



Aputucxet Garden Club of Bourne

Peace in the Garden

Newsletter

June 2023



"Of course fresh flowers are the answer to any June gloom you may be feeling. Flowers really do solve all problems.."

— Mia Moretti

May 15 Day Meeting Report Floral Design by Linda Wagner



This flower arrangement was created by Alda Barron based on the theme "Grateful for Freedom. Linda explained, Alda used red, (carnations) white (bleeding hearts) and blue (delphiniums) flowers based on the colors of the American flag. The green is spirea and bleeding heart foliage. This is an airy, dignified arrangement with wonderful rhythm and flow. Your eyes keep traveling.

The height of the arrangement is in balance with the vase. It is 1 1/2-2 times the size of the vase.

Horticulture by Anna Holmes

The art of Topiary is training perennial plants by clipping them to create different shapes. These plants become living sculptures. The ideal plants to use are plants with small leaves or with dense foliage.

The only tools you need to create your own topiary are clippers, wire and a form. An easy way to get started is to use a premade wire form. Anna showed a triangle shaped wire form, place in container, add a plant into the middle, and trim as needed. Anna demonstrated another topiary using a basket which has a semi circular handle. Plant ivy in the middle of the basket and wind it around the handle creating a semi-circle. Another popular and easy topiary is the lollipop shape. Anna demonstrated using lavender. To start creating the shape trim off the bottom branches. Trim the plant for a round top and continue until you have your desired lollipop

To care for your topiary follow the directions for the care of the plant and trim as needed.

Program: Get Acquainted with the Gardens at the Briggs-McDermott House and the Aptuxcet Trading Post, by Pat Nemeth and Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

Pat started off by honoring our colonial past by talking about the Aptuxcet Trading Post which was the first trading post established by the Indians and Dutch in 1627. The pilgrims needed corn and other food. They paid by wampum. Seeds and cuttings were provided by the Pilgrims who brought them from Europe.

The AGC has been caring for the gardens for over 40 years. Why; as education for the future! There is a wildflower garden with Cape Cod flowers. A 3 sisters garden with corn, beans, and squash. Fish was added to corn plantings as a fertilizer. The herb garden has four raised beds and includes medicinal, household dyes and seasonings. One notable plant is the Skirret that the Hopkins family brought from England. It is a perennial sweet white carrot and best eaten in the Spring. Pat found Skirret seeds and donated for the garden. **Thank You Pat.**

Next Pat talked about the Briggs-Mcdermott herb garden "patch" as it was known during that time period. In the 1850's, this house was located in downtown Bourne. It is a time with no electricity, no tractors and no flushing toilets. People used horses, bicycles or walking. In the 1980's AGC took over care of the gardens. It has herbs, medicinal herbs and fragrant plants. While rebuilding the garden Pat found an old medicine bottle.

Kathy Sargent-O'Neal talked about the ornamental garden at the Briggs-McDermott House. Ornamental gardens were popular and go as far back as the Babylon Hanging Gardens about 700. In mid to late 1820's there was more leisure time and money was available to plant ornamental gardens. This was also the time when garden magazines and seed catalogs were available. Lawns became stylish. AGC has added a fence, perennials and annuals to the garden. The future plan is to add more native perennials.

May 24 Evening Meeting Report

Program: Floral Workshop, by Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy

There were 31 members who took part in creating a tall triangle design at our evening meeting. Gloria Gammons led us off with a garden prayer in memory of Sally Zeghibe. Sally's family through a donation is responsible for making this workshop possible at no cost to members.

It was something to see - all those designers working diligently and happily on their own designs. Judy gave step-by-step directions while Alda, Anna and Gloria circulated with guidance.

Thanks to Alda, 4 floral designs were given to Doug Zeghibe, Priscilla Fuller, Joan O'Brien and Laurie York.



Junior Gardener's Programs

Building Birdhouses

On April 29th, AGC Junior Gardeners met after school at Bournedale Elementary with 10 second graders. AGC guided the assembly of the Melissa and Doug Birdhouses. They were taken home that day, ready for their new residents!

Thank You Connie Spilhaus, Moe Smith, and Sally Curtin.

Pots' for Seedlings

On May 4th, AGC Junior Gardeners joined Bournedale's "Buzzing into Spring Event" to share a method for making starter pots for young transplants and seedlings by just rolling and pressing newspaper- no glue required. By eliminating the need for plastic pots, the seedling and pot can be planted as one into the ground. Each Junior Gardner made a "pot" for their cucumber and tomato plants. Also Zinnia seedlings for their Kitchen Gardens.

It was a very BUSY afternoon but was thoroughly enjoyed by All!



AGC and Town of Bourne Village Beautification

The town of Bourne, Aptucxet Garden Club and the Cape Cod Canal Chamber of Commerce teamed up to beautify existing and new planters along Main Street and Town Hall in Buzzards Bay.

In partnership with the Town of Bourne Facilities and Public Works teams, members of the Aptucxet Garden Club have donated plants and are volunteering ongoing planting services towards the beautification of 10 existing planters along Main Street.

Expanding upon that collaboration and as part of a pilot program, the Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce contributed towards the purchase of flowers for four new self-watering, double walled sub-irrigation planters placed at the Main Street entrance of Buzzards Bay Park and Town Hall front entrance. The new planters are designed with composite material that does not retain as much heat as cast iron planters; resulting in reduced water absorption and reduced labor from both Town Staff and the Garden Club all while ensuring plantings continue flourishing throughout the summer season.

Thank You to all who worked on this collaboration and the volunteers who planted the flowers.



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

<p>AGCF Annual Meeting June 1 @ 9:30-3:45 Doubletree by Hilton Hyannis Fee:\$65.00</p>	<p>Program: 96th Annual Meeting Business meeting starts the day. A Floral Design Presentation Tony Todesco-The Gentleman Artist, The Trail Blazer. Julie Lapham and Dolores Ahern will join us to reflect on the wonderful legacy of Tony Todesco. The presentation will also include in-person designs by Julie and Dolores inspired by Tony's work and persona, along with running slide show of his artistry and his time spent amongst us. Awards presentation and the installation of new GCFM Officers.</p>
<p>Day Joint Meeting June 14 @ 12:30 Aptuxet Trading Post (Bring a Chair)</p>	<p>Program: Summer Potluck Members are invited to our festive luncheon. <i>Bring a dish to share!</i></p>
<p>June 21 @ 10:30</p>	<p>Garden Therapy Bourne Manor</p>



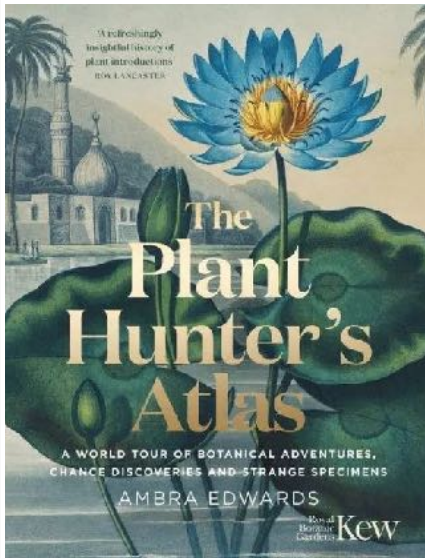
Other Events of Interest

<p>Hyannis Country Gardens June 1, 2023 4:00PM Walk & Talk In-Person</p>	<p>Greenhouse Tour Whether you're a beginning indoor Gardener or a decades-long aficionado you can learn about the best houseplant for you at this event. Bring your questions and see some new to-you varieties. Plant guru Ashley is a passionate plant parent and is happy to share her knowledge.</p> <p>No registration is necessary; meet at the greenhouse at 4:00.</p>
<p>Grow Native Massachusettes June 15, 2023 7:00-9:00PM Free Webinar</p>	<p>Going from Garden to Habitat Instructor: Tia Pinney, Senior Naturalist, Mass Audubon Conservation starts at home! Learn how to transform your corner of the earth into eco-friendly haven for native flora and fauna. We'll cover how ecosystems work, habitat resiliency, climate change and more. You'll leave with the ability to read your landscape and to select and maintain plants for long-term ecosystem health.</p> <p>Go to Grow Native Massachusetts website to register</p>
<p>Hyannis Country Gardens June 16, 2023 5:00-6:00PM Free Webinar</p>	<p>Improving Your Perennial Garden: Happy Hour Description: June is perennial month, so we're celebrating with a talk on the ways to improve your flower garden. Hear what to do if your garden looks lean instead of lush. Discover what plants to add for late season flowers, and learn how to control those overly-enthusiastic spreaders. Find out how to keep your garden flower-filled all summer and fall, plus have your perennial questions answered.</p> <p>Go to Hyannis Country Gardens to register</p>
<p>Xceres Society June 15, 2023 10:00-11:00AM Free Webinar</p>	<p>A Playful Nursery Gets Serious about Polliniaor Safety:The Example of Harlequin's Gardens We are excited to invite Miki Brawner, founder and co-owner of Harlequin's Gardens in Boulder Colorado, to this webinar. Miki will discuss Harlequin's philosophy about plant health and their non-toxic pest management practices. Sharon Selvaggio, Pesticide Program Specialist at Xceres, will start off the webinar with an overview of why pollinator safety practices are important, and what plant buyers can do to identify and patronize pollinator-safe nurseries. Participants in this webinar will come away with an enhanced appreciation of the qualities to look for when sleuthing our pollinator nurseries.</p> <p>Go to Xceres website to register</p>



Book Review Corner

By: *Cheryl Hafela*



The Plant Hunter's Atlas takes you on a travel of the world with extraordinary tales of the botanical discoveries that have shaped empires, built and destroyed economies, revolutionized medicine and advanced our understanding of science.

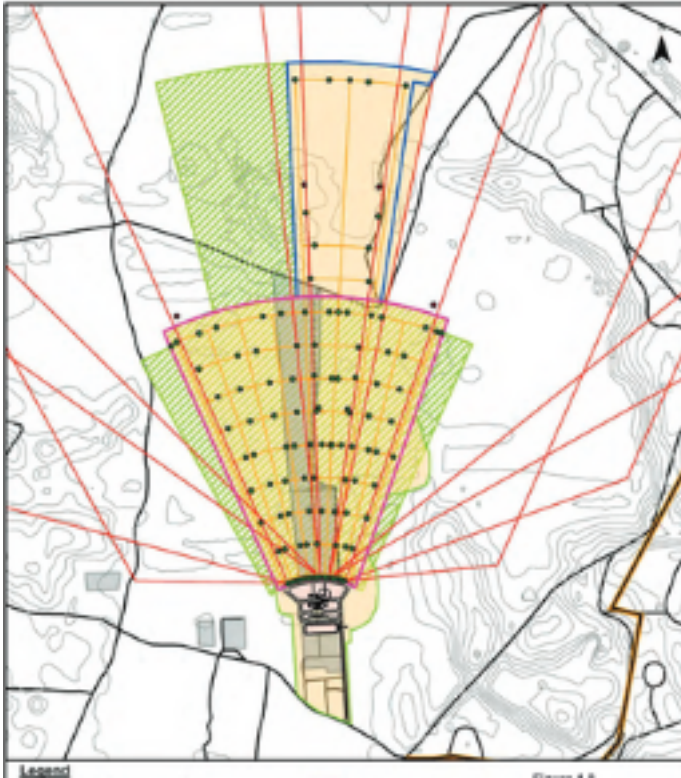
This book tells the story of how plants have travelled across the world—from the missions of the Pharaohs right up to 21st Century seed-banks. It includes many new and endangered species. Circling the globe for plants from Australia's Botany Bay to the Tibetan plateau, from the deserts of Southern Africa to the jungles of Brazil. This book presents an incredible cast of characters—dedicated researchers, reckless adventurers, physicians, lovers, and thieves all in the pursuit of plants.

It is beautifully illustrated with over 100 botanical artworks from the archives of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

Ambra Edwards is an award winning journalist and garden historian, with a special interest in the people who make gardens. Author of the bestselling book *Head Gardeners*, voted Book of the Year by the Garden Guild in 2017.

To understand the stories behind gardens Ambra studied garden history at Birbeck College, London and horticulture at Kinston Maurward College in Dorset. She still goes on learning from gardens and gardeners every day.

EPA Report for Public Drinking Water at proposed Joint Base Gun Range



The EPA's report says the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range at Joint Base Cape Cod would be a "significant public health hazard" due to potential contamination of the region's drinking water supply. The military plans to appeal the finding. The EPA held a public meeting on May 24th 6:30PM at the Center For Active Living 70 Quaker Meetinghouse Rd, Sandwich, MA.

The EPA has opened a 60-day public comment period that ends on June 26. A final decision will be issued by the EPA at the end of the comment period.

The public comment period gives us the opportunity to let the EPA know that concerned citizens and visitors support the draft determination. Protect our drinking water supply Say NO - send your comments by 6/26 to: R1SSAcomments@epa.gov



Reminder: Aptucket Garden Volunteers

The Aptucket Garden Committee is still looking for members to volunteer for maintenance of the gardens this summer. Volunteering means you will be responsible for watering and light weeding at the gardens for one week. Reminders plus guidelines for maintenance will be sent out prior to your week. The sign up sheet will be available at the June meetings or contact Dorothy at dorothy.haney@gmail.com. Right now, weeks from July 3 to September 4 are wide open.

Thank You

Baby Spider Plants

Bobbie Dwyer is looking for baby spider plants if any members have any. Please contact Bobbie. **Thank You**

Garden Therapy 2022-2023



Our committee quietly continues to visit Bourne Manor and Royal Cape Cod alternating each month. It is a small labor of love from our club to Bourne residents who are so pleased to have us visit. We see smiles as we assist them to arrange a floral vase that they are able to bring to their rooms to enjoy. It is a kindness and a worth while endeavor that I think makes a big impact.

Thank You to our faithful committee: Sally Curtain, Barbara Daniels, Judy Loomis, Marcia Willmott, Moe Smith, Patty Rubidium and Leslie O'Brien.



A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song. – Maya Angelou

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I love this quote from Maya Angelou. And it rings true for us as well. Gardening and floral design are the "songs we have to sing".

I continue to be impressed with the dedication and hard work of all the club members. Many thanks to everyone who:

- participated in the Spring Green and Bake Sale and our first Plant Swap,*
- launched all our community summer garden projects,*
- provided the floral workshop, and*
- helped with all our other club projects.*

One of the hallmarks of the club, is that we work together with "joy". Members literally light-up when they see each other and work side by side. I think that is a pretty great song!

I also want to thank Cheryl Hafela for being the Newsletter editor this last year. She did an excellent job. I wish her the very best.

- 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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