



Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

January 2023



"And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been."

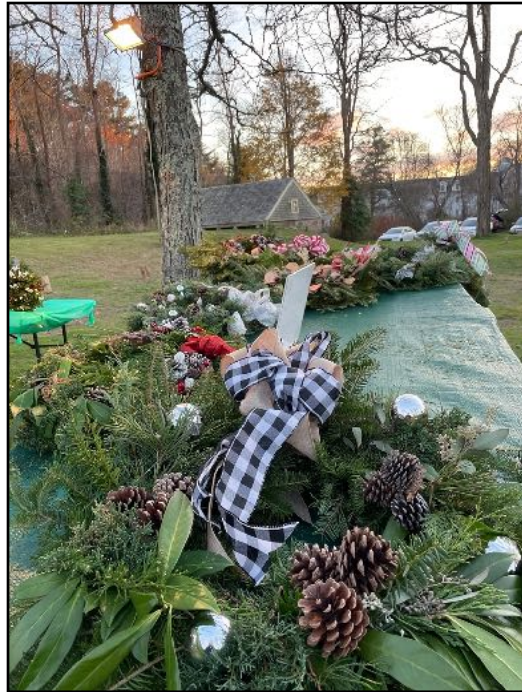
-Rainer Maria Rilke

AGC Greens & Bake Sale

On December 2 and 3 AGC had it's annual Greens Sale. A huge **Thank You** to Jan Rogers and Nancy Buckley co-chairs of Ways and Means who put hundreds of hours of work into making this event a success! Another huge **Thank You** to Judy Sheehy and Alda Barron co-chairs of Floral Design who were involved in every event giving guidance and helping to make the beautiful wreaths and centerpieces. Also **Thank You** to over 70% of club members who donated time to make all the greens and baked goods!



(Continue Greens & Bake Sale Report)



(Continue Greens and Bake Sale report)

The Bake sale was back this year! Lots of goodies for sale. **Thank You** Dorothy Haney for being in charge! of the Bake Sale. And **Thank You** to all those wonderful bakers!



December 12 Joint Day Meeting Report

Thank You to the Hospitality Co-Chairs Amy Fenton, Laverne Newman and Linda Wagner for organizing a wonderful holiday luncheon. **Thank You** Karen Cronburg & Jan Sudol on the December Hospitality Committee for all their work. The Hospitality Committee is so **Thankful** for all the effort everyone put into making the food. As requested by club members because the food was so delicious, is a short list (not all) of items that were brought:

- Cheryl Keown: Honey Shredded Chicken Tacos
- Nancy Buckley: Tortellini Salad
- Susan Dmochowski: Shrimp Appetizer
- Sue Barlow: Buffalo Chicken Dip
- Judy Sheehy: Broccoli Slaw
- Marcia Wilmott: Penne w/Italian Sausage in a Tomato Cream Sauce
- Jan Browne: Mushroom & Broccoli Quiche
- Jan Rogers: Marinated Vegetables
- Pat Nemeth: Chicken Cordon Blue w/Mushrooms
- Connie Spilhaus: Tortillas w/Pulled Pork, Beans & Rice
- Linda Wagner: Potato & Cauliflower Au Gratin
- Amy Fenton: Brie & Cranberry Bites
- Laverne Newman: Holiday Punch

Holidays at the White House by Betsy Sullivan



Betsy who is a Master Gardener and the current president of the Natick Garden Club toured the White House to view the Holiday Display in 2016. She shared her tips and some wonderful pictures of the decorated rooms. In order to visit you need to plan at least six months in advance by requesting tickets from your local Congressman. (See Congressman Bill Keating's website keating.house.gov to request tickets.)

The National Park Service creates a booklet every year with all the information you need to complete the tour which is self guided and self paced. The booklet also contains a cookie recipe "Oatmeal Cookies" in 2016.

The White House Historical Association creates ornaments every year based on a theme. "The Gifts of Holidays" was the 2016 theme. It takes 150 volunteers organized by the Historical Society to decorate the White House.

If you would like more information go to www.whitehouse.gov/holidays.

2023 UMass Garden Calendars Have Arrived

The 2023 UMASS Garden Calendar is now available for purchase through the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. The featured article this year is Gardens, Landscapes, Carbon & Climate Change. To help keep your plants healthy, productive, and beautiful, the UMass Garden Calendar offers helpful guidelines, daily tips, sunrise/sunset times, and an inspiring garden image each month! The calendars cost \$14.50 each, plus the cost of shipping. For additional information visit their website [cape cod cooperative extension](http://capecodcooperativeextension.org) at www.capecod.gov.



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

<p>January 9 Day Joint Meeting Bourne United Methodist Church 12PM-2:15PM</p> 	<p>Program: Easy First Steps to an Earth Friendly Garden, by Rebecca Warner</p> <p>Rebecca Warner is the author of <i>The Sustainable Enough Garden</i>. She will share her easy first steps to a making our gardens more environmentally friendly. Rebecca will share her own journey of creating a “sustainable enough” garden without breaking the bank or giving up her day job.</p>
<p>January 18 @ 3:00PM Cape Cod Senior Residences (Royal)</p>	<p>Garden Therapy</p>



Other Events of Interest

<p>Hyannis Country Gardens Happy Hour <i>Houseplant Happy Hour</i> January 20 Webinar 5PM-6PM</p>	<p>In tonight's mid-winter Happy Hour we celebrate houseplant health. See some lovely houseplant varieties and hear about their care. Learn how to spot and treat insect infestations, and ways to deal with over-grown plants. Hear how to propagate your plants and how to tell if you are over or under watering. Plus your questions answered in the chat feature for those who have registered in advance on Zoom.</p>
<p>Xerces Society <i>Pollinators in the Woods? The place of wild bees in a changing forested landscape.</i> January 26 Webinar 10AM-11AM</p>	<p>Come join Kass Urna-Mead, Xerces Pollinator Conservation Specialist, NRCS Partner Biologist for an adventure exploring how wild bees use the woods—from leafy forest floor to the tippy top of the canopy. Although we usually think of bees busy in our gardens, flower patches, and meadows (which is true!), that is not the only place they are found. In fact in the northeastern US up to 1/3 of our wild bee species may rely on forest habitats for at least a part of their life cycle. Some are specialized to only collect pollen from spring ephemerals on the forest floor, while others nest in stumps, logs and leaf litter deep in the woods, and orchard pollinators use forest canopy pollen before the orchards bloom. We will discuss the changing nature of forests on our landscape and how this is likely to affect different groups of bees. Finally we will highlight ways in which forest management for healthy, diverse, climate-resilient woods is crucial not just for birds and other wildlife, but also for the bees.</p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens <i>Pruning Demystified-Be a Barber, Not a Butcher</i> January 29 Webinar 4PM-5PM Cost: \$10.00</p>	<p>Join C.L. Fornari for her most popular class at Hyannis Country Garden. Learn when and why to prune your plants. Discover the three types of cuts and hear C.L.'s recipe for how to prune just about any shrub or tree, even if you don't know what kind of plant you're pruning. See how to prune blue Hydrangeas so that you'll have the maximum amount of flowers the following summer. Plus your pruning questions answered. Go to the website to register.</p>

In Loving Memory of Meredith Chase



Meredith Chase passed away in December 2022. She joined our garden club in 1997. She was a fun, gregarious member of the club for over twenty years. Twice she carried the duties of the President, from 2002-2004 and from 2008-2010.

In addition to being our President, she also served as the Southeast District Director for GCFM. The Floribunda Award was Meredith's brainchild. She petitioned the GCFM to adopt it; and they did in 2006 for all the Clubs in the state.

Meredith was also an active member of the Southeast Study Group, Bourne Food Pantry, Recycling Coordinator, and Sagamore Beach Colony Club.

Once during an Arbor Day event, Meredith dressed up as Chlorophyll and happily waved at everyone. Meredith will be remembered for her hats, that she decorated with flowers. Her favorite saying was that *Garden Club Friends make the Best Friends*.

Meredith's smile, her hugs, her joy in gardening, and floral design will all be missed. Service will be held in the spring in Newton, MA. Details will be provided when the date is set.

Rest in peace dear friend. We know now that there is a flower angel watching over us.

- Darlene Chickosky & Kathy Sargent-O'Neil

Septic Safe Plants for Your Yard

That random patch in your yard covering your septic tank can be a bit of an eyesore. It is important to keep your leach field clear so nothing compromises your septic system, but that doesn't mean it has to be a blank patch of dead grass in the middle of your yard. Bare soil or gravel is not the best cover for your field. Plants keep the soil in place and absorb excess water to lessen flooding risks.

Since you do not want too much water on top of your septic tank drought tolerant plants are better. Growing tall grass, weeds and other shallow rooted plants above your septic drain field is quite beneficial. Soft, non-woody plants help contain the moisture around the septic field. Your best bet is to go with herbaceous plants. These are shallow rooted, flowering annuals and perennials, such as:

- Tall fescue
- Bee balm
- Big bluestem
- Hollyhock
- Wild violet
- Iris
- Tulip
- Daffodil and more!



Shrubs and Trees are not safe planted near the septic system because the root systems will grow under ground around your septic system.

Important Gardening Jobs To Do In January

January is a time to reflect on your past gardening successes (and failures). While you may not be actively out in the garden as many hours as you would like, due to cold, rain, snow, or all three there are still jobs for the gardener!

1. Make a list or several lists. The best garden is the one with plants or vegetables that you love. Start by writing down all the plants you would love to grow.
2. Read/Browse thru seed and/or plant catalogs. Don't forget there are only so many plants that will fit into the garden!
3. Buy garden seeds and start growing indoors
4. Draw and design a layout of your future garden. Mapping out your garden may not be needed if you have an established garden. Not into making designs, part of the fun in gardening is watching what grows from where seeds have fallen last season.
5. Maintain garden tools. Sharpen and clean now
6. Look after winter containers
7. Continue looking after wildlife-put out bird seed and continue to leave uncut areas for winter shelter



2022 Caring & Sharing - A Special Thanks

Many members of our club donated to Caring & Sharing. I thank you all for your generosity! This year we raised \$4,911 to benefit 18 charities and two public departments. (*The Town's Council on Aging and the Police Department were designated. What a nice compliment!*)

The big winners were the Bourne Council On Aging, Bourne Food Pantry, Doctors Without Borders, Friends of the Library, Habitat for Humanity, National Marine Wildlife Center, Tommy's Place, and World Central Kitchen.

The AGC members who donated were Laura Bergeron, Bobbie Dwyer, Pat Nemeth, Carolee Packard, Nancy Selchan, Jayne Urso and Betsy Woodley. Here is a donation.



*Everybody Needs A Home
By Carolee Packard*



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Well, if your life is a bit like mine, then December is always a whirlwind of activity! And as glorious as the season is, I must admit I love the turning of the New Year and a month that is a bit quieter and more peaceful.

I begin this letter wishing each of you a wonderful 2023! AGC will give you friendships, knowledge, and fun! I know we will have a wonderful year together. There are so many talented, dedicated, hard working ladies in our club! I am honored to work beside all of you!

Our Green and Bake Sale was an amazing success! Many compliments to Jan Rogers and Nancy Buckley for all their work. Many thanks to Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy for their guidance on floral design. And thanks to Dorothy Haney for being in charge of the Bake Sale.

I loved our Holiday Potluck! With all the work of the Green Sale behind us, we gathered to relax, enjoy great food and a great program. It doesn't get any better than that! Special thanks to Amy Fenton, Laverne Newman, and Linda Wagner for organizing the potluck. And many thanks to Susan Dmochowski and Nancy Selchan for a wonderful program! The White House Holiday tour was fun!

*Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2023! As we enter winter, I send you my own Irish Blessing. **May your house plants bloom and bring you a smile!***

- 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