



Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

December 2022



I heard a bird sing in the dark of December,
A magical thing, And sweet to remember:
We are nearer to spring than we were in
September

~Oliver Herford

November 7 Day Meeting Report

Forcing Spring Bulbs for Early Bloom (Tricking Mother Nature) by Anna Holmes

Anna showed us the steps for how to force spring bulbs:

1. Plant late September-December
2. Must have temps between 35-50 degrees for at least 6 weeks then bring into warmer location 60-65 degrees to green up and start flowering, takes 1-2 weeks
3. Or you dig a hole in the garden and bury the entire pot under 3" soil (make sure you mark the spot for when you dig out potted container)

Products/Supplies that you will need:

1. Container with holes for drainage (drill if necessary)
2. Garden soil or potting soil (garden soil is best)
3. When placing bulbs they should be a bulb width apart
4. Select bulbs that are the right height for your container



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There are a variety of ways to plant this bulb garden:

1. **Standard pot** with 1"-2" soil on the bottom. Lay out the bulbs, cover with 2" growing medium
2. **Bulb pan** starting with 2" soil on the bottom and lay out the bulbs. Then cover with 2" growing medium
3. **12" lasagna method** used for larger patio pots as the plan is 3 different layers of bulbs. Again use 2" soil base then start layering with the tallest height bulbs in the base about a bulb width apart. Cover with 2" soil. Next layer is a different variety and cover with 2" of soil. Add the next grouping of bulbs and cover with 2" of soil

Plant in a cool dark location or in your garden hole. If container is kept inside check to make sure the soil remains slightly moist. When bringing the bulbs inside to color up, top the soil with moss and use a decorative container to place the pot in.

Cape Cod Wastewater Problem & Ways to Help Fix It

We learned from Brian Baumgartel that 90% of the residents on Cape Cod rely on septic systems creating nitrogen and phosphorus build up. Both of these minerals come from human waste and fertilizers. How much nitrogen and phosphorus; 6.4 pounds nitrogen per person per year and 1.4 pounds phosphorus per person per year. The build up over time pollutes the ground water and causes algae to grow on top of fresh water ponds and saltwater. Algae kills fish and eel grass, important components of the ecosystem.



Brian educated us on the 4P's, what should be going into the septic system or sewer:

- ◆ Pee
- ◆ Poop
- ◆ Puke
- ◆ Toilet Paper

Also on what NOT to put into our septic system

- ◆ Cooking grease
- ◆ Food scraps
- ◆ Leftover medicine
- ◆ Flushable wipes
- ◆ Lots of paint
- ◆ Lots of cleaners, particularly Quats (quaternary ammonia compounds)

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Solutions to help fix it:

- ◆ Expand sewer systems (however 60% of residents will continue to use septic systems)
- ◆ Black Box Technology added to septic system
 - ◆ Layered system for nitrogen removal
 - ◆ Soil based phosphorus removal system
 - ◆ Electro chemical systems
 - ◆ Chemical addition (Alum) to remove phosphorus
- ◆ Eco sanitation
 - ◆ Composting toilet
 - ◆ Urine diversion toilet
 - ◆ Incinerating toilet
 - ◆ Grey water reuse
 - ◆ Biosolids

To pay for these solutions there are bank loans, public subsidies and the Cape Cod Aquafund program, based on income.

Resources:

www.capecod.gov

www.cape.codgroundwater.org

www.mass.org

Pod Cast: One drop leads to another

ALL HANDS ON DECK WORKSHOPS for AGC'S BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR



The success of the greens sale is dependent on the variety of greens we have available to augment wreaths and make the centerpieces and mugs. *(No holly please - have lots coming)*. Therefore, we are asking our members to trim and/or collect greens from any sources you may have and bring them to the wreath making and centerpiece workshops. Even if you're not able to attend the workshop you could still drop off greens on Monday morning or late afternoon Wednesday. Leave the greens outside along the side of the church to the left of the entry we use to enter for meetings. Thank you.

November 28th at 10am-3pm ish - Wreath Workshop at the Bourne United Methodist church.

Remember to bring your clipper, and your own beverage. Pizza will be provided for lunch. We will be making Town wreaths and custom decorative wreaths to sell for our annual greens sale.

November 30th 5-8 pm - Centerpiece and Mug Workshop at the Bourne United Methodist church. Remember to bring your clipper, and your own beverage.

AND... PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK THE SALE on either December 2nd 4:00-CLOSING or 3rd 10:00-1:00

Sign up times will be available at the workshops.

Garden Therapy

On November 16th members of the AGC gathered at CC Senior Residences to help make Thanksgiving arrangements. [Thank you](#) to all who participated in this special event!



YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GARDENER IF:

1 You consider well aged feces a thoughtful gift.

2 When you see someone trimming trees, you wonder if you could use a cutting of that.

3 You have taken bags of leaves (i.e., other people's trash) off the street to use as mulch.

4 You have saved pits or seeds from fruit you liked, in your purse or pocket, to sprout at home. If they sprouted, you were momentarily intoxicated with your godlike ability to create life.

5 You hoard yogurt containers, plastic bottles and egg cartons. What? They're useful in the garden!

6 You sometimes forget your to-do list because the plants need staring at.

7 You think store bought tomatoes are disgusting.

8 A sale at the nursery is more exciting than a sale at the department store.

9 When you meet someone who likes to garden, you feel an immediate and unbreakable bond with them. You also wonder whether their harvests are better than yours.

10 You would not be reading this if it were not about GARDENING!

Laras_Garden_

Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

<p>December 2 & 3 Holiday Greens Sale Briggs-McDermott Yard</p>	<p>Holiday Greens Sale Bringing back the Bake Sale (while supplies last) Friday 4:00 Closing Saturday 10:00 AM-1:00PM</p>
<p>December 12 @ 12:00 Joint Day Meeting Bourne United Methodist Church</p>	<p>Program: Holiday at the White House, by Betsy Szymczak Betsy Szymczak is a retired teacher of clinical microbiology. She is an avid gardener from Natick, with a passion for begonias and dahlias! Betsy visited the White House when President Obama was in office. She had the good fortune to see the holiday decorations. She will share her trip and pictures of the wonderful decorations. Get into the holiday spirit by getting some fresh holiday decorating ideas.</p> <p>Ornament Swap & Holiday Reading There will be a special reading of <i>The Night Before Christmas</i> by Betsy Woodley. We will have a garden ornament swap. If you wish to participate, bring a garden themed ornament.</p>
<p>December 21 @ 10:30</p>	<p>Garden Therapy Bourne Manor</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>Xerces Society Saving Great Plains Grasslands: Rangeland Management for Pollinators and Plant Diversity Webinar Dec 8 @ 10:00AM-11:00AM Free</p>	<p>Grasslands in the Great Plains, and elsewhere, are rapidly disappearing. Grasslands provide a critical habitat for a variety of wildlife, including pollinators and other invertebrates. Join Xerces Biologists, Sarah Hamilton Buxton, Ray Moranz, and Rae Powers to learn about the ecological and social value of rangelands, management practices to support pollinators, and critical actions to maintain native plant diversity on rangelands.</p> <p>The webinar will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel.</p> <p>Go to Xerces website to register.</p>
<p>Holidays at Highfield, Falmouth November 25-December 11 3 Time Blocks: 10:00AM-12:00PM or 12:00PM-2:00PM or 2:00PM-4:00PM \$10.00 Admission</p>	<p>Highfield Hall and Gardens is excited to present the 16th annual Holiday exhibition. The Holiday is set for another year of spectacular decorating, seasonal activities, displays and Santa is expected to set up residence on specific days. The Gift Gallery will once again be alive with artisan gifts for all ages. Come on in and complete your holiday shopping</p>
<p>Neonics, the Toxic Truth: The Pesticides Threatening Bees, Birds, and Human Health Webinar December 1 6:30PM Free</p>	<p>Join Pollinator Pathway and NRDC for a talk on the science behind threats posed by neonicotinoid pesticides (neonic's) to pollinators, biodiversity, and our own health. These pesticides are surprisingly prevalent in our environment. They contaminate soil, water, and plant life on a nearly unprecedented scale, driving mass losses of birds and bees, raising alarm bells for a host of other wildlife, clean water and human health.</p> <p>Join Dan Rachel Acting Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council Pollinator Initiative and Dr Kathleen Nolan pediatrician, President of at the Physicians for Social Responsibility to learn more about legislation we can impact and local action we can take.</p> <p>Go to NRDC Pollinator Pathway website to register</p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens Ideas for Winter Containers Happy Hour December 2 @ 5:00PM-6:00PM Webinar Free</p>	<p>Grab the beverage of your choice and join C.L. Fornari for a December Happy Hour from 5 to 6PM. See how you can fill pots, boxes, and other containers with plants or greens for the holidays and beyond. Discover flowers that will bloom outdoors through January, and how to find decorative materials in your own backyard. Find out how to repurpose fun containers for winter cheer. Plus all your specific questions about your plants and gardens answered.</p> <p>Go to Country Gardens website to register</p>



Book Review Corner

By: *Cheryl Hafela*



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

THE CHRISTMAS TREE



JULIE SALAMON

Illustrated by Jill Weber

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR

The Christmas Tree is narrated by the chief gardener from Rockefeller Center. It is a tale of a little girl named Anna from New York City who is orphaned and sent to live in a convent. Lonely and unaccustomed to her new surroundings Anna befriends, as only a child can, a tiny fir tree. “Tree” as she calls him, becomes Anna’s best and most special friend. They grow up together, unlocking the secrets of friendship as well as sharing the wonders of nature. It is this profound appreciation and love of nature that Anna, later, as Sister Anthony passes on to her adoring students.

Of course, nature is not without it’s tragedies, and when Tree is threatened by a winter storm, Sister Anthony, now an old woman decides to finally give up her dearest friend— — — allowing him to become what is perhaps the most enjoyed and famous Christmas tree of all.

The Christmas Tree is about growth, learning to love and finally, being able to share that love with others.

Julie Salamon worked at *The Wall Street Journal* for sixteen years as a reporter and film critic. She is the author of the much-praised *The Devil’s Candy* a novel, *White Lies*, and most recently *The Net of Dreams*. She lives in New York City.





History of the Poinsettia

Poinsettia (cuetlaxochitl) plants are native to Central America, especially an area in southern Mexico known as "Taxco del Alarcon" where they flower during the winter. In the 14th century the Aztecs used them to make red and purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex).

The poinsettia was made widely known by Joel Roberts Poinsett botanist and the first USA ambassador to Mexico. In 1828 he took a diplomatic trip to Mexico where he became enchanted with the brilliant red leaves of an unfamiliar plant. He had some greenhouses on his plantation in South Carolina and sent the plants back to South Carolina where he began cultivating the plants. At Christmas time he sent plants to friends and botanical gardens. Less than a decade later in 1836 the plant became known as the Poinsettia after Poinsett.

One of the friends he sent plants to was Robert Buist a nurseryman in Philadelphia who began to cultivate the poinsettias. He was the first to sell the flowers to the public. He also played a large role in helping to establish the plant's Christmas reputation. It was only in the early 1900's that they were sold as whole plants. The Ecke family from Southern California were the first to sell them as whole plants that could be grown indoors in pots. They are still the main producer of the plants in the USA.

The timing of the annual bloom for the wild plant began its association with Christmas. During the 16th century, missionaries spread the Catholic faith and the Franciscan friars used the plant to decorate Nativity scenes. There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas came together. There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve services. Her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up and said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy. As Pepita walked to the Chapel she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. As she walked thru the chapel to the altar she felt better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers. The plant was called la flor de Nochebuena, literally the Christmas Eve Flower.

Shriner's Beverage Can Pull-Tabs - Collecting Tips

By Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

A little background from their website: Shriners Hospitals for Children in Springfield and Boston have been collecting pull-tabs or "pop-tops" from beverage cans since 1989, recycling tabs, and putting the money toward programs that directly benefit children. Since its inception, about a half-million pounds of aluminum tabs have been collected and recycled. The money received is used to purchase medical and non-medical for directly or to assist in the treatment of the patients at the Shriner's Hospital for Children.

This summer I met a Shriner who is very involved in their aluminum pull-tabs collection program and he passed along a few tips and a request "aluminum pull tabs only please".

NOW FOR THE TIPS:

- I boo-booed here... I was pulling tabs from tuna and other canned goods. These are metal, not aluminum.
 - An easy way to check if a tab is metal is to use a magnet .. if it sticks to the tab don't include it.
- He shared that the recycler will reject the whole batch submitted by the Shriners if there are metal tabs, etc. included.
 - To prevent rejections Shriner volunteers spend hours combing through submissions from groups, like ours, with good intentions, to remove metal tabs and 'foreign' objects (coin, bottle caps, and glass (ouch!), etc) prior to bringing them to the recycler.
 - It's an extremely time consuming process and our help would be much appreciated.

He sends thanks, from himself and the other 'old guys' who keep the program going, for our time and generous help.





2022 Caring & Sharing

2022 Caring & Sharing - A Special Thanks

Our community spirit weaves itself through our lives in many ways. Through friendship, good works and caring for others we are united. The Caring and Sharing charity auction is a shining example of this spirit.

This year's auction is one of the best we've had! With seventy-five donations, the Library was truly "decorated" for the holiday season. As this Newsletter goes to press, the silent auction is in its last few days of bidding.

Seven AGC members are recognized for donating to Caring & Sharing. A special thanks goes to: Laura Bergeron, Bobbie Dwyer, Pat Nemeth, Carolee Packard, Nancy Selchan, Betsy Woodley, and Jayne Urso.



Everybody Needs A Home



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

This is the time of the year when it rains leaves. Slowly our plants withdraw their energy from their stems and begin to shelter themselves against the frost. This is also the time of the year, when I hunger for an hour or two warm enough to work in my yard.

I head out each morning with a cup of coffee and my little dog Fergus to survey the yard. And even with the urging to "leave the leaves" for the littlest of critters, I still always see some work that I want to do. I suspect all gardeners share this common activity. We love our yards and being outdoors. Of course, Mother Nature ends up writing the script for the day. Sometimes I get to work outdoors; and sometimes a good book and cup of tea is my refuge when it rains.

November has been a busy month for the club. Many thanks to Sue Barlow for a great meeting where we learned more about septic systems.

Kudos to Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy for teaching the Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop at the Library. Over a dozen of our club members attended. Everyone had a wonderful time and went home with a beautiful centerpiece.

And many thanks to all the elves who have been working to get ready for our Holiday Greens Sale! I know the sale will be a fun event, full of beautiful wreaths and other green delights! See you at the Sale!

- Pat Nemeth

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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