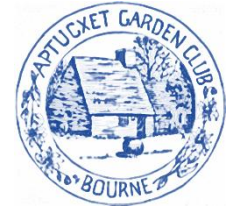


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



"Go Green - Plant Bourne"

December 2024



"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver"

Maya Angelou

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne: Joint meeting Nov. 6, 2024

Program: Native Plants for Cape Cod

Speaker: Fran Ralieggh

Native Plants for Cape Cod was our program presented by Fran Ralieggh, Ph.D. in Plant Science (Ecology) and Master Gardener. Her presentation slides and hand-outs gave an overview of native plantings, and the support the native plants offer to insects, birds and other animals on Cape Cod, what "native" means and well as the benefits of landscaping with native plants.

She provided examples of both Meadow and Grassland and Woodland habitats. Identification of native plants, Sundial Lupine and Yellow wild Indigo, that support only single hosts such as blue butterflies (Sundial Lupine) and a special bee, Walsh's Anthophora, (Yellow Wild Indigo). Plants that are fire dependent which require fire to germinate their seeds or maintain their health. Fire-adapted plants regenerate from protected buds that are in the deep root systems and large trunk bases called burls.

What is an "invasive" plant? A plant that is spread by the fauna of the area. Bittersweet and Burning bush are examples. Birds eat the berries of the plants, fly away and in another location will defecate the seed pulp that then grows with the cycle perpetuated over the seasons.

The final take-away was insightful despite appearing common sense.

- Make sure you have the right plant and the right place.
- Native plants support the local ecosystem, may tolerate animals and harsh conditions, and are beautiful and important!

Fran's extensive knowledge is evident and her enthusiasm apparent in the many examples she provided and pictures of her gardens with ditties of how her gardens have grown.

Submitted by Diane Conroy

Alda Barron, Artistic Design Co-Chair demonstrated how to:



Make a beautiful Fall Arrangement –
(arrangement courtesy of Judy Sheehy)



Use greens from our shrubs and yard for the
base layer of an arrangement



Create a holiday mug arrangement using
natural products.

November Hospitality Committee chair, Susan Dmochowski created two beautiful Fall bouquets to accompany the delicious tea/luncheon .



November Hospitality Committee Members:



Carol Doherty and Bobbie Dwyer



Cyndy Hurley and Connie Boyle

Important E-Blast Announcement

Going forward if you wish to have information communicated in an E-Blast to Club members, regarding upcoming Club events, etc., the following procedure will take effect starting January 1, 2025:

1) Request are to be sent directly to Jan Rogers, our President, with a cc to KSO.
2) This request needs to include the full text you wish communicated to the Club written as you want it to appear in the announcement. Be sure to include the date, location, time, a description of the event, and any other pertinent information in the blurb.

3) E-Blast announcements to members will be sent out two (2) times a month as follows:

a) One (1) week before the monthly meeting(s) along with the Meeting Reminder.
b) *If we only have one meeting in a month still have the opportunity to submit a request for an E-Blast which will be sent out mid-month.

1. Request Deadline Date: send to the President for review and approval two weeks prior to a meeting date.

2. Request Deadline Date when we have only 1 meeting: send to the President two (2) weeks prior to the 15th of the month.

The purpose of this new procedure is to cut down on the number of emails to members and to make sure the information communicated is stated as the requester(s) want it communicated and who are responsible for its accuracy.

Looking Ahead - AGC Month Event

Sunday, December 1st/12:30 – 3:30 **Boxwood Tree Workshop** at Pocasset Community Building

Tuesday, December 3rd/9:30-3:00 **Wreath Making Workshop** at Bourne United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 4th/3:00-7:00 **Centerpiece /Mug Workshop** at Bourne United Methodist Church

Thursday, December 5th/1:00-4:00 **MAKEUP DAY IF NEEDED** – Holiday Greens Workshop

Friday, December 6th/3:00-7:00 **AGC Holiday Greens & Bake Sale** at Briggs McDermott Forge

Saturday, December 7th/10:00-12:00 **AGC Holiday Greens & Bake Sale** at Briggs McDermott Forge

Monday, December 9, 2024 - 12:00 pm –**Joint Meeting - Bourne United Methodist Church - HOLIDAY POTLUCK**- Bring a dish to share and an ornament to swap .

If you would like to participate in our ornament swap, please bring an unwrapped garden-themed ornament to the 12/9 holiday meeting. For those members that are not familiar with this fun event, we form a circle with our ornament in hand, as we enjoy a lovely reading of The Night Before Christmas by Betsy Woodley. During the reading, anytime that Betsy says the word “the”, we pass the ornament to the person to our right. This continues through the end of the poem. The ornament that we are holding at the end of the poem is the ornament that we take home.

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – 3:00 pm - **Garden Therapy** – Cape Cod Senior Residences

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – 10:30 am - **Garden Therapy** – Bourne Manor

*****DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CLIPPERS AND WEAR YOUR APRONS TO WORKSHOPS AND SALE*****

Garden Therapy

Garden Therapy visits Cape Cod Senior Residences and Bourne Manor Extended Care & Royal Cape Cod Rehabilitation Center once a month. The AGC members bring fresh flowers, expertise, and friendship as they help the residents create beautiful bouquets. This is a truly rewarding experience for both the members and the residents.

Laura Bergeron writes "The residents are so appreciative!"

(Pictures courtesy of Paula O'Neil and Laura Bergeron, Chairs of Garden Therapy with permission from residents)



Gardening on a Budget – Nov. 6th Horticulture Presentation

Budget isn't a bad word; there are many reasons to spend less:

- New gardener not yet committed to investment

- Other priorities like travel and fine dining

- Just enjoy the challenge of spending less

Major expense categories are Supplies, Equipment, Plants

Supplies

Stop using expensive lawn chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides

- Embracing a Cape Cod lawn helps protect our single source aquifer

- Saves insects because pesticides are non-selective

- Saves birds from ingesting second-hand poisons

Use top dressing in place of fertilizer (learn more at May meeting)

Lime – Locally-owned stores \$11 vs big box \$5.50/40 lb. bag

Learn more about soil chemistry at Darlene's talk in April

Equipment

Estate sales

Hand tools are \$1; leave them around because there are more in the shed!

No Felco pruners at estate sales, however ☹

Larger tools are \$5; good for rarely used tools like post diggers and pitchforks,

Old tools are sturdier

Find stately garden furniture and yard art

Dorothy's at ISWM

Every pot and garden item ever sold at Job Lot ends up there

Helps the environment by keeping stuff out of landfills

Now through December is the time to collect shallow mum pots for our Plant Sale!

Dump is also a great source for wood chips, bricks, steppingstones, and compost

Plants

Our plant sale, Falmouth's, Master Gardeners', other nearby towns in May

I'm terrible at growing plants from seeds, so Laura Bergeron will discuss in May.

However, here's a shout out to \$.25/package Dollar Store for common seeds: less specialized hybrids, fewer seeds in each package, (but who needs 500 marigolds?)

Plant swapping – Learn more at February meeting

Submitted by Cheryl Keown

Everyone had a fun morning at the Bourne Library workshop creating beautiful Thanksgiving centerpieces. A Big Thank You to Alda, Paula, and Laverne for the materials, education, demonstration and guidance. All the centerpieces came out fabulous and will brighten up every Thanksgiving table. Below are a few pictures of participants.



RECYCLING HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Now through mid-January residents of all 15 Cape Cod towns can drop off old or damaged holiday lights at designated holiday light recycling bins located at their local transfer stations. This recycling drive offers an easy and free way for Cape Cod residents to keep waste out of our landfills, help protect the environment and preserve the beauty of our region.

The lights will be processed, with recyclable materials recovered to reduce waste in Cape Cod landfills.

ACCEPTED: items include rope and garland lights, C7 and C9 bulbs, mini-lights and LED holiday lights.

NOT ACCEPTED: Lights attached to artificial trees or lighted decorations, such as stars, angels or other fixtures.

RECYCLING PLASTIC BAGS, WRAP, BUBBLE WRAP, ETC. – AT OCEAN STATE JOB LOT (OSJL) ALSO CLICK VISIT <<https://nextrex.com/view/findadropoff#jsfdir>> FOR OTHER PARTICIPATING STORES/ LOCATIONS

Ocean State Job Lot teamed up with Trex to recycle household plastic bags and wrap into Earth-friendly composite decking and railing. You can help by bringing your plastic household bags and wrap into participating stores and put them in the bins. Plastics must be clean, dry, and free of food and organic residue.



RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

RECYCLED IN AMERICA

NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

Christmas at Blithewold

A visit to Blithewold Manor, Gardens and Arboretum is a fun day trip during the holiday season. Just under an hour away, this late 19th century 33 acre estate is located on Narragansett Bay in the charming town of Bristol, Rhode Island. The manor is elegantly decorated for Christmas festivities with lots of period pieces and beautiful floral arrangements. Admission to the house and gardens is \$22. To make your visit even more spectacular you can reserve a table for Afternoon Tea. There are two seatings every day (11am and 1 pm) from November 26th thru January 3rd. Service includes a cup of tea, fresh scones with sweet cream and a tiered tray of sweet and savory treats. Reservations are required and the tickets are \$40 for members/\$55 for non-members. This price includes admission to the manor and grounds. Visit www.blithewold.org to make a reservation and for further information on this unique property.

Submitted by Karen Cronburg

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK FESTIVE ON MAIN STREET

The Main Street, Buzzards Bay Park & Town Hall Beautification Committee decorated

17 Planters with a multitude of greens, bows, branches, berries, and pinecones.

Thank you: Sue Barlow, Nancy Buckley, Marilyn Crane, Grace Moore, Paula O'Neil,

Jan Sudol, Moe Smith, Connie Spilhaus





Message from the President

Dear Garden Club Friends,

I know the lyric says, "it's the most wonderful time of the year". It will be soon, but for me and many of you, it just might be the busiest time of the year. I love my garden in the spring, summer and fall, but I must confess, I'm addicted to cutting greens and making wreaths and table arrangements. That's a story for another time. . .

Ways and Means Co-Chairs, Julie Arnold and Moe Smith, along with their mentor Carolee Packard, have been holding workshops this fall in preparation for our wreath and centerpiece work days December 3rd and 4th. Our annual Greens-Bake Sale at the Briggs McDermott House, on December 6-7th, is our biggest fund raiser of the year. We still need your help, even if you have not signed up. Come be part of the fun and get into the holiday spirit with AGC friends. Many hands make light work. Then on December 9th, we'll celebrate the season at our annual potluck luncheon on December 9th. Look for the e-blast to sign up.

I am happy to introduce four new members to our club, Connie Boyle, Cathy Kert, Chris Reade, and Clare Stone. Look for them at the workshops. We will officially welcome them at our December meeting.

I encourage everyone to take a few minutes in the next month to check out the new schedule of GCFM schools. The 2025 schedule includes Landscape Design, Flower Show School, Environmental and Gardening Schools. Most classes are on Zoom. Learning a few new skills this winter might pay off this summer in your garden next spring. I'm considering taking the landscape design class after my sister asked me to help landscape her new weekend home. Remember, AGC scholarships are available too.

With the start of this Christmas season, I am reminded it is a time when we think of family and friends, traditions and celebrations. I hope you all will find time to enjoy it all, along with the stark beauty of the trees and perennials against the winter sky on a cold clear night.

Wishing you and yours, peace, love and joy this holiday season.

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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