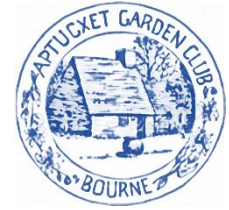


Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne



Flowers and Friends

Monthly Newsletter

October 2023



The great and noble service that gardeners can provide for pollinating insects is to give them asylum – to make their garden a sanctuary for some of the insects that help run the world. - Eric Grissell

September Meeting



Honoring GCFM President Marjorie Dienhart



Floral Design by Anna Holmes

GCFM President and past member of AGC was honored at our September meeting. Laura Bergeron presented Marjorie Dienhart with a gift from the club. Laura noted that Marjorie is always so complimentary of our club and the time she spent with us as a member.

Judy Sheehy and Paula O’Neil introduced the members to the flower show the club would have in May at the Briggs-McDermott House. They spoke about the types of pieces that would be invited. These included decorating a birdhouse and a hat. Floral design is a lot of fun! The members will hear more about the details of the show at future meetings.

Anna Holmes kicked off the new year of club programs with a wonderful demonstration of floral design. Anna gave the members a handout that illustrated basic shapes for floral creations. She began with a Ikebana triangle. She went on to do mass design, a torch design, a parallel design, and a free style design on a piece of driftwood. One of the magic things about watching a very talented floral designer like Anna, is seeing the beauty of the design evolve. As she works, you watch as flower after flower is placed. Sometimes you think “Oh, that looks off balance” then the work continues to evolve and “wow, the rhythm is right.” Or the same may be true as colors are added. Maybe you think, “how will those colors work?” Then more material is added and “wow, the piece is lovely.” Many thanks to Anna for great program!

September Wine Gala and Auction

Hurricane Lee pushed the Wine Gala to an alternate weekend; and rain pushed the social indoors. Never mind! The hearty New England club members turned out to have a fun Gala and a very successful fund raiser. Here are a few special memories.

Wine Gala & Silent Auction



Hospitality Co-Chairs
Amy Fenton, Linda Wagner, Laverne Newman



Cheerful Bar Tenders
Patty Rubidoux, Nancy Selchan, Donna Coye



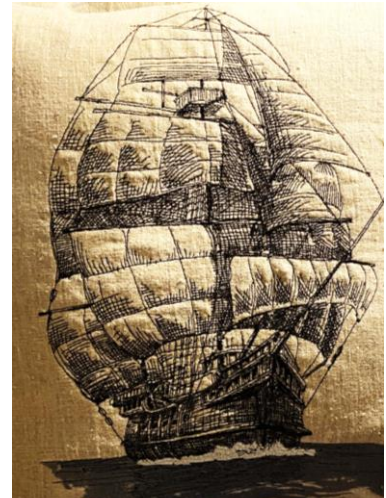
Special Thanks goes to the Hospitality Co-Chairs: Amy Fenton, Laverne Newman, and Linda Wagner. They transformed the Pocasset Community Center! Members of the special committee for the event deserve kudos for putting together a magnificent “first” Gala and Auction. Jayne Urso was chair for the Auction. The other committee members were Laura Bergeron, Donna Coye, Pat Nemeth, Leslie O’Brien, Patty Rubidoux and Nancy Selchan.



“You make a life by what you give.” – Winston Churchill

What true words! The AGC club members live and understand this spirit of giving! Over 31 items were donated for the Silent Auction. And the Auction alone raised \$2,310 for the club!

Many Thanks
to All the
Donors!



Tiny Forests With Big Benefits

NY Times, August 24, 2023, by Cara Buckley

Excerpts shown in blue.

Native plants crowded onto postage-stamp-size plots have been delivering environmental benefits around the world — and, increasingly, in the U.S.



A Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park, near Harvard University in Cambridge, MA

Photo by Cassandra Klos

The tiny forest lives atop an old landfill in the city of Cambridge, Mass. Though it is still a baby, it's already acting quite a bit older than its actual age, which is just shy of 2. Its aspens are growing at twice the speed normally expected, with fragrant sumac and tulip trees racing to catch up. It has absorbed storm water without washing out, suppressed many weeds and stayed lush throughout last year's drought. The little forest managed all this because of its enriched soil and density, and despite its diminutive size: 1,400 native shrubs and saplings, thriving in an area roughly the size of a basketball court.

"It's just phenomenal," said Andrew Putnam, superintendent of urban forestry and landscapes for the City of Cambridge. Mr. Putnam noted that within a few years, many of the now 14-foot saplings would be as tall as telephone poles and the forest would be self-sufficient. In Cambridge, where a second tiny forest, less than half the size of the first one, was planted in late 2022, Mr. Putnam said residents had embraced the small forest with fervor. A third forest is in the works, he said, and all three were planned and organized in conjunction with the non-profit Biodiversity for a Livable Climate.

Tiny forests are part of a sweeping movement that is transforming dusty highway shoulders, parking lots, schoolyards and junkyards worldwide. Tiny forests have been planted across Europe, in Africa,

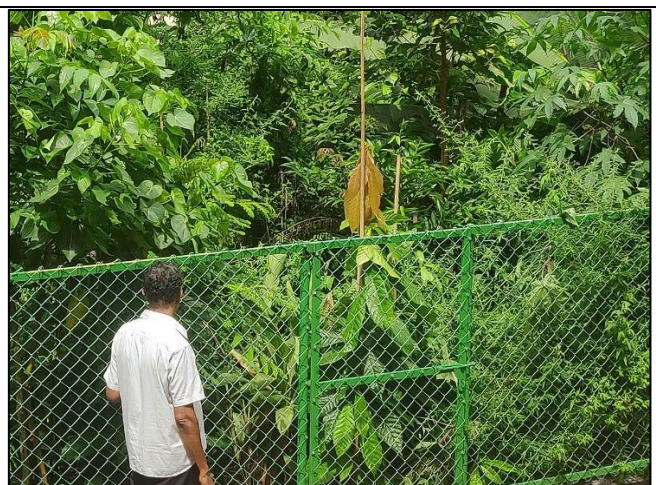
throughout Asia and in South America, Russia and the Middle East. India has hundreds, and Japan, where it all began, has thousands. Healthy woodlands absorb carbon dioxide, clean the air, and provide for wildlife. But these tiny forests promise even more. They can grow as quickly as ten times the speed of conventional tree plantations, enabling them to support more birds, animals and insects, and to sequester more carbon, while requiring no weeding or watering after the first three years, their creators said.

Tiny Forests, they trace their lineage to the Japanese botanist and plant ecologist Akira Miyawaki, who in 2006 won the Blue Planet Prize, considered the environmental equivalent of a Nobel award, for his method of creating fast-growing native forests. Dr. Miyawaki developed his technique in the 1970s, after observing that thickets of indigenous trees around Japan's temples and shrines were healthier and more resilient than those in single-crop plantations or forests grown in the aftermath of logging. He wanted to protect old-growth forests and encourage the planting of native species, arguing that they provided vital resilience amid climate change, while also reconnecting people with nature. "The forest is the root of all life; it is the womb that revives our biological instincts, that deepens our intelligence and increases our sensitivity as human beings," he wrote.

Dr. Miyawaki's prescription involves intense soil restoration and planting many native flora close together. Multiple layers are sown — from shrub to canopy — in a dense arrangement of about three to five plantings per square meter. The plants compete for resources as they race toward the sun, while underground bacterial and fungal communities thrive. Where a natural forest could take at least a century to mature, Miyawaki forests take just a few decades, proponents say.



Planting a Miyawaki Tiny Forest in Kerala, Sri Lanka



Nine months later
Photos by Wikipedia

Kazue Fujiwara, a longtime Miyawaki collaborator at Yokohama National University, said plant survival rates are between 85 and 90 percent in the first three years, and then, as the canopy grows, drop to 45 percent after 20 years, with dead trees falling and feeding the soil. The initial density is crucial to stimulating rapid growth, said Hannah Lewis, the author of "Mini-Forest Revolution." It quickly creates a canopy that shades out weeds and shelters the microclimate underneath from wind and direct sun, she said.



Tiny Forest in New Dehli
Photo by Arvind Yadav



Butterflies in Tiny Forest at Mumbi University
Photo by Vijay Bate

Miyawaki forests have now been planted all over the world. One of his famous projects are forests planted along the Great Wall of China

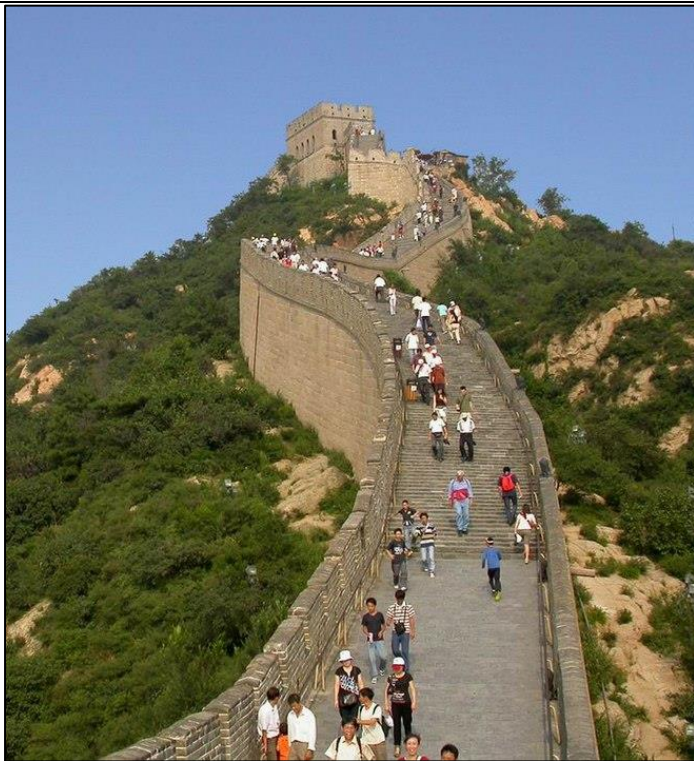
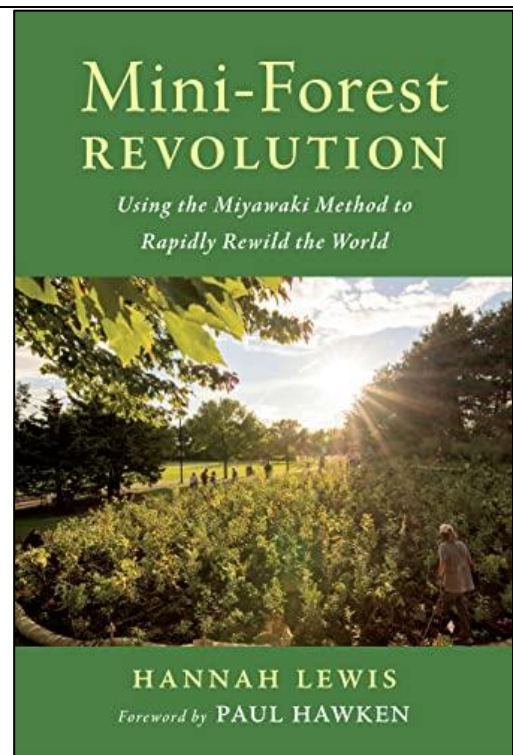


Photo by Akira Mirawaki

In 1988, 4,000 people planted 400,000 trees in tiny forests along the Great Wall of China. All but one of these forests continued to thrive in 2007.



To read more about Tiny Forests, check out this book from our library.

AGC October Calendar

2 DAY Meeting Pocasset Community Building	12:00 pm	Tea Social
	12:30 pm	Open Meeting & Guest Introductions
	12:40 pm	Floral Design: Line mass design #1
	12:50 pm	Horticulture: "Nativar versus Native Plants" by Anna Holmes
	1:00 pm	Program: Tick Talk Larry Dapsis of the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension will give us an update on the elusive tick, tick-borne diseases, and illness prevention. There is a lot to learn!
	2:00 pm	Ways & Means Raffle TBD by program donations
	2:15 pm	Adjourn
18	10:30 am	Garden Therapy - Royal Cape Cod Lewis Pt.
18 EVENING Meeting Bourne United Methodist Church	4:30 pm	Board Meeting
	5:30 pm	Tea Social
	6:00 pm	Open Meeting & Announcements
	6:05 pm	Floral Design: Line mass design #2
	6:15 pm	Horticulture: Part 2 - "Nativar versus Native Plants" by Anna Holmes
	6:30 pm	Program: The Late Season Garden Warren Leach, Landscape Horticulturist and owner of Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth will share his abundant knowledge on creating color and interest in the Fall/Winter garden.
	7:30 pm	Ways & Means Raffle
	7:45 pm	Adjourn
		Tea Chair: Kathy Sargent-O'Neill CMTE: Melissa Fox, Leslie O'Brien Décor Theme: <i>Spooky Gardens</i>
TBD	Time TBD	Boxwood Tree Adornment Workshop



In Memory

A summer wind brought the passing of four club members. We remember their spirits, their love of gardening and their smiles.

Four long time AGC members passed away this summer

			
Ginny Flynn 1931-2023 Pocasset	Priscilla Fuller Birth- 2023 Pocasset	Jean Davock 1937-2023 Cataumet 27 Years AGC	Kit Nelson 1934-2023 Pocasset 25 Years AGC

**To plant a garden
is to believe in tomorrow.**

- **Audrey Hepburn**



Art in Bloom on October 6-7-8

Plymouth Center for the Arts, 11 North Street, Plymouth

What a fun floral design show! Here is way to connect your love of art with your love of flowers. Let the colors talk to you.



Floral by Darlen Chickosky

To participate go to the Center on Monday or Tuesday, Sept. 18 and 19, 10:00 to 2:00. View the artworks to find one that you might like to interpret. Sign up at that time. There will be people there to answer any questions.

Bring your arrangement on Friday, Oct.6, between 8:30 and 10:00. Set up your piece and then enjoy seeing the other designs.

Pick up your arrangement on Sunday, Oct. 8, between 4:00 and 5:00 or Wednesday, Oct.11, after 10:00. (Center will be closed Monday and Tuesday.)

Beautiful Urns at Town Hall



AGC members planted these beautiful new urns at Town Hall. Lovely work!

Photo by Sue Barlow.

Interesting Butterfly Facts:

***Battus philenor*, the Pipevine Swallowtail**

There are many types “black or blue-black” butterflies. The ones I see in my backyard are called “Pipevine Swallowtail.” They have arrow shaped white spots on their back wings.



Pipevine Swallowtail Caterpillar

This butterfly has a typical wingspan about 3.5". Favorite plants of this Swallowtail are milkweed, clover, thistles, and the pink and purple flowers of the *Phlox* species. I love phlox and have a lot of it in my backyard.



The Pipevine Swallowtail has a wide distribution across the Northern Americas. It is found in New England, down to Florida, and west to California,

The butterfly frequents warmer, temperate environments, and can be found mostly in open grasslands and backyards. Adults live 6 to 14 days. So, when you see one, count your blessings!



Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly in my backyard

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

What a strange summer it was. Still, I was graced by hummingbirds and pipevine swallowtail butterflies. Every time I saw a black swallowtail in my yard, it felt like it was a small miracle. I haven't seen a Monarch for a few years now, and that is so sad. I hope you had better sightings in your yard.

All this just further underscores how important it is that we listen to Mother Nature. Planting pollinators and embracing native plants are just two of the many mantras of our club.

Many of you know that I have had some health issues this year. For this reason, I am stepping down as your President and Newsletter Editor. I have sold my home, and I will be moving closer to my family.

I will always treasure being part of this great club. May Mother Nature smile on all of you.

*Happy Gardening,
Pat Nemeth*

The Aptucket 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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Visit the Aptucket Garden Club Website www.aptucketgardenclub.com