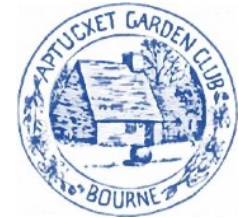


# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

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

March 2024



## Upcoming Happenings

### meetings

MAR 11 - Day Meeting Speaker  
- Kathi Garipey Of Master Gardeners - "Shade Gardening"

MAR 20 - Evening Meeting  
Native Plants New England with  
Kristen Nicholson of Blue Stem Nursery

Mar 13 - Garden Therapy - Cape Cod Senior Residences

MAR 20 - Garden Therapy  
Bourne Manor

(continued on back page)  
Always check handbook or eblasts for times & specifics

### events in the area

Visit the following websites:

[www.gcfm.org/upcoming-events](http://www.gcfm.org/upcoming-events)

[www.grownativemass.org](http://www.grownativemass.org)

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

[www.nebg.org](http://www.nebg.org) New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

- An Orchid exhibit February 10 to March 17

[Information@thetrustees.org](mailto:Information@thetrustees.org)-

Day meeting at Northeastern, MARCH 16th for the 48th Annual Garderners' Gathering visit website to register - free



Do you know the difference between a shamrock and clover? Shamrocks always have three leaves while clovers can have a fourth. Shamrocks are usually green, whereas you can find purple, green or white clover. And lastly, shamrocks grow in clumps and four-leaf clovers are rare and grow one at a time.

## The Secret Lives of Native Bees

I don't know if any of you had the opportunity to tune into Pollinator Pathway's webinar on native bees or not, but I found it very informative. The speaker, Nick Doria, was from the Boston area and studied at Tufts University.



The focus was mainly on bees other than, Honey Bees. The ones that we see but aren't always able to identify.

Some of the tidbits I learned where: bees don't know that they are pollinators, they live in the moment to build nests, visit flowers and then hibernate. They use each of the seasons to their advantage.

And they need us to create the environments to maintain their lifestyles. Nick give this great acronym to "help us" to remember this: SEEDS.

S - save native seeds, plant and spread them around. Create native gardens that provide food spring, summer and fall, by having a tree



## Tips for what to do in the Garden

Spring IS coming. Signs are everywhere. In my garden it's the snowdrops, heather and hellebores. All of which are now blooming.

I look forward to March as I can actually be out in the garden. I've got my pruning shears and loppers all sharpened and I am walking the yard pruning all non-spring blooming shrubs and trees. Or if I wish to sacrifice a few blooms for shape then I prune away. I will be attacking my Ninebark, potentilla, and red twig dogwood this year to 'rejuvenate' them as they are ones that can be cut back hard.

I will start to cut back the stems of some perennials, but not clear the leaves or spread mulch. Careful not to cut Joe Pye Weed, Milkweed, or Monarda as these stems will host bees in the second or third year. I may even pull a few weeds on warm days that have started to infiltrate my gardens.

Remember to put out your rain gauge or measure, if it has been inside, so you can start to gage how much spring rain we get as to how much you will need to water.

So garden on!!!!



new york ironweed, early sunflower, new england aster and goldenrods. Trees include red maple, shrubby willow, eastern redbud, tulip tree, prunus, blueberry, and crabapple. All of these support our local bees.

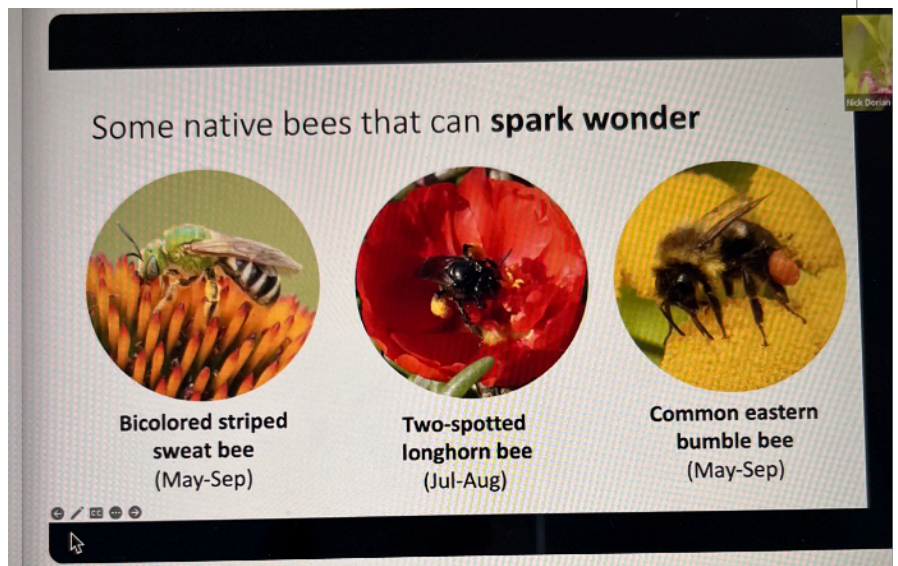
E: Employ the life cycle approach — Don't clean up your garden as much. Think of nests that the bees need in the winter. The garden can still be tidy. Rake leaves onto beds, don't shred and no deeper than 2". They will decompose over winter. Clean up late spring, May 1st or so.

E: Eliminate pesticides - what kills a mosquito, kills a bee!!!!

D: Discover what's around you — "attention is the beginning of devotion" Mary Oliver. Go bee watching, check out watching [bees.com](http://bees.com) for a book on the bees in our backyard.

S: Share with OTHERS !!!

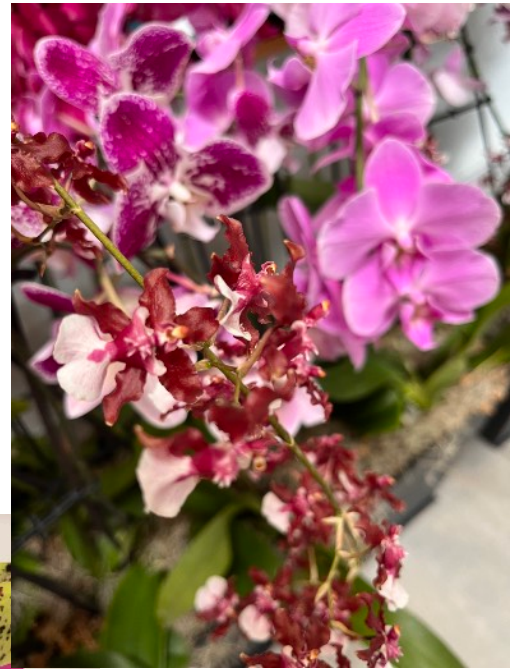
- a. Bicolor visits echinacea purpurea
- b. Two spotted visit the vegetable garden - squash blossoms
- c. And the Common is all around.



# Garden visit of the Month

New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill

The Orchid Show at Tower Hill was spectacular! And not what I expected at all. I had pictured rows and rows of Orchids and what was there was an art exhibit and a Flower Show in the manner of what you use to see at the Boston Flower Show. Here are many of the pictures of exotic orchids for your enjoyment and some of the text from the show.



## ORCHIDACEAE The Orchid Family

The orchid family is one of the largest and most diverse families of flowering plants on the planet with about 28,000 species spread across six continents. Even New England is home to a variety of native orchids — roughly 45 different species can be found here in Massachusetts. Terrestrial orchids such as the pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) and the large whorled pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*) occur naturally on the grounds of New England Botanic Garden.

The orchid family is also one of the oldest flowering plant families, developing roughly 100 million years ago, during the time of the dinosaurs. People have long been fascinated by orchid flowers and their extraordinary shapes and colorful patterns. However, their "show" is not for us. Awe-inspiring, highly specialized flowers help orchids survive, reproduce, and thrive.

## ORCHID POLLINATION

The goal of every living organism is to create offspring, another generation to carry on the genes of the parent. One of the ways flowering plants produce offspring is by making seeds. This reproductive process relies on pollination, the transfer of pollen from the male reproductive organ (anther) of a flower to the female reproductive organ (stigma).

While some flowering plants rely on a wind or water to achieve pollination, orchids are among those that require animal pollinators like bees, wasps, flies, moths, butterflies, and birds to move their pollen from flower to flower. This is because orchids produce a mass, or packet, of pollen grains known as pollinia. Many orchids count on insect pollinators to transfer their pollinia between flowers. Some orchids utilize their intricate pattern designs to attract these pollinators, while others have evolved to use mimicry, fragrant scents, or the promise of sweet nectar to entice insects to visit.

## ORCHID CONSERVATION

Although orchids are one of the largest, most diverse groups of flowering plants, their existence in their natural habitats is threatened. Habitat loss and degradation, deforestation, climate change, land development, and land fragmentation, combined with illegal collection for commercial uses, are some of the main threats orchids face today.

### TAKE ACTION

**LEARN** If you see an orchid in the wild, do not pick its flowers. Most orchids produce only one flower spike each year. If the flowers are picked, the orchid loses its chance to be pollinated that year.

**DONATE** Scientists around the world are studying orchids, working to protect their habitats, and leading reintroduction efforts. If you can, support these orchid conservation efforts financially.

**VOLUNTEER** Connect with local groups and organizations that are working to conserve orchids in your region and learn how you can help. Participate in citizen science projects or volunteer your time.

**LEARN** Take the time to learn about orchid species that occur naturally where you live. Being able to identify native orchids can help raise awareness and aid in protection efforts.



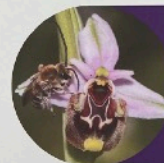
### SYMMETRY

Orchid flowers occur in many different shapes and sizes — from the dime-sized flowers of the platystele orchid to the 30-inch-long flowers of the tiger orchid. Despite these differences, all orchid flowers are bilaterally symmetrical. This means that if you were to draw a line down the middle of an orchid flower, the two sides would be mirror images of each other. Symmetry is a pattern often found in the natural world and can be observed in thousands of species of plants and animals.



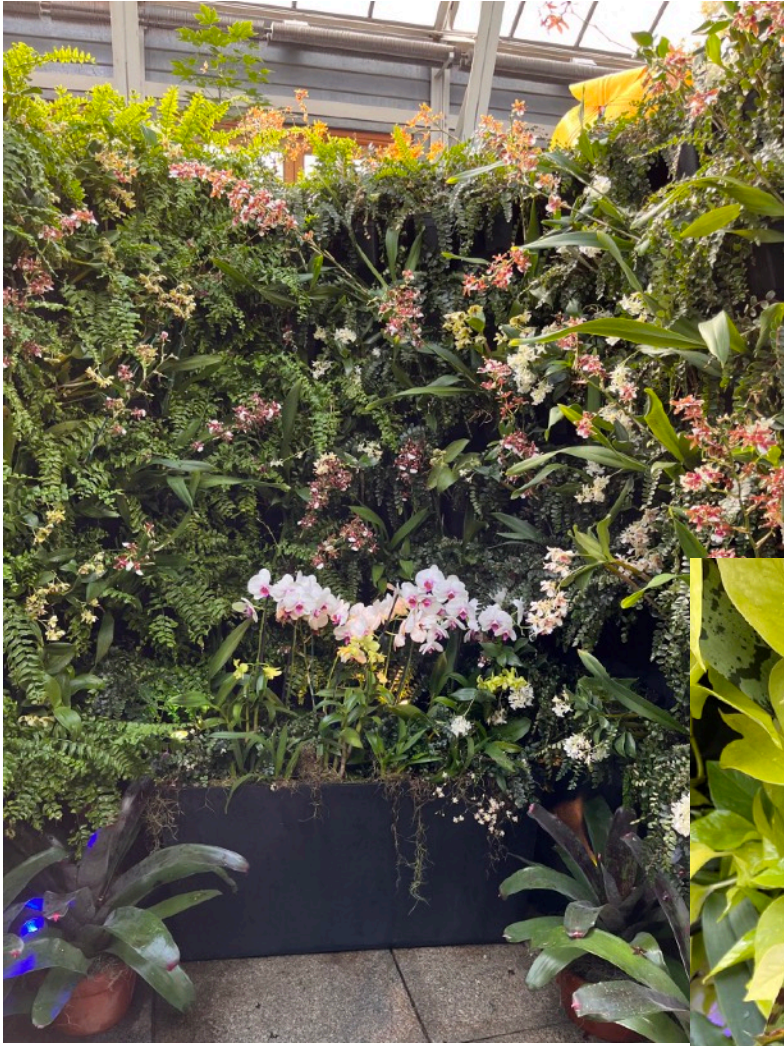
### SPOTS & STRIPES

Stripes and spots are patterns often found on flowers, especially on the petals and sepals of orchids. These designs create patterns that can attract pollinators. Many papilionid orchids boast both spots and stripes on their unique blossoms, and these patterns entice pollinators in interesting ways. The spots found on Asian papilionid species look like aphids to fertile female hoverflies who lay their eggs among aphid colonies. Aphids provide food for emerging hoverfly larvae. The hoverfly acts as a pollinator for the orchid when it is tricked into visiting the flower.



### MIMICRY

Mimicry in nature occurs when one species imitates the recognizable characteristics of another to avoid predation or to achieve successful reproduction. The patterned design on the flower of the bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), for example, is not just for show. Bee orchids mimic the color patterns—and even the scent—of female bees to attract male bees. The unsuspecting males are tricked into acting as the orchid's pollinator as they mistakenly attempt to mate with the orchid.



To the left, one of the walls of orchids beautifully mixed with ferns and other plants.

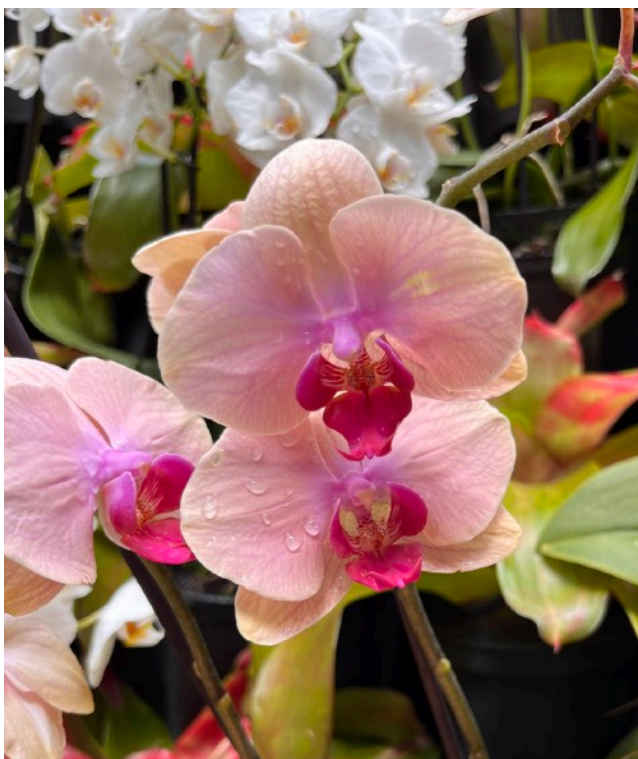
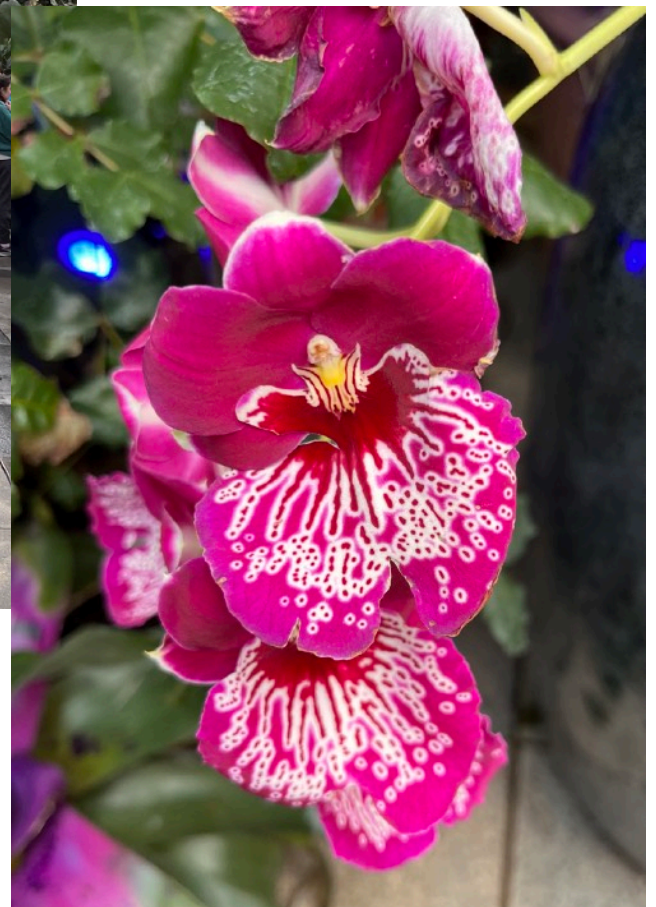
Below an amazing bromeliad with an orchid, ferns and pathos. The colors of Mother Nature, WOW !!.





Top picture shows another great wall with the 'Art' flowers hanging from the ceiling and attached to the wall.

The 'Art' flowers were all made out of recycled plastics, which were stitched together. Very different.



## Tips for the Floral Design

Let's refresh, we've seen examples of three different designs, the Mass design, the Cascade Design the Petites, generally under 8" and this month we have the Creative design.

If you have any questions please contact, Judy, Paula or Alda.

Schedules available at all events.



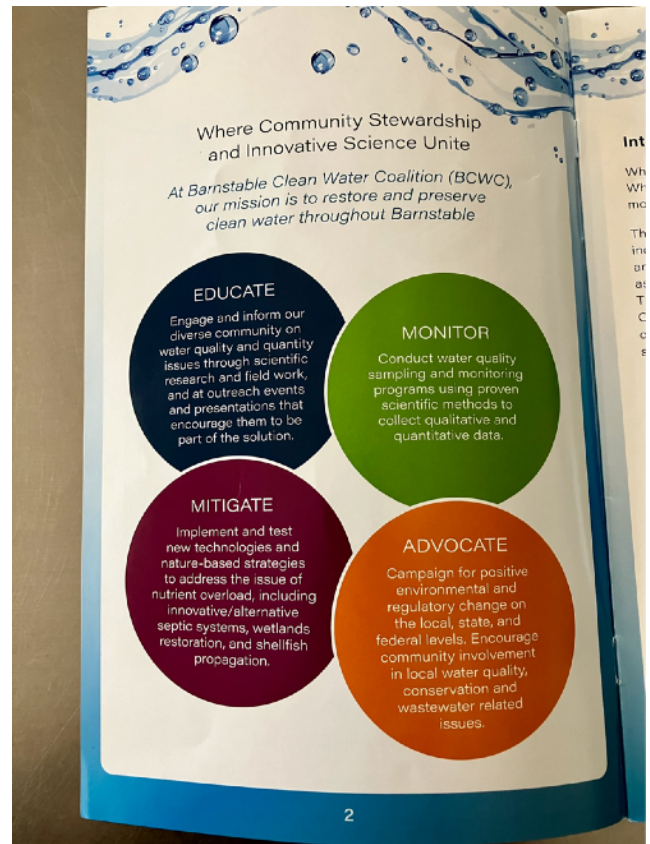
## Happenings around the Club

Jennifer Loughran, from the BCWC, shared her organization's mission of restoring and protecting clean water on The Cape. She discussed nitrogen overload, mainly from our septic systems wastewater but also from fertilizers and stormwater runoff which flows into our estuaries, bays and ponds, leading to invasive seaweed and cyanobacterium growth. This suffocates native vegetation like eelgrass causing poor water quality.

Just a few suggestions Jennifer gave club members as homeowners include:

1. Rethink our lawns and landscaping: use less water and pesticides and fertilizers
2. Use native plants that are drought tolerant, low maintenance, grow well in our sandy soil and attract pollinators. Mulch gardens to retain moisture. \*Their website includes a list of native shrubs, plants and grasses.
3. Be water conscious: everything that goes into our septic system drains ends up in our groundwater and drinking water. Limit garbage disposals-compost instead, collect stormwater and use to water plants, plant a rain garden. Pump septic systems every 2-3 years.

These are just a few suggestions of what we can do to improve the quality of the Cape's water. Please visit their website for more tips, info and videos: [BCleanwater.org](http://BCleanwater.org).



## Happenings around the Club, continued

### Upcoming Happenings

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Continued from Front Page

At AGC's two April meetings, 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: 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

From KSO:

Just a reminder to all members that the guide below is at Town Hall and available to all residents.



Many thanks to our many elves on the Garden Therapy team who each month go out to our local nursing homes spreading smiles and cheer and FLOWERS all around.

