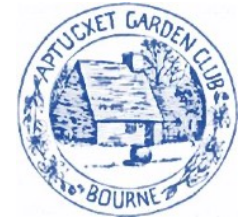


# Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne

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



April 2024

## Upcoming Happenings

### meetings

APR 8 - Day Meeting Exhibitors meeting for the Flower Show. Styrofoam collection

APR 17 - Evening Meeting - Vertical Gardening - presented by Master Gardeners Styrofoam collection

APR 17 - Garden Therapy - Royal Cape Cod Lewis Point

APR 25 - New Members Tea

APR 26 - Arbor Day - program to be announced

Always check handbook or eblasts for times & specifics

### events in the area

April 10th - Organic Seed and Demonstration, 6pm Bourne Public Library by Paul Split

April 16th - mtg for volunteers assist with Monarch Butterfly Festival in August at Community Bldg, Pocasset, 4pm, Diane Speers

June 13th - 97th Annual GCFM meeting, Andover, MA check GCFM website



## Conserving the Jewels of the Night

as excerpted from Xerces Society

Fireflies are some of our most beloved insects. For many of us, they were a part of our childhood rituals during the warm summer months. Running around at dusk and collecting them in glass jars to watch them “light up” was not such a great idea; watching yes, collecting no!

I know now, in catching them, that I was disrupting their communication and mating rituals. Oops. And if you like me wonder where they are now and how can we bring them back, here’s a few tips.

There are over 174 named species of Fireflies in the US which are mostly centered along the Eastern seaboard out to Ohio. There are a few clusters in Arizona and California as well. They have not been studied heavily and that is changing due to organizations such as the Xerces Society. Currently about 15% of the species are endangered and most have relatively little known information and data, so that is one of the foci of the Society.

Fireflies are part of the beetle family and live the majority of their lives in a larvae state, 10 months up to 2 years, and then as adults in the summer months they mate and lay eggs for the following year starting the process all over.

*Conserving the Jewels of the Night, continued*

Various firefly larvae



The eggs are laid and hatch into larva, then bury themselves in all that wonderful leaf mulch that we all now are leaving in areas of our garden. Yes Fireflies along with bees nestle in there for the winter. They munch on grubs, snails, and earthworms and will munch along for quite some time. Adults on the other hand are generally active for only a few weeks a year.

This coming summer may be a boom for fireflies in our area due to the warm winters and the heavy rains that we have been having. They will start appearing as the temps warm and the humidity rises.

To help protect them from further decline, you can promote the following:

- Try to limit the use outdoor lighting, reducing the number, use warm lighting, add controls limiting the amount of time that they are on, especially in the warm summer month. Even consider not having any outdoor lights on and sitting and watching them glow.
- Leave the leaves. Yes we are again saying leave the leaves.
- Skip the pesticides - no grub control, no mosquito and tick sprays that kill so much more than just those.





## Tips for what to do in the Garden

Spring is here, though the last few windy days have had me doubting that, but the hellebores are up and making me smile.

What to do in the garden in April? Now that you have pruned the trees, that like spring pruning, and we really can't clear the leaves from the gardens yet, and a nice day causes you to squirm to get outside, what to do? Here are some tips:

- Divide snowdrops that have finished blooming
- Store bare-root plants in cool, moist conditions until planting
- Set out native bee nesting boxes
- Create a grass-free zone around trees in lawn areas
- Edge your perennial beds and start to weed, gently, in those beds, that are already exposed with no leaf covering
- Sweet pea, alyssum, and snapdragons can tolerate cool soils and can be planted later in the month.
- Towards the middle and end of the month start to divide perennials, even pot up for our plant sale
- Work organic matter into soils that have already drained their 'winter wet'

An excerpt from APCC newsletter



*April is*

## NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH

From [NationalNativePlantMonth.org](https://NationalNativePlantMonth.org) - April 2021 was the *first* National Native Plant Month. This is the fourth year for a Senate Resolution and the first year for a House Resolution.

**History.** Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) and Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) were the founding, bipartisan, co-sponsors of a Senate Resolution to designate April 2021 as National Native Plant Month (S Res 109). In 2022, they continued their commitment to native plants by reintroducing the Senate Resolution making April 2022 National Native Plant Month (S Res 570).

In the fall of 2022, The Garden Club of America launched an initiative to request proclamations from all 50 Governors to make April 2023 Native Plant Month in every state and [Massachusetts Governor Healy signed such a proclamation](#). Because it is a resolution, it must be passed each year. Along with the [Native Plant Trust](#), APCC supports the Senate and House Resolutions to Designate April 2024 as National Native Plant Month.

## Tips for the Floral Design

The Flower show is drawing near. We've been showing different designs in this column and this one features the Botanical Arts.

- A) Headband by Darlene
- B) Shoe by Judy
- C) Comb by Isabel
- D) Pin by KSO
- E) Doll by Alda



SPRING FEVER PITCH as excerpt from APCC newsletter

Spring triggers the life cycles of wildlife, but it also means the ads from big and small companies hit our emails, pop up on Google searches, flood our mailboxes and encourage us to hire them to apply fertilizers and pesticides. Their message is one of urgency—to get on their busy schedules now because "the caterpillars will soon be out!" It's a bit of fear mongering and playing on the average person's lack of understanding of the value of caterpillars (or any other insect life) in our yards. The spraying of trees, because there *may* be winter moth or spongy moth caterpillars (that you can't see), is a poor practice.

Spraying insecticides or injecting trees with systemic pesticides kills any caterpillar, not just the target species (if indeed they are present). Importantly, caterpillars, like other insects, are crucial to life around us. For starters, birds depend on caterpillars to feed their young. About 96 percent of our terrestrial birds feed their babies caterpillars. This is how nature works—perfect timing: Birds have their young when insect food is plentiful. Caterpillars are soft and squishy. They are rich in protein and carotenoids. Carotenoids are antioxidants and stimulate the immune system, necessary for the growth and health of all vertebrates. Caterpillars are nature's perfect superfood for baby birds (and their parents) as they contain twice as many carotenoids as other insects.

And the so-called "safe" products—safe for whom? Certainly not the insects that happen to come in contact with the chemical; whether it's organically derived or not, it is meant to kill. Insects, spiders, and bugs that have evolved in our eco-region have important roles to play in the health of our yards and ecosystems—we can't afford to wipe them out. If you care about the environment, nature, the birds—be informed, and don't succumb to the sales pitch.

NOTE: If you have a non-native insect problem, before you hire just anybody, know that they must be licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

## Garden visit of the Month

Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, MA

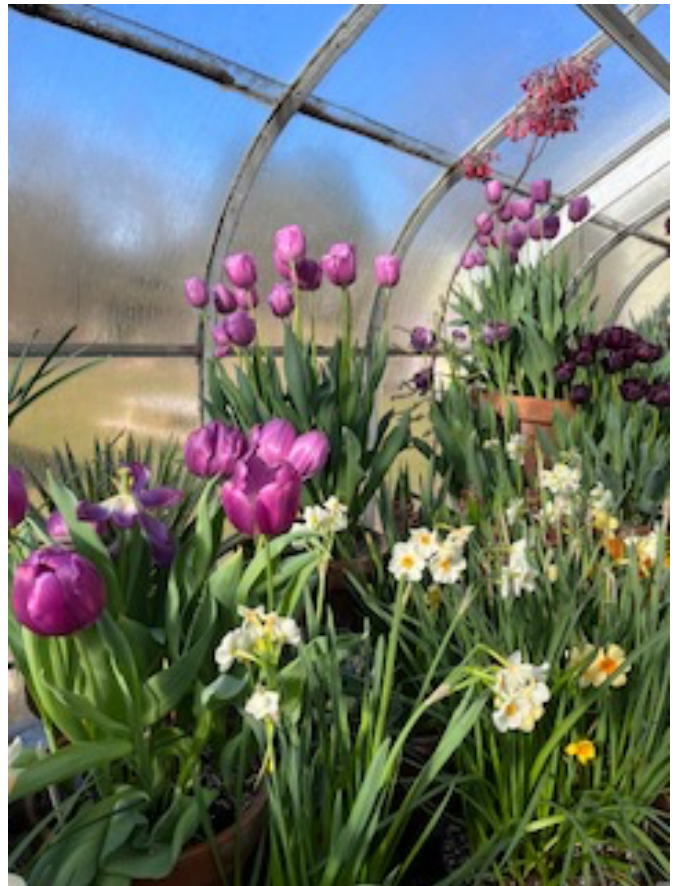
Guest writer/photographer — Marcia Willmot

Thought I'd pass along some photos that I took at the Berkshire Botanical Garden a couple of weeks ago, including some of the photos.

I was at our cabin for a few days, so I took a short drive to the Stockbridge area. Their Spring Bulb Show was in their quaint little Fitzpatrick Greenhouse. What it lacked in size, it made up for with beauty.

Tulips, Narcissus and Grape Hyacinths were displayed along with various succulents and gorgeous forced flowering branches from the tulip tree!

The photo of the dwarf irises was taken outdoors in a flowerbed near the greenhouse. I was so taken with them! I've got to find me some of their bulbs!!



## Happenings around the Club

It was great seeing so many people turn out for the drive by celebrating Laurie York's 100 Birthday. What a gal !!!

Many thanks to all and especially Anna Holmes for the outstanding basket Floral arrangement.



## Happenings around the Club, continued

April brought two wonderful meetings, the first meeting hosted a great luncheon by our fabulous Hospitality team. Thanks to Dawn L. for her great pictures below.

The speaker was Kathi Gariepy, a Master Gardener, who spoke on Shade Gardening. Several of my favorite native trees and shrubs were mentioned: *Cercis canadensis* - Eastern redbud, *Corylus americana* - Hazelnut and *Lindera benzoin* - Spicebush.



The second meeting introduced the club to a local Native Plant nursery, BLUE STEM NATIVES, located off of Route 3 north in Norwell. [www.bluestemnatives.com](http://www.bluestemnatives.com), owned and operated by 2 women.

### Who we are

A women-owned native plant nursery, and garden center, focused on increasing accessibility and knowledge of native plants in New England.

South of Boston  
Norwell, Massachusetts



<https://www.bluestemnatives.com/post/10-beginner-friendly-native-plants-to-beautify-your-garden-while-building-habitat>

They talked about “Why native” and offered the following few pointers among many:

- Native plants save water and reduce soil run-off and erosion
- Native plants have adapted to their environment over a long period of time so don't need lots of extra water and fertilizer to survive. They are the right plant in the right place.