



# Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

## Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

April 2023



The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul.

— Alfred Austin

### March 13 Day Meeting Report

#### Floral Design: Design Using Complimentary Colors by Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

This is a traditional design using complementary colors from opposite sides of the color wheel.

Kathy chose to use purple and yellow. The flowers used are Calla lilies which are dark purple with yellow forsythia and alstroemeria. Green is considered a neutral color and provides wonderful contrast. She learned that you need to shop early when creating a flower design to make sure you are able to pick the colored flowers you want.

This is a crescent shaped design using a rectangular container. The container is nicely proportioned to the size of the design.

**Thank You Kathy** for showing such a wonderful flower arrangement.



(Meeting report continued from page 1)

## Horticulture by Debbie Webster

Debbie presented a Horticulture Table at the March meeting, that can be continued at each meeting. It's basically a "show and tell" opportunity for members. Bring in anything garden related that you think might be interesting. It could be a plant part from your garden, or maybe an interesting fact found in a garden journal. Maybe you've seen a recipe that includes produce that is likely to be in abundance this summer. Write your name on a slip of paper to include with your item and place it on the Horticulture Table.

We all have a passion for gardening, and a desire to share our ideas. What a perfect way to do just that!

Lavendula x intermedia 'Niko". (aka Phenomenal Lavender) paired with Santolina 'Ericoides'



Lovely in the winter garden



Spectacular in summer

## Collector's Guide to Hostas by Joan Butler



Joan is a collector of Hostas of which there are 8,000 different varieties. Hostas are very diverse, they can be variegated, have different leaf shapes, colors and texture. They need to be surrounded by structure like evergreens, deciduous trees or shrubs.

Hostas are great if:

- You need to add a new plant seamlessly or balance to a design
- Add variegation connections or reverse connections for interest (be careful of too much variegation as can look chaotic).

Hostas come in a variety of colors:

- Yellow adds vitality, attracts the eye and creates contrast. Three plants together add depth.
- Blue goes with other plant colors. It is hard to find blue colors. Wax on the leaves gives it the color blue.
- Variegated leaves create drama, interest and brightens shady areas.
- Green you can admire the leaf shape and texture.

Joan indicated that Hostas are more than just leaves they have flowers too. Depending on the plant they will bloom either early, mid or late season from May until frost. Hummingbirds love the flowers which are white to purple in color. The names of Hostas are interesting too and some gardeners grow them because of the name.

Hostas are easy to care for, they grow in well drained, acidic soil and are shade tolerant. Yellow and variegated leaves need more sun. They send out horizontal roots and do not have to be divided frequently.

Hostas are a very versatile plant, they even come in mini sizes. Gardeners widely use them in rock gardens, planted together or with small perennials. They are well worth growing in your garden.

## March 22 Evening Meeting Report



### Establishing a Home Herb Garden, by Kathy Gariepy

Herbs are a useful plant. They are culinary, medicinal, in the past used as dyes, pest repellants and are fragrant. Herbs can be grown in small containers, in small pots on a window sill, incorporated into the yard, used as border plants or strewn about the yard.

Herbs are easy to grow. They need well draining soil that can be low in nutrients. Think Mediterranean hot, dry and sunny. Some great herbs that can be started from seeds are basil, dill, and parsley. Start indoors in mid-April to be planted outside around Memorial Day. There are some herbs that will grow in semi-shade. These include dill, parsley, mint, lemon balm, sweet cicely, tarragon and bay.

Kathy then taught us about some culinary herbs. Borage has nice blue leaves. Basil, just make sure you pinch the new flower buds. Parsley which is a bi-annual. Thyme is a subshrub with lots of different varieties. Red and white creeping thyme can be used as a lawn. It also has antibacterial properties. French tarragon is a short lived perennial also a subshrub. Chives and garlic chives have nice flowers, make sure you deadhead so as not to spread. Sweet Cicely will grow in semi shade and the flowers taste like cucumber. It also spreads gently. Mint spreads aggressively. Sage is also a subshrub that includes purple sage. Rosemary another subshrub is a tender perennial in this region. Bay another tender perennial that tends to get scale. Frais de Bois has small strawberries that provide fruit all summer long. They do not set runners. Some additional culinary herbs are dill, nasturtium, angelica, oregano, lemon balm and lavender.

Some edible flowers are day lilies, chamomile, roses, squash blooms, dianthus, pansies and calendula.

Herbs that are scented, medicinal and useful include comfrey which is a wonderful fertilizer after the leaves are soaked in water for a few weeks. It does have a strong smell. 1 part comfrey to 10 parts water is a feed for flowers. Coneflower which is a native plant. Make sure you leave the spent flowers for the seeds that birds like. Mountain mint attracts a wide variety of insects, however it is a spreader. Ginkgo tree just make sure you have a male tree. Flowering tobacco can be easily grown from seed and is fragrant in the evening.



## March 22 Evening Meeting– Horticulture

Pat Nemeth gave a presentation on New England Wildflowers that are Spring Ephemerals. “Ephemeral” means lasting for a short time. These beauties are with us only for a short while. Seeing them is a treat! She provided six examples.



**Anemone Hepatica**



**Blood Root**



**Dutchman's Breeches**

### New England Wildflowers Spring Ephemerals



**Jack in the Pulpit**



**Meadow Rue**



**Wild Columbine**

***Anemone hepatica*** is a great native perennial for a shade garden. It stays in bloom longer than most native shade plants and it is easy to grow. The flowers are blue, purple, pink, or white. These are early bloomers, flowering in March and April.

**Blood Root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)** has been used by Native Americans for generations for medicinal purposes. Its main ingredient Berberine is used to treat tumors. It likes semi-dry soil and shade. It blooms in March and April with white or pink-tinged flowers. Bloodroot will easily spread with very little attention in your garden.

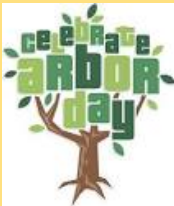
**Dutchman Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)** is a common plant, closely related to Bleeding Heart. It grows about 12" high. It blooms in March and April.

**Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*)** is a two- to three-foot tall plant that blooms with lilac-purple flowers in May and June. This plant is deer and rabbit tolerant.

**Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)** bears three leaves similar to another native shade plant, *Trillium*. This fancifully named perennial, commonly found in the woodlands and grown for its *spathe* and *spadix* features—the structures that form the "pulpit" (the spathe) from which "Jack" (the spadix) preaches. It likes wet soils and tolerates deep shade. It blooms April through May.

**Wild Columbine (*Angelina Condensis*)** is among the more exotic-looking New England natives. After the blooms fade in summer, the plant produces numerous seeds which are easy to collect. It grows well in most types of habitats. Plant grows to 3 feet. It blooms May to June.

# Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Day Meeting</b><br/> <b>April 10 @ 12:30</b><br/> <b>Bourne United Methodist Church</b></p>  | <p><b>Program: Designing a Sunny Perennial Border, by Jana Milbocker</b><br/> <b>Jana Milbocker is the principle of Enchanted Gardens, a garden designer, lecturer, and author. One of her books is The Garden Tourist's Guide to New England. Her 2-acre garden in Holliston features more than 140 varieties of trees and shrubs, perennial gardens, peony and rose beds, water features add shady retreats. Ms. Milbocker will share her expertise on plant layering to create sunny perennial garden full of colorful blooms and flowers for cutting.</b></p> |
| <p><b>April 19 @ 10:30</b></p>   | <p><b>Garden Therapy</b><br/>         Bourne Manor</p>  |
| <p><b>Floral Design Workshops</b><br/> <b>April 1 10:00AM-12:00PM @ Bourne Public Library</b><br/> <b>April 22 time and place TBD</b><br/> <b>April 29 @ 1:00PM-3:00PM @ Bourne Public Library</b></p> | <p><b>Basic Floral Design Workshops</b><br/>         Our Co-Chairs of Artistic Design, Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy will teach the Basic Design Class in 3 parts. It starts at the beginning of flower design; from choosing a container, to shaping a design, to planning a table place setting. We finish by learning to do a parallel design. Sign up available at AGC meetings.</p>  |
| <p><b>Evening Meeting</b><br/> <b>April 19 @ 6:00</b><br/> <b>Bourne United Methodist Church</b></p>   | <p><b>Program: Good Bugs &amp; Bad Bugs, by Bonnie Power</b><br/>         Bonnie Power is a Massachusetts Master Gardener. She will share her knowledge on insects. Not all insects are bad for the garden. In fact, we rely on many to rid us of other unwanted invaders. Ms. Power will describe some common beneficial and pest insects that we encounter in New England.</p>  |
| <p><b>April 25 @ 2:00PM</b><br/> <b>Connie Spilhaus House</b></p>  | <p><b>New Members Tea</b><br/>         New Members are invited. Club activities are described, and new members sign up for committees.</p>  |
| <p><b>April 29 @ 10AM</b><br/> <b>Bourne Public Library</b></p>   | <p><b>Arbor Day</b><br/>         To celebrate, there will be a children's tree coloring contest, a special display on trees and a program. The program on April 29 includes: a presentation on The Importance of Trees by Justin Cifello from Bay Farms of Bourne and after the lecture planting a tree at the Briggs-McDermott House. Register at the Bourne Public Library website</p>  |

## Other Events of Interest

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Hyannis Country Gardens<br/>Go Up! Getting Creative with Plant Supports<br/>April 2, 2023<br/>4:00PM-5:30PM<br/>Virtual Event \$10.00 fee</p> | <p>Plan now to create vertical elements for adding style or whimsy to your gardens or containers. See how you can make many trellises, obelisks and other plant supports yourself, and see which styles you might want to purchase from others. Learn about annual vines and climbing vegetables that are ornamental for such structures, and how to grow them.</p> <p>Go to Hyannis Country Garden website to register.</p>   |
| <p>Hyannis Country Gardens<br/>Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces Happy Hour<br/>April 14, 2023<br/>5:00PM-6:00PM<br/>Virtual Event free</p>     | <p>Pour yourself a spring beverage and hear about how to grow edibles without a traditional vegetable garden. Learn how to add crops to existing ornamental landscapes, or how to raise edibles in containers. Discover which vegetables are most productive in small spaces, and how to maximize your harvests.</p> <p>Go to Hyannis Country Gardens website to register.</p>   |
| <p>Hyannis Country Gardens<br/>Perennials You Should Know &amp; Grow<br/>April 16, 2023<br/>4:00PM-5:30PM<br/>Virtual Event \$10.00</p>          | <p>There is such an amazing selection of perennials available in this class. CL Fornari will help you select some of the best. Hear about plants that are less maintenance and more reliable. Learn which perennials are good for early, mid, and late season bloom. See plants for sun and shade, and find varieties that are best for your landscape.</p> <p>Go to Hyannis Country Gardens to register.</p>  |
| <p>Xerces Society<br/>Herbicides: A Double-Edged Sword?<br/>April 27, 2023<br/>10:00AM-11:00AM<br/>Webinar Free</p>                              | <p>Herbicides, “the chemical hoe” make up more than half of global pesticide sales and use, and are widely applied in agriculture, residential landscapes, and natural areas. Along with reducing the availability of food and shelter for pollinators, herbicides may have some direct effects on insects exposed in air, soil, water, and plants. Join Emily May, Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Pesticide Program at Xerces, to get up to speed on what’s currently known about the direct and indirect effects of herbicides on pollinators.</p> <p>Go to Xerces website to register.</p> |

## Leaf Manipulation Workshop

On March 18th AGC members gathered at the Bourne Public Library to learn about leaf manipulation in flower arranging. **Thank You** Alda Baron and Judy Sheehy who organized and taught this workshop. Lovely flower arrangements were created and four were displayed at the AGC March evening meeting. The creators also provided an explanation of the different techniques used in leaf manipulation.





## Garden Therapy

On March 15th members of the AGC helped residents at Cape Cod Senior Residence make flower arrangements in a vase. **Thank You to** all who participated.







## Save the Date for the Arbor Day Celebration

Come join the Arbor Day celebration with the community, Aptucxet Garden Club and the Jonathan Bourne Library. This is the **50th anniversary** of Arbor Day! **Justin Cifello** from Bay Farms of Bourne will speak on the importance of trees in our community on April 29th. This will be held at the Jonathan Bourne Library at 10:00am and offered to 50 participants. There will be a 45 minute talk and 15 minutes to answer questions. Afterwards, participants will go across the street to Briggs McDermott house to plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day. (Weather Permitting). **Thank You** Darlene Chickosky for organizing this event.

### Garden Tasks Indicator by Plants

- Blooming crocus are your cue to plant radishes, parsnips, and spinach.
- When the forsythia are in bloom, it is safe to plant peas, onions sets and lettuce.
- Half-hardy vegetables, including beets, carrots and chard can be planted when the daffodils blossom.
- Look for dandelions to bloom before planting potatoes.
- Perennial flowers can be planted when the maple trees begin to leaf out.
- When quince is blossoming, transplant cabbage and broccoli.
- Wait for apple trees to bloom before planting bush beans.
- When the apple blossoms fall, plant pole beans and cucumbers.
- By the time the lilacs are in full bloom, it will be safe to plant tender annual flowers and squashes.
- Transfer tomato transplants to the garden when lily-of-the-valley is in.
- Full-sized maple leaves signal time to plant morning glory seeds.
- Peppers and eggplant can be transplanted when the irises are blooming.
- When peonies blossom, it is safe to plant heat-loving melons, such as cantaloupe.

### 2023 Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

Hazardous waste collection dates for 2023 have been announced. Upper Cape residents can go to any of these 4 drop off locations without a fee or registration:

- April 15<sup>th</sup> 9am – 1pm Sandwich High School
- June 17<sup>th</sup> 9am – 1pm Falmouth High School
- August 19<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 1 pm Mashpee High School
- October 21<sup>st</sup> 9am – 1pm Bourne Landfill

Proof of residency required (drivers license, tax bill or utility bill). You must be a homeowner, tenant, or landlord of a property in one of these towns.

Non residents can participate for a fee.

**Note:** no latex paint is accepted.

For further information go to the Town of Bourne Integrated Solid Waste Management website.



22ND ANNUAL

APRIL 22

10AM-2PM



# CAPE COD CANAL CLEAN-UP

**Herring Run Recreation Area**

810 Scenic Highway, Bourne, MA

*Rain or Shine*

**Clean-up supplies provided.**

**Lunch, interactive activities, and more!**

SCAN THIS QR CODE  
TO REGISTER



Organized by:

Questions? Contact Park Ranger Elisa Carey  
elisa.d.carey@usace.army.mil

Or visit  
[https://barnstablecounty.formstack.com/forms/year\\_24\\_canal\\_clean\\_up\\_registration](https://barnstablecounty.formstack.com/forms/year_24_canal_clean_up_registration)



## Ready to Improve Your Soil?

If you didn't get to this job in the fall, amend in the spring as soon as the soil is workable. How do you know when the soil is workable? Take a handful of soil from a depth of about 6 inches and squeeze it in your hand to form a ball. If the soil crumbles through your fingers, then it is dry enough to work. If the soil forms a ball that falls apart on its own or when you press it with your thumb, then the soil is dry enough to work. However, if the ball retains its shape or your thumb just leaves an indentation, the soil is too wet to work. Wait a few days and check the soil again.

Here are some of the most common amendments and their functions:

- **Plant material:** Leaves, straw, and grass clippings. Work material into the soil several months before planting to allow it time to decompose.
- **Compost:** Decayed plant materials such as vegetable scraps. Work it into the soil at least a few weeks prior to planting. Excellent soil conditioner that adds nutrients. May also lower soil pH.
- **Leaf mold:** Decomposed leaves that add nutrients and structure to soil.
- **Aged manure:** A good soil conditioner. Use composted manure and incorporate it into the soil well ahead of planting. Do NOT use fresh manure on vegetable gardens, as it can damage plants and introduce diseases. Note: Manures contain a higher concentration of salts, so use them more sparingly than you would other organic amendments, particularly in dry regions where salts won't be leached away by rainfall.
- **Coconut coir:** A soil conditioner that helps soil retain water. This material is a more sustainable alternative to peat moss.
- **Bark, wood chips, and sawdust:** These materials should be composted before being added to garden soil. Otherwise, they will rob the soil of nitrogen and, consequently, starve the plants of this essential nutrient.
- **Cover crops (green manure):** Cover crops are more of a soil improvement technique than a soil amendment. Cover crops (such as clover, rye, or oats) are planted in the garden at the end of the growing season. They grow rapidly in the fall and are then worked into the soil in the spring. They often contain an abundance of nutrients and their roots can provide structure. [Read more about using cover crops.](#)
- **Topsoil:** Usually used with another amendment to provide volume. Replaces existing soil.
- **Lime:** Raises the pH of acidic soil. Only use if recommended by a soil test.
- **Sulfur:** Lowers the pH of alkaline soil. Only use if recommended by a soil test.
- **Wood ash:** Raises the pH of acidic soil. Only use if recommended by a soil test.



## Special Recognition

Three ladies deserve special recognition for their work in March. Let the drum roll begin!

1. I want to recognize our Treasurer Laura Bergeron. Thanks to her dedication, we opened a \$20,000 CD that will earn us \$800 this year. Yay Laura!

2. I want to thank Darlene Chickosky for her work to plan this year's Arbor Day celebration. Thanks to her and her committee, the program is a partnership with the Library and the Briggs-McDermott House. Be sure to come and enjoy April 29<sup>th</sup>!

3. Anna Holmes outdid herself with our gift basket for Laurie York's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The garden fence she made for the basket was one of a kind. She used the fence to recognize Laurie's legacy of work for the club. What a touch of class! Thank you Anna!



Celebrating Laurie York's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday

## Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Thanks to many of you, my message this month is about Celebrating Dedication and Creativity! In March we celebrated the birthday of Laurie York as she turned 99. Laurie's many years of work with the club included gardening at the Aptucxet Trading Post, the Briggs-McDermott House and pioneering the Town's Three-Mile Canal walk.

Laurie was delighted with her gift from the club. We received this Thank You from her daughter Andrea.

We were completely blown away by how exuberant it is! Laurie was overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of the group, the card from so many dear friends, and the wonderful garden fence. It really made her whole birthday celebration. Thanks so much!

AGC gives to each of us, friendship, knowledge, and an opportunity to make our community a better place. Through floral design, hospitality, programs and digging in the dirt ... we Celebrate Dedication and Creativity! I am honored to work with each of YOU! - 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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