



# Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

## Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

March 2023



"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

— Charles Dickens

### February 15 Evening Meeting Report

#### Floral Design by Judy Sheehy



This is a traditional design because it is monochromatic stems are all in the same place and flowers create a rounded shape. This lovely arrangement was created by Emilie Martin.

The color attributes of a design are the tints and tones of the flowers. This design being monochromatic can have colors ranging from dark maroon to pink. The flowers in this design are dark red and slightly pink with the texture of the flowers giving it some variety.

Light is also an attribute and this design has some lighter colored flowers.

## The Fascinating History of the Orange

For the February Horticulture presentation, Pat Nemeth took the club on a journey that began in China and ended up in the United States. The history of the orange began in Southern China on the foothills of the Himalayas. Here 300 years before the birth of Christ, we have the first written accounts of the bitter orange. In time the bitter orange is exported to Spain where it becomes known as the famous Seville Orange.

Spanish explorers then go on to discover the sweet orange in East Africa. This sweet orange is then planted in Florida and becomes the main source of our orange juice. In the late 1800's a sweet orange is discovered in Brazil. The government of Brazil shares this orange with US Department of Agriculture. They send a few cuttings to Eliza Tibbits in Riverside California. This navel orange launches California's second gold rush. This orange and its cultivars are the main source of the fruit in our grocery stores.



Pat finished her presentation with two taste samplings. For the bitter orange, she served dark crackers with brie and a spread of Seville Orange Marmalade. For the sweet orange, she served a salad of Navel and Cara oranges, layered with coconut and silvered pieces of red onion.

## State of the Waters on Cape Cod, by Andrew Gottlieb

Andrew Gottlieb is the Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC). The Cape has had environmental issues for the past fifty years, with the quality of water coming to the forefront as it continues to deteriorate. Causes are climate change, loss of habitat and increase in CO2 emissions. The State of the Waters for Cape Cod is published every year. It gives the data for drinking water, ponds and estuaries.

Overall the drinking water meets all guidelines at this time. Of the 20 water systems on the Cape, 16 are excellent, 2 are good and 2 are poor.

The estuaries over the past 4 years have trended from 68% increase in nutrients up to 90% this year. The primary source of nutrients adversely affecting are bays and ponds is inadequately treated waste water and septic systems. These nutrients cause the algae to grow which exceeds healthy, sustainable life. It clogs the water making it murky which decreases the light needed by eel grass. The decline of eel grass causes a loss of oxygen and habitat value. Also dark water holds more heat. The algae die off in the fall falling to the bottom of the estuary creating a thick layer of muck again causing decline of eel grass. This all causes fish kill.

The cause of the increase in nutrients comes from 15% storm water runoff and fertilizers. The other 85% is from septic systems.

There is not much known about the ponds as there is not a lot of data. The Cape Cod Pond and Lake Stewardship (PALS) program was created in 2000 to monitor the bacteria in ponds. 50% of ponds are vulnerable to poor water quality. 1/3 already exhibit poor water quality.

Freshwater ponds and lakes are more affected by phosphorus than nitrogen. The ponds are getting warmer increasing by 6 degrees over the past 20 years. This warming promotes algae cyanobacteria growth. Fertilizers increase the nutrients which in turn increases the bacteria growth. Cyanobacteria can lead to serious illness and death. Pets are more vulnerable.

Andrew stated that there is no difference between organic and synthetic fertilizers.

Solving the problem is easy, treat the sewage before it gets to the water! If you missed the meeting it is available on You-Tube: <https://youtu.be/Alx3LnyMPjA>.

Recently (how timely) the Cape Cod Times published an article about Flushing toilets on Cape Cod: Report shows waters increasingly polluted. Ponds, bays on Cape Cod failed water quality tests, environmental group says in annual report. Check out this story on capecodtimes.com: <https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/environment/2023/02/22/environmental-group-cape-cod-ponds-bays-failed-water-quality-tests/69846164007/>

Resources:

[apcc.org](http://apcc.org)

[capecodwaters.org](http://capecodwaters.org)





## Save the Dates for the Arbor Day Celebration by Darlene Chickosky

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).

On April 1st, **paper tree** cutouts will be available for children to pickup, decorate and return back to the library by April 21-22. Trees will be on display in the children's room for public viewing. Book prizes will be awarded at noon on April 29th after the speaker. If a Winner cannot pick up their award, it will be left in the children's room.

The **display case** in the children's area will feature information on Johnny Appleseed's life and adventures, his knowledge of apple trees and his books.


Various **books** on trees will be on display in the children's area to encourage reading.

**Cookies** in the shape of trees will be distributed after the speaker event. The cookies will list the food ingredients for the public.

Please join us on April 29h to celebrate Arbor Day!



If anyone has any questions please contact Darlene Chickosky email [d.chickosky@verizon.net](mailto:d.chickosky@verizon.net).

# Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

<p><b>Day Meeting</b>  <b>March 13 @ 12:30</b>  <b>Bourne United Methodist Church</b></p>	<p><b>Program: Collector's Guide to Hostas, by Joan Butler</b>          Joan Butler is a Master Gardener, she is a past Chairman of the Massachusetts Landscape Design Council and an accredited Flower Show Judge. Ms. Butler will show us how to design a beautiful garden based on the interplays of color, texture and the placement of incredible hostas, and companion plants. Did you know that there are more than 7,000 named varieties of Hostas? Come and learn more about the favorite perennial.</p>
<p><b>March 15 @ 10:30</b></p>	<p><b>Garden Therapy</b>          Cape Cod Senior Residences (Royal)</p>
<p><b>Leaf Manipulation Workshop</b>  <b>March 18 @ 10AM</b>  <b>Bourne Public Library</b></p> 	<p>Leaf Manipulation Workshop-Part 1, by Co-chairs of Artistic Design, Alda Barron &amp; Judy Sheehy. Basic leaf manipulation techniques will be demonstrated, including rolling, bending, and cutting leaves. Additional plant material will be supplied so you will go home with an all-green design. Principles of Design will be reinforced along the way. Sign up is required as space is limited. Contact Alda Barron by <b>March 1st</b>.</p>
<p><b>Evening Meeting</b>  <b>March 22 @ 6:00</b>  <b>Bourne United Methodist Church</b></p>	<p><b>Program: Establishing a Home Herb Garden, by Kathy Gariepy</b>          Kathy Gariepy has been a Master Gardener for over 20 years. She is a past president of the Massachusetts Master Gardeners and the Attleboro Garden Club. She is a lecturer and author on the health benefits of herbs and gardening. Ms. Gariepy will explore the world of herbs and look at modern day herb gardens.</p>



## AGC Yearbook Calendar Updates

March		
<b>Saturday 18 Library</b>	10:00 am	<b>Leaf Manipulation Workshop</b> Alda Barron & Judy Sheehy Registration required. Limited to 12 people.
April		
<b>Saturday 1 Library</b>	10:00 am	<b>Basic Floral Design – Part 1</b> Alda Barron & Judy Sheehy Registration required. Limited to 12 people.
<b>Saturday 22 Library</b>	10:00 am	<b>Basic Floral Design – Part 2</b> Alda Barron & Judy Sheehy Registration required. Limited to 12 people.
<b>Saturday 29 Library &amp; Briggs- McDermott House</b>	10:00 am – Program  11:00 am – Tree Planting	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Arbor Day Celebration</b></p> <p>Arbor Day is Friday, April 28. To celebrate, there will be a children’s tree coloring contest, a special display on trees and a program. The program on Saturday includes: a presentation on <i>The Importance of Trees</i> by Justin Cifello from Bay Farms of Bourne and planting a tree at the Briggs-McDermott House.</p>
<b>Saturday 29 Library</b>	10:00 am	<b>Basic Floral Design – Part 3</b> Alda Barron & Judy Sheehy Registration required. Limited to 12 people.
May		
<b>Saturday 13 Pocasset Community Building</b>	9:30 am - 12:30 pm	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spring Greens &amp; Bake Sale</b></p> <p>This event was incorrectly listed for 5/6.</p>
<b>Monday 24 Regular Meeting</b>	5:50 – 7:45 pm	<b>Floral Workshop</b> This event is noted as having a \$15 registration fee. Due to a generous donation from Doug Zeghibe, in memory of his mother Sally, the workshop will be free.
<b>Saturday 31</b>	Cancelled	<b>Club Social</b> Due to many other Spring events, the Board has decided to cancel this event for this year.

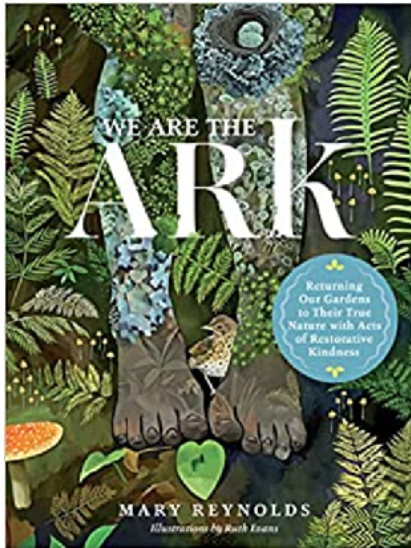
## Other Events of Interest

<p>Grow Native Massachusetts Evenings with Experts March 4, 2023 1:00PM-2:30PM Webinar Free</p>	<p>Our current environmental crises are born of modern humanity's destructive re-shaping of the earth to suit our short-term interest. We have become so profoundly detached from the natural world that we have forgotten that we too depend on the web of life. Author and activist Mary Reynolds envisions a healing process where humans embrace our role as caretakers with Acts of Restorative Kindness to the Earth, or ARKs. Join us to learn how an ARK is different from a typical wildlife garden, and what principles to follow to create true sanctuaries for our shared kin, the rooted and the unrooted. Together, we can step up and become weavers of the web of life, re-stitch the threads we have broken, and build a patchwork quilt of left to restore our planet.</p> <p>Go to Grow Native Massachusetts website to register</p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens In-store Classes March 3, 2023 4:00PM</p> <p>March 16, 2023 4:00PM</p>	<p>Hear from Betsy Williams how to successfully grow and use herbs. Betsy is a nationally known expert in all things herbal. Learn about great plants and how to help them thrive. <i>Advance registration is required</i></p> <p>Learn how to grow tomatoes and basil from seed, the best flavors of summer. Hear when to plant and how to solve problems. Cost: \$10 includes a pack of Rutgers Basil seeds. <i>Advance registration online.</i></p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens Virtual Classes March 10, 2023 5:00PM Webinar Free</p> <p>March 12, 2023 4:00PM-5:30PM</p> <p>March 26, 2023 4:00PM-5:30PM</p>	<p>Join C.L. Fornari to discuss flowers to grow from seed Happy Hour. Hear which varieties to start now and annuals that can be seeded directly into the ground. Learn about common problems and pitfalls. <i>Advance registration is required.</i></p> <p>Learn about growing terrific tomatoes under lights indoors, in the ground or in containers. Discover the best fertilizers to control early-blight and fungal problems. Cost: \$10 includes emailed handout. <i>Advance registration required.</i></p> <p>Learn how to add more native plants to your landscape which supports pollinators and other wildlife. Make areas that require less water and create a beautiful garden. Find out about keystone plants and how they can be added to existing plantings. Cost: \$10 includes email handout. <i>Advance registration is required.</i></p>



## Book Review Corner

By: Cheryl Hafela



The increasing collapse in biodiversity and the lack of space for wildlife led to the writing of *We Are the ARK*. This book tells us how we as individuals can return our gardens to their true nature with Acts of Restorative Kindness (ARK). Individuals can not save the world alone but together, each of us saving our own gardens we have a chance.

Starting with some history of the garden industry Mary next explains the science of ARK and its aims. This is a great book to get you started on your own restoration. It gives you designs, what plants to use that will build an ARK and why you should use native plants. It talks about layering plants which help support the creatures of a garden (birds, bats and insects). Having a water source no matter how small is a needed part of the ecosystem.

It tells us the importance of growing your own food or if not supporting local organic and regenerative food producers. Feeding the soul also feeds the soil.

Mary writes that the time for gardens as canvases for our creative pleasure is over, everything must change if we are to save the planet. Join the movement!

Mary Reynolds is an Irish gardener, reformed landscape designer, author and public activist, known for being the youngest contestant to win a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. She currently works as an author, designer and environmentalist and published her first book *The Garden Awakening* in 2016





## Design Workshop Alert!

Members need to sign up soon for two workshops coming in March and April!

1. **Leaf Manipulation** - Learn multiple ways to twist, turn, cut leaves for interesting effects. Saturday March 18 10:00AM-12:00PM, at the Jonathan Bourne Library. Contact Alda Barron by MARCH 1!
2. **Basic Flower Design** - A three session workshop for those who would like to learn flower design from the ground up in a relaxed, supportive setting. Attending all 3 sessions is important! Dates are Saturday April 1 from 1:00PM-3:00PM at the Jonathan Bourne Library. Two more to follow on April 22 and April 29 from 1:00PM-3:00PM. Sign up at March meeting or contact Alda Barron



## Down-to-Earth Advice for Life on Our Changing Planet

First a word on dirt. Most people prefer the word soil as dirt has a negative connotation. Soil is the surface minerals where everything grows. Soil is what makes life possible. 95% of our food comes from soil. Soil is the "biological universe" because it contains three times more carbon than the atmosphere and 1 billion bacteria along with other organisms. We have eroded our soil through poor farming practices, deforestation and urbanization.

Solution turn your lawn into a biodiverse area by planting native seed. Another solution, create your own compost. Only 6% of our food waste goes towards composting. All you really need is a hole (trench, heap, bin or pile), then it is just adding grass, leaves, food waste (no meat) and have patience! Or if you do not have the space use worm farms or dehydrators that also create compost.



## Bourne ISWM Updates by Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

The Bourne ISWM (Integrated Solid Waste Management Department) has recently installed a "recyclopdia" search tool on the Town of Bourne's website titled "Recycling in Bourne" to help residents determine whether a specific item should be recycled, composted, or trashed. Their page also has some helpful links.

A new Massachusetts's law bans the trashing of mattresses. Check out the page on the ISWM website regarding disposal options and donations.



### **Crocus: The Art and Soul of Spring**

**Crocus** (plural: crocuses or croci) is a genus of seasonal flowering plants in the family Iridaceae (iris family) comprising about 100 species of perennials growing from bulb-like corms. A corm is a fleshy part of the stem that grows underground. Its purpose is to store food and it is different from a true bulb or a tuber, although it looks similar to both. Crocus naturalize by corm offsets (baby corms on the sides of the originally planted corm) and sometimes, when mature and happy over time, by self-sowing seed.

The crocus flower was seen in the Bronze Age Minoan Crete culture, about 1500 BC when women wore the flowers in their hair and used saffron-based cosmetics. The Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, and the Minoans of Crete all grew the crocus. The crocus corm has a history of trade throughout Europe that a few pounds of corms served as a loan for gold and jewels. The first crocus in the Netherlands came from the corms brought back from the Roman Empire in the 1560s. A few corms were forwarded to Carol Clausius at the botanical garden in Leiden. By 1620, new garden varieties had been developed.

A relatively small group of crocus are commonly cultivated for garden use. They are commonly labeled as species crocus, botanical crocus or giant crocus. Species crocus are often interchanged with botanical crocus. *Crocus Chrysanthus* (species crocus) commonly known as Snow Crocus or Golden Crocus dates back to before the 18th century, when they were native to Europe, North Africa and western Asia. Like all crocus they are low growing plants, whose flower stems remain underground. They are the early bloomers. They bear relatively large white, yellow, orange and purple flowers and then become dormant after flowering. The flowers close at night and in overcast weather conditions. Don't worry about a surprise late spring snowfall; they normally recover as if it had never happened.

The name "giant crocus" is a bit misleading since all crocuses are small in size. They are called giant crocus because their blooms are larger than those of species crocus, up to 3" in diameter when open during the day. Also, often called Dutch crocus, they bloom a few days to a week slower than species crocus.

## Committee News

*AGC was formed more than 80 years ago to serve our Town with civic plantings and educational programs. A number of our committees are about to spring into action. Here are a few Committee News items.*

**Arbor Day Chair:** Darlene Chickosky  
Program planned at the Library for 4/29 with a tree planting at the Briggs-McDermott House. See Calendar Updates for more information.

**Junior Gardeners Chair:** Sally Curtain  
Program planned for second graders in May at Bourne Elementary School. Sally will discuss the program at the 3/13 meeting. Volunteers are needed.

**Village Beautification Chair:** Marilyn Crane  
(Note: Sally Baer resigned as Chair.)  
Applications for funding community planting projects are invited. Marilyn will discuss the program at the 3/22 meeting.

**Scholarships Chair:** Chris Crane  
Program will be advertised in April.  
Applications are due June 1. Awards are announced mid-June.

In addition, the program at our 5/15 meeting will present our gardening work at the Aptucxet Trading Post and the Briggs-McDermott House.

We do so many things to serve the community. I am looking forward to creating a photo journal of these wonderful projects. Many thanks to all the committee members for their hard work!

- Pat Nemeth



### Message from the President

*Dear Fellow Gardeners,*

*This is the time of the year when I am thrilled when one of my indoor plants blooms. Last year a friend gave me a giant white violet. It has now bloomed for the first time. I have placed a bottle of wine next to it, so you can see how large it is.*

*There are hundreds of types of violets. I have been searching for what this one might be. Perhaps it is the "Jolly Sun Catcher" or a "Le Ivetta"? I know only that it is magnificent! If you recognize this type of violet, please let me know.*

*I hope your indoor plants are bringing you joy! Soon we will be outside again and enjoying the resurrection of many of our perennials. I for one long to be digging in the dirt.*

*I want to thank Sue Barlow again for the program on the State of the Waters on Cape Cod. Andrew Gottlieb from the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) gave a superb talk. It was difficult to learn how deteriorated our waters are. The clean up challenge ahead of us is huge. All of us in attendance were educated and engaged. If you missed the meeting, you can check out APCC and sign up for their Newsletter at [apcc.org](http://apcc.org)*

- 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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