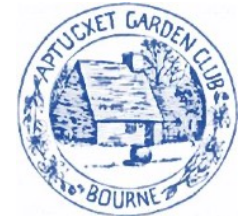


Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne

We love all things flowers: native gardening, floral design and community education, come and learn with us.



February 2024

Upcoming Happenings

meetings

FEB 12 - Joint Evening Meeting Speaker, Jennifer Loughran "Cape Cod's Water Quality Crisis"

JAN 21 - Garden Therapy - Royal Cape Cod - Lewis Point

Always check handbook or eblasts for times & specifics

events in the area

Visit the following websites:

www.gcfm.org/upcoming-events

www.grownativemass.org

- MASS AUDUBON Cape Cod Natural History Conference at CCC March 9th. register through APCC

www.nebg.org New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

- An Orchid exhibit February 10 to March 17

Pollinator Pathway -- Watch the FEB 20 WEBINAR on the Secret life of Wild Bees. 6:30 on zoom. Register INFO per a separate blast.

Mass Ext. Workshops/Webinar
Pollinator Topics Jan 30
Tree & shrub insect Topics 2/6



It's the Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 16-19

I have been participating in the BYBC, sponsored by Cornell Lab and Audubon, for over 5 years.

It takes only 15 minutes to sit in your study or on your porch and notice and identify the birds around. Even better go for a nice walk near a bog, by the canal or on your favorite beach. Then submit the list on the eBird or Merlin apps if you use them. Easy to download them on your phone or computer.

Join the seminar on Tuesday February 13, at 1 pm. A separate eblast was sent with the details.





Tips for what to do in the Garden

Winter continues to baffle me with its ups and downs in the temperature. I'm sure our plants are wondering too. I have several hellebores that have bloomed and then gone limp. We will see what happens next.

In the meantime, the catalogs are pouring in to the mailbox. And I am thrilled. Prairie Moon is my new favorite as their native list is really extensive. Most of their product is in 3" pots so patience is a virtue.

Prairie Nurseries is also a great source. Locally I enjoy Blue Stem Nurseries in Norwell and Avant Gardens in South Dartmouth. Expanding into our area is Weston Nurseries a short drive to Middleboro and they are excited to promoting sustainability and native plants.

And then, of course, there are the seed catalogs. I am a dismal failure starting with seeds and with vegetable gardens, but spending several odd hours with John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds and their pictures is wonderful.

Garden visit of the Month

Fairhaven's Douglass Christmas Tree Farm
an exempt from the Buzzards Bay Coalition

In December, the Buzzards Bay Coalition purchased 26 acres of land on Sconticut Neck in Fairhaven that will safeguard water quality and coastal habitats in the face of sea level rise, preserve the scenic beauty of "The Neck," and preserve farmland.

The waterfront property has been with the Douglass family for decades, and Richard and Vivian Douglass began conserving part of the land by recording a conservation restriction with BBC nearly 20 years ago. "Years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas chose conservation for much of their land," said Brendan Annett, Buzzards Bay Coalition's Vice President of WatershedProtection.

"Now the Douglass family has gone a step further to complete the puzzle of conservation lands that make Nasketucket Bay and Sconticut Neck such a uniquely wonderful part of our coast."

Though the land is filled with vital salt marshes and wildlife habitat, it is most widely known to the Buzzards Bay community as a Christmas tree farm.



The protection of this beloved property from future development will provide a multitude of benefits for Buzzards Bay. The surrounding salt marsh and coastal habitat will now have the space they to migrate and adapt as sea levels continue to rise, preserving water quality, wildlife habitat and open space. This land is also integral in completing the large mosaic of conservation land on Nasketucket Bay and Sconticut Neck. Public access trails can now be linked with other nearby areas, including Buzzards Bay Coalition's Salt Winds Reserve, Shipyard Farm and Winsegannsett Marshes.

The Douglass family is a cherished part of the Fairhaven community, and the Coalition is looking forward to preserving

their legacy by protecting this precious land. "Our parents wanted somebody that was going to take care of it," remarked Elizabeth Douglass. "If it wasn't going to be family, it had to be the Buzzards Bay Coalition."

Tips for the Floral Design

We've seen the Mass designs, and then last month we saw the Cascade Design and this month we have the petites, generally under 8".

If you have any questions please contact Judy or Alda.

Schedules available at all events.



Happenings around the Club

January brought a great lecture from Marie Chioppo, Ecological Landscape Designer.

“Plants and Design that Enhance Sustainability on our Properties”

One slide is below and many of the other presentation slides were sent out to all members on Jan 27th.



GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE
Ornamentals support over 500 species of beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife.

Gardens that Benefit Wildlife and People
Native plants, eco-friendly gardening practices provide natural sources of the four elements of habitat:

- Food
- Water
- Cover
- Nesting young

National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitats® include these elements and can support 2K the amount of wildlife.

Songbird babies rely on thousands of caterpillars and other insects supplied by native plants.

Roughly 30% of native bee species are pollen specialists that restrict their diets to specific native plants.

Native plants sequester carbon, use less water and their roots help with storm-water runoff to maintain healthy watersheds.

Conventional Landscapes
1 million acres of wildlife habitat are lost to suburban development annually.

The monarch butterfly that relies on native milkweed has declined by 90%.

Lawns use 9 billion gallons of water nationwide per day.

Non-native trees and lawn care do not support wildlife.

Common garden weedkillers and pesticides harm beneficial insects and soil microorganisms essential to naturally healthy ecosystems.

How many of you can answer "YES" to all of these questions?

Do You Have A Great Garden?

- Got weeds?
- Found a self-sown plant?
- Discovered lichens & fungi, dead plants, or things you can't explain?
- Welcome spiders, bugs, and bees?
- Have you fallen in love?
- Have dining rabbits, deer, woodchucks, armadillos, etc?
- Been stopped in your tracks by the beauty of emerging foliage?

If you answered yes to these questions,
You Have A Great Garden!