next spring before it is six inches tall so it does not get too difficult to manage. Allow at two weeks for the incorporated cover crop to decompose before planting your vegetables. Some examples of cover crops used in Massachusetts:

1. Rye
2. Oats
3. Ryegrass
4. Winter Wheat
5. Buckwheat
6. Sorghum-sudangrass hybrids (sudex)
7. Legume cover crops (hairy vetch and red clover)



How Floral Foam Harms the Earth and What to Use Instead



Even though floral foam has been around for decades, recent scientific studies have found that it is harmful to the environment. It breaks down into microplastics that can contaminate water supplies and hurt aquatic life. Plus the foams dust may cause respiratory issues for people. The foam is not recyclable. When you need to dispose of floral foam, bag it and add to garbage for placing in landfill. When dumping out water with floral foam fragments pour it through a tight weave fabric to capture the foam fragments.

Alternatives for floral foam are:

1. Oasis offers a fully compostable product called TerraBrick
2. Holly Pillow is reusable and recyclable foam
3. Floraguppy recyclable holder made from malleable plastic
4. Sideau from Agra-wool International is made from spun fibers of basalt (a volcanic rock) and plant based binder
5. Oshunpouch is a water holding medium of renewable coir
6. Pin Frogs

Greens Sale News

There was a good turnout for the bow making and ribbon picks workshops. **Thank You All!**

For the wreath workshop special greens are needed. Suggested types of greens; soft balsams, arborvitae, andromeda, cedar, conifers, cryptomeria, cypress (gold, boulevard, blue), euonymus, pine (white, umbrella), yew.

For centerpieces and mugs; all the above plus leucothoe, plain and painted twigs, holly.

Cuttings should not be more than 10" long. A helpful hint is to bring a bucket which, when turned over, can function as a work surface.

We have plenty of supplies. DO NOT need any more mugs or containers for centerpieces.



2022 Caring & Sharing

It's time for holiday shopping at our Library! The **Caring & Sharing** silent auction begins on November 7 and ends the evening of our Greens Sale, on December 2. Over sixty donations will be on display. You'll find gift baskets for children and adults, beautifully hand-crafted items, paintings, fun tabletop trees, knitted treasures and even some one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry.

Come and shop and know that your purchases support the charity listed with each item. This is a wonderful Bourne holiday tradition!



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

We had two superb meetings this month! The Presidents Lunch was so elegant! And the second meeting provided good guidance for making all our wonderful items for the Holiday Greens Sale. I love the fact that this year our pieces will be decorated with natural elements!

The Heritage Art In Bloom Show was graced with arrangements from six of our members. The use of driftwood and a little last-minute scrambling when the colors, will cause this show to be remembered. My compliments for all the beautiful arrangements.

Many thanks to everyone who made these October events be so special. And many thanks to Cheryl Hafela and Mary Doo for reporting on them in this newsletter.

October brought us the beginning of our fall weather. As the leaves turned in the trees, every now and then Mother Nature pushed out one last bloom. This photo is of one of my hydrangea bushes. Most of the bush was carrying blooms that were already antique. But low and behold, the bush decided to bring forth a new blossom in October.

Mother Nature continues to delight and amaze me! This joy of a simple minute in a garden, unites us as gardeners. May your gardens bring you the joy of fall. Now we'll watch as our plants go slowly to sleep and ready themselves for the first frost.

- Pat Nemeth

The Aptuxet 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: Cheryl Hafela cher@meganet.net

Newsletter Photographer: Mary Doo marydoo.com@gmail.com

Visit the Aptuxet Garden Club Website www.aptuxetgardenclub.com