



Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

May 2023



“The world’s favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.”

—Edwin Way Teale



April 10 Day Meeting Report Horticulture by Karen Cronburg

Viewing gardens is a passion of Karen’s. Some suggestions for Spring adventures:

- Aputucxet Trading Post for the daffodil display.
- Isabel Stewart Garden Museum for the hanging nasturtiums. Tickets are available for purchase on-line for \$20.00, \$15.00 for seniors. The gardens are closed on Tuesdays.
- Wicked Tulips in Exeter R.I. for the tulip display. You can pick your own tulips \$17.00 purchase tickets on-line.
- Dartmouth National Reserve and Trust for the fields of daffodils. \$5.00 donation.
- Blithewold Mansion and Gardens in Bristol R.I. for daffodil days April 8-23.
- Boston Public Gardens to view the spring flowers.
- Highfield Hall Gardens in Falmouth.



Creating Sunny Perennial Gardens by Jana Milbocker & Joan Butler

Jana grows over 300 different cultivars in her perennial garden. She started off by planting seeds, then added trees for structure and obtained additional plants from plant swaps, catalogs, nurseries and exchanging with friends and neighbors. Jana's lecture was on how to create a perennial garden:

- Chose a bloom season which makes it easy to create a colorful garden. Chose plants that bloom in spring, early summer, mid summer, late summer and early autumn. This way you have blooming plants year round.
- Design the garden on paper then select the plants.
- Frame the garden with a hedge, wall, or fence as a backdrop. This creates a micro climate and stops the eye. A green hedge will make the flower colors pop. Make a crisp border edge to the garden.
- In designing use the principles found in art. Plant in proportion using larger drifts instead of single plants. Use plants that match the size of the flower bed. Shrubs in the garden bed provide height and structure. You want to create layers by using the size of plants. Large in the back with smaller plants in the front.
- Add focal points to create contrast and interest.
- Chose a color palette, monochromatic, complimentary colors or contrasting colors. Flower shapes or the leaf shape can create structure, contrast, repetition or harmony.
- Add perennial partners like bulbs, roses, vines, biennials and annals to extend bloom time.

To maintain a happy healthy perennial garden make sure to renovate every 5-10 years. Have access paths into the garden to make it easy for working and weeding. Use plant supports. A good suggestion is to use netting. Take photos, keep a journal or use a bloom calendar to help when creating or expanding the garden.

Resource: Perennials (Eyewitness Garden Handbooks) by David Joyce

The Garden Tourist's New England

Evening Meeting April 19

Good Bugs and Bad Bugs by Bonnie Power



Good Bug: Bee



Bad Bug: Spotted Lantern Fly

There are 900,000 known insect species or you can say 300 pounds of bugs for each of us! Since the birds rely on insects for food for their young, you should tolerate insects on your property. Less than 6% of insects are a problem and most pests have natural predators. Plants have defenses too.

Why have insects been around for so long? Insects are very tiny, they fly, and are very adaptable. They also have a variety of niches, are highly fertile and have a wide variety of lifestyles.

Insects are arthropods with jointed legs and an exoskeleton. They have an open circulation with hearts and arteries, no veins or capillaries. They have a segmented body and breathe through gills. All insects have six legs even caterpillars. Other bugs besides arthropods are spiders and crustaceans (pill bug).

There are many different types of insect life styles:

- Plant eaters such as caterpillars and beetles. Their predators are lady bugs and praying mantis.
- Pollinators like flies, beetles and bees.
- Parasites like wasps and flies.
- Decomposers like the dung beetle.

Good/Beneficial Insects:

- True bugs have two pairs of wings and sucking mouth parts. Some examples are the wheel, assassin and ambush bugs.
- Predatory bugs have two pairs of wings and a hard shell. Like the firefly, beetles, lady bug and lace wing.
- Flies like the robber fly and syrphid fly.
- Bees with two wings like the honeybee, ground dwelling bee and cavity nesters. To help the bees plant native blooms, use the least toxic control, limit use of pesticides, and do not clean up garden in fall.
- Spiders that are helpful are orb weavers and jumpers.

To attract beneficial insects have nectar/pollen plants, provide year round shelter, no yard cleanup in fall and be pesticide free.

The bad bugs comprise 470 species, most are invasive. Some examples are winter fly, red lily beetle, Japanese beetle, and spongey moth or gypsy moth. Scientists have developed parasites that can kill the bad bugs. Common garden pests include the cut worm, flea beetle, aphids, cabbage worms, cucumber beetles, potato beetle, mites and tomato horn worms. Some new pests are the spotted lantern fly and jumping worms.

Design Committee Doings!

During the month of April, a three part Basic Flower Design Workshop was held. Ten club members enrolled for this hands-on learning opportunity led by Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy!

- Class 1 was to design a traditional centerpiece.
- Class 2 involved the same type of design but added in the challenge of coordinating it with a table place setting.
- Class 3 was a Parallel Design, the first step toward understanding Creative Design.



Debbie Webster and Nora Grant at the first class.



Place setting with Decorative Unit by Linda Wagner



TREES WITH BENEFITS

There are so many reasons to add a new tree to your landscape this spring that it's hard to find a reason not to.

Just think about it, trees will...

Beautify the Environment

Trees add texture and color to the landscape. They soften the harsh lines of buildings and driveways, while their foliage and blooms add seasonal interest.

Stabilize Soil

Tree roots prevent soil from blowing or washing away, minimize erosion, and provide protection for the surrounding landscape.

Provide Wildlife Habitat

Trees provide shelter and food for wild birds, insects and pollinators, and numerous small animals, including squirrels, raccoons, and more.

Make Food

Many trees provide fruits, nuts, seeds, sap and berries for human consumption. Wildlife will also rely on the food and pollen provided by trees.

Create Oxygen

Through photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and other poisons from our air and release pure oxygen for us to breathe. One tree can produce enough oxygen for 10 humans for one year!

Filter the Air

Trees act as giant filters trapping dust and pollution particles with their leaves and bark until the rain washes the particles away.

Cool the Air

Air will remain several degrees cooler in the shade of a tree canopy. This is accomplished by not only blocking the sun's rays but also through transpiration. Tree leaves transpire, or release moisture, which cools the surrounding air. A large tree can release as much as 400 gallons of moisture daily from its leaves.

Reduce Utility Bills

Deciduous trees planted on the south and southwest sides of a home will shade the structure during hot summer months and reduce air conditioning or other cooling needs. In the winter, with the leaves fallen, the sun is able to warm the structure, reducing heating bills.

Reduce Noise Pollution

Strategically planted, trees can dramatically reduce the volume of unwanted noise from loud neighbors, nearby businesses, or car traffic.

Hide Undesirable Views

Purposefully sited, trees can camouflage unattractive views and create privacy, providing a natural sanctuary in your yard.

Arbor Day Celebration AGC & Bourne Public Library



Justin Cifello and Darlene Chickosky

Darlene started off the Arbor Day Celebration by introducing Justin Cifello from Bay End Farms who spoke about the history and importance of trees.

Justin asked, "What is the definition of a tree?" It is a prolific group and has no real definition. There are two types; the gymnosperm trees that are broad leaf with cones and have no flowers. They propagate by wind or fire like the barren pine. The other type is the angiosperm which has leaves and flowers. These propagate thru insects. Beetles were the first pollinators.

Justin showed us labeled examples of different types of New England trees, both flowering and nonflowering.

Thank You Darlene & Justin for a wonderful educational lecture.



Tree shaped cookies



Gathering at the Forge



Winner of the paper tree cutouts



After the lecture at the Library we went over to the Briggs McDermott House. Following the Arbor Day theme tree shaped cookies were provided in the Forge. **Thank You** Paula O'Neal for the lovely flower arrangement and delicious cookies.

The winner of the paper tree cutouts decorating contest was presented with a Johnny Appleseed Book. Congratulations! **Thank You** Harriet Place for the Johnny Appleseed display case in the children's area of the Library.

The highlight of the day was the AGC Arbor Day Committee, who purchased the tree a Fringe (*chionanthus virginicus*), planted by Justin Cifello. **Thank You** all for making this a wonderful celebration!

Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

<p>AGC Town Select Board Presentation May 9 @ 7:00PM Bourne Community Building</p>	<p>AGC – Who We Are The Power of Gardening</p>
<p>Spring Greens & Bake Sale May 13 @ 9:30-12:30 Pocasset Community Building</p>	<p>Spring Greens & Bake Sale</p> 
<p>Day Meeting May 15 @ 12:00-2:15</p>	<p>Program: Get Acquainted with Gardens at the Briggs-McDermott House and the Aptuxcet Trading Post, by Pat Nemeth and Kathy Sargent-O’Neill Our club has a long history of maintaining historic gardens in our Town. We take care of the gardens at the Aptuxcet Trading Post and the gardens at the Briggs-McDermott House. Come and enjoy a little history and learn what makes these gardens so worthy of our work.</p>
<p>Garden Therapy May 17 @ 3:00</p>	<p>Garden Therapy Cape Cod Senior Residences (Royal)</p>
<p>Evening Meeting May 24 @ 5:30 Bourne United Methodist Church</p>	<p>Program: Floral Workshop, by Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy Our Co-Chairs of Artistic Design, Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy will teach this workshop. They will present a workshop where everyone will make a floral design of their own to take home. To participate, members need to sign up for the meeting. Participants need to bring their own clippers. Members who just wish to observe are welcome to attend, without registering.</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>Hyannis Country Gardens May 7, 2023 4:00PM-5:30PM Flowers for Cutting-Bouquet Annuals & Perennials Webinar \$10.00 Fee</p>	<p>You can grow bouquets of flowers for your desk at work and in your home, to give away to others, or for an important event. In this class you'll learn about which annuals and perennials will provide great flowers for cutting. Find out how to fit these into your existing landscape or create a special cutting garden. Learn how you can have bouquets from spring through the fall, and which plants deliver the most flower power.</p> <p>Go to Hyannis Country Gardens website to register</p>
<p>Xerces Society May 11, 2023 1:00PM-2:00PM Fireflies: Jewels of the Night Webinar Free</p>	<p>Insect populations around the world are declining rapidly. But why? While habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change all have something to do with it, I show in this talk that light pollution is another important — but too often overlooked — bringer of the insect apocalypse. Light pollution interferes with the development, movement, foraging, and reproduction of diverse insect species, including many that we know and love such as fireflies. Fortunately, there are many simple things that we can all do to help reverse this driver of insect declines. Light pollution can be cheaply, easily, and instantly eliminated, and doing so can help ensure that we live in harmony with our insect friends and neighbors for generations to come.</p> <p>Go to Xerces Society website to register</p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens May 12, 2023 5:00PM-6:00PM Combinations for Containers Happy Hour Webinar 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 to register</p>
<p>Grow Native Massachusetts Evenings with Experts May 17, 2023 7:00PM-8:00PM Messy or Magic? Biodiversity and the Perception of Beauty Webinar Free or In-person</p>	<p>Landscapes built along conventional standards of beauty, such as the pristine American lawn, are typically ecological dead zones, and often maintained with chemicals that are harmful to humans as well as wildlife. Given catastrophic declines in biodiversity, it is imperative that we make room for nature in our neighborhoods. But habitat-rich native landscapes are still commonly read as “messy,” a barrier to the widespread cultural embrace of this movement. Edwina von Gal discusses how we can change the perception of what a “good” garden is, where healthy habitat is not disparaged as untidy but appreciated for its richness, complexity, and life-giving magic.</p> <p>Go to Grow Native Massachusetts to register</p>

**Next Styrofoam Collection Days
May 15 Day Meeting and May 24 Evening Meeting**


At AGC's next 2 meetings in May, we will be collecting CLEAN only, non-biodegradable styrofoam which includes: egg cartons, packing peanuts, styrofoam coolers, packing styrofoam and food trays and cups. There should be NO labels, stickers, paper or tape attached to the styrofoam and NO DIRTY foam. If the material does not snap when bent, then we do not accept it. Not accepted: black styrofoam eurothene, styrofoam wrapping, or pluck styrofoam. Bring your styrofoam in BAGS MARKED WITH YOUR NAME. Thank you for doing your part!

Betsy Woodley and Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

PLEASE READ

INSULATION TECHNOLOGY INC. **ONLY CLEAN FOAM EPS!**
ONLY NON-BIODEGRADABLE FOAM

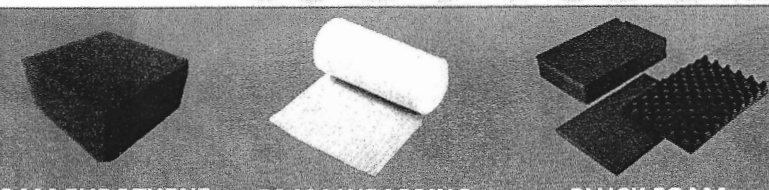
ACCEPTED MATERIAL



EGG CARTONS PACKING PEANUTS
FOAM COOLERS PACKING FOAM FOOD TRAYS AND CUPS

IF THE MATERIAL DOES NOT SNAP WHEN BENT, THEN WE DO NOT ACCEPT IT!

NOT ACCEPTED



FOAM EUROTHENE FOAM WRAPPING PLUCK FOAM

NO LABELS, STICKERS, PAPER, OR TAPE ATTACHED TO THE FOAM
NO DIRTY FOAM
IF YOU ARE UNSURE, JUST ASK ☺

35 1st St, Bridgewater, MA 02324

Thank you for doing your part ☺



Dahlias

Did you know that the dahlia, one of the showiest of all flowers is the national flower of Mexico? It should not come as a surprise since the mountains of Mexico and Guatemala are considered the home of origin for today's dahlia ancestors. The Aztecs cultivated the plant and had gardens filled with dahlias. The flowers were open-centered, single blooms with pendant stems. The hollow stems of these plants were often used for hauling water or as an actual source of water to traveling hunters.

In 1791, the conquering conquistadors brought the plant to Spain where Antonio Jose Cavanilles, senior member of the staff of the Royal Botanic Garden in Madrid gave it the name Dahlia, in honor of the Swedish botanist, Andreas Dahl, a pupil of Linnaeus. In the 1800's, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Madrid sent dahlia seeds and tubers throughout western Europe where the plant's popularity exploded. Initial breeders of dahlias were more interested in it as a food source since the blooms were not particularly noteworthy. Perhaps, fortunately for us today, these experiments met with little success. From 1810 to 1840 dahlias were very popular as nurserymen continued to expand the combinations of colors in dahlias and the first fully double forms began to emerge. In the 1850's in Germany the pompom dahlia was developed, and in 1870's in Holland, the cactus dahlia was created. Soon however, as is with many other breeding projects, it was felt that all combinations had been reached and the interest in dahlias began to wane.

In 1872 a box of dahlia roots were sent from Mexico to Holland. The impact of this long journey was devastating in that all but one tuber made the crossing. This singular root, however, proved quite astonishing in that it produced a brilliant red bloom with petals that were rolled back and pointed! Immediately dahlias regained their place on the benches of plant breeders who began to successfully combine this new variety with parents of early varieties and their progenies have served as the parents of today's hybrids.

The plants come in all heights from 12 inches to 4+ feet, and the blossoms can range in diameter from 2 inches to 10 inches. They can be grown in full sun in Zones 3-7. The tall varieties will need to be staked. Dahlias require frequent watering. During winters in Zones 6 and higher, the tubers can be left in the ground. In Zones 5 and lower, the tubers must be dug up and stored in a dry basement.

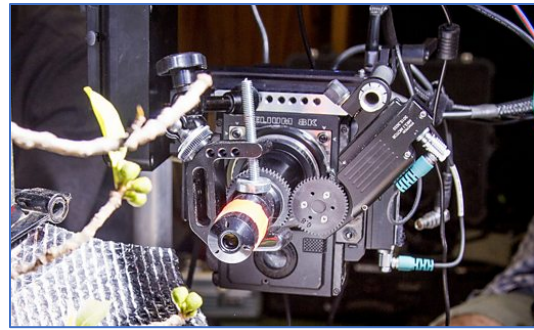
The “Green Planet” and “Encanto”

Recently I was thrilled to see something from a new perspective; and then amazed to connect fantasy with reality! The story begins with a BBC TV series released last year called the **Green Planet**.

If you love TV shows on nature, you know Sir David Attenborough. He narrates the five episodes of **Green Planet**. Each episode takes you into a different type of habitat. The magic of this show comes from a robotic super microscope time lapse camera called the Triffids. Sir David has nicknamed the camera the “game-changer”.



Sir David Attenborough



Triffids

Episode Two is called **Water Worlds**. In this episode you travel into the hidden green world of fresh water rivers, where plants evolved to overcome huge challenges to survive. Through the eyes of the “game-changer” you will see seeds plummeted by waterfalls, lily pads grow to three feet in diameter and you will meet the Red Mayarinia.

The Red Mayarinia (*Macarenia clavigera*) is known to exist in only a few rivers in Columbia. **Water Worlds** takes you to Cano Cristales, known as the most beautiful river in the world. Here this unique plant clings to the rocks with their stems, not their roots. Their feather-like frills are modified leaves which gather the nutrients they need to survive. When water levels rise and there is enough sunlight, the plant blooms in shades of pink to dark red.

Now if you have seen Disney’s movie **Encanto**, you will be stopped in your tracks! Cano Cristales was the real-world inspiration for the closing sweet hug of reconciliation between Maribel and her Grandma. Disney took their world of fantasy inspiration from the real world. How cool is that!



Red Mayarinia



Maribel and Abuela hug in **Encanto**

NEWS FLASH



AGC Working With The Town

For years AGC members have planted and cared for a number of planters on Main Street, as well as two urns at the Library and two urns at Town Hall. This labor of love has had a few problems. Members worried that the planters on Main Street didn't quite create the visual benefit desired; and watering all the planters was a bit of a burden.

Then on top of that the members doing the work, wondered if the Town even cared. Oh my!

I am happy to report that the Town does care. Recently members of the club met with the Assistant Town Administrator, Liz Hartsgrove. A partnership was discussed which would include the Town's purchase of new self-watering reservoir planters. A plan for the location of the planters would be developed. The Chamber of Commerce would be invited to participate. AGC would provide plants and our gardening services.

This is just a beginning. There will be more news to share in the months ahead. My compliments to all the ladies who participate in this Village Beautification project. - Pat Nemeth



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Spring brings joy! It is as simple as that. After long months of cold days, we again get to rejoice with time in the sun, hands in the dirt, and the beginning of flowers in our yards.

I want to thank all the members of the club who tirelessly serve the club and the community. We are a special group because of the collective goodness of our members.

Whether we are preparing floral designs, learning better gardening practices, gardening at a public site, or serving on a Hospitality committee, our efforts make for friendship and a better community.

Many of you have contacted me with great suggestions. Keep them coming. We will soon be planning next year's calendar and budget.

I look forward to enjoying our May floral design workshop with you. Be sure to sign up with Judy Sheehy or Alda Barron.

- 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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