

# Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne

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



May 2024

## Upcoming Happenings

### meetings

MAY 11 - PLANT SALE/Bake Sale Saturday 9:30 to noon

MAY 13 - Day Meeting Mike Paduch of Crystal Nursery - Plant care and Gardening Tips

MAY 15 - Garden Therapy - Bourne Manor

MAY 22 - Evening Meeting - Edibles in Container - presented by Master Gardeners

MAY 29 - Garden Therapy- Cape Cod Senior Residences

TBD - Junior Gardeners

FLOWER SHOW MAY 30, 31 AND JUNE 1.

Remember Dues are due by June 1st

JUNE 12 - Biennial Dinner - Buy your tickets.

Always check handbook or eblasts for times & specifics

### events in the area

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



## GO NATIVE !!!

We are hearing that phrase often these days especially this time of year, as we get bombarded with the ads for "outside is fun again," which encourages us to hire companies who come into our yards killing every other insect good or bad. So what does 'Go Native' mean and mean for us?

To me it means, not listening to all the ads that tell us to spray for this or for that. It means utilizing plants that are 'local' that have been growing in a particular habitat and region, typically for thousands of years or much longer. Also called indigenous, they are well adapted to the climate, light, and soil conditions that characterize their ecosystem. Within this system, they have evolved into tremendously important co-evolutionary relationships with the other plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria present, and these very complex relationships keep that particular ecosystem stable. (continued on next page)



## Tips for what to do in the Garden

May on Cape Cod is much closer to spring than April, and I hope it gets warmer soon!! Having finished a nice cool, rainy April it's May and barely any rain in sight. Oh well, time to break out the watering can. Glad my rain barrels are full.

The plant above is Fothergilla, a wonderful native that can be found in either dwarf or large form. Mine is just coming into bloom.

What to do in the garden in May? Oh where to start. Here are some tips:

- Direct sow carrots, lettuce, beets and other cool season crops.
- Use straw in your garden, as hay and mulch hay typically contain a lot of weed seeds
- Leave the dandelions, bees need them as a source of pollen and nectar
- Begin to stake your perennials that are prone to flopping
- Turf clippings, now that we can mow, are high in nitrogen, so mulch them into the lawn canopy
- Tomatoes can be planted towards the end of the month when the soil temps are above 60\*
- Hosta varieties with thick leathery leaves are not appetizing to slugs

(Go Native, continued)

Why are native plants so important?



Native plants are the necessary center of a healthy ecosystem.

1) Specifically, Native plants host the insects we need. Many providing the sole food source as has been noted with our songbirds.



2) Native plants have the pollination systems that create a mutually dependent system between pollinators and the native plant.

3) Native plants are also specific to many butterflies and moths as we have seen with the much beloved Monarch butterfly. As a note in Massachusetts, more than 25% of all butterfly species are in serious decline and considered a conservation concern.

The bottom line is native plants, trees, shrubs, provide the foundation for life. Please think about populating your yards with natives!



## Tips for the Floral Design

The Flower show is drawing near. We've been showing different designs in this column and this month we are featuring the designs that our floral team did at last month's meeting including the table setting in the upper right hand corner.



If you have any questions please contact, Judy, Paula or Alda. Schedules have been emailed, read them over and let us know if you have any questions. Thanks to all who signed up, all categories are filled.

All you exhibitors, mark your calendar for May 16th. Anna Holmes will be hosting a workshop for up to 7 new design participants. Contact Anna to ascertain time, address and what to bring.



## Garden visit of the Month

New York High Line was visited by Bobbie Lingard last fall

From our Editor: If you haven't visited, this is a must to see. I have visited in every season and it never disappoints. It is an amazing example of a native pollinator garden, that is maintained, yet not sterile and left in all seasons for the enjoyment of all the insects and pollinators in the city.

The plantings for the High Line, in New York City, were designed by Mr. Oudolf. Even with the backdrop of an urban setting, visitors feel themselves enveloped in nature.



Mr. Oudolf finds beauty in dried seed heads and other skeletal plant parts revealed in the fall and winter. One example: Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

A quote about Mr. Oudolf:

“There is a transcendent quality to the gardens of the Dutch designer Piet Oudolf, which overtake us with the sense that we have arrived at a place where we would like — and very much need — to spend more time. Drawn into the complex textural mosaic of muted colors, we can exhale.

Even when his landscapes sit against the backdrop of an urban setting, as many of his best-known works do — the High Line in New York City, for example, or the Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago — we feel ourselves enveloped in nature, our craving for it fed. “

## Happenings around the Club

Thanks so much to the Lingard's for their generous donation of perennials for the plant sale. It was a fun "dig day". Thanks to all the diggers - great team effort.

PLANT SALE, coming soon, Saturday MAY 11th at the Pocasset Community Building on Barlow's Landing Road.



Last month brought great meetings, with a great display in Hort by Anna Holmes on how to recycle and use broken pottery and another master gardner talking about vertical gardening. At the latter meeting, the hospitality team, including Dawn L. provided shelter and great creativity from the April Showers.

