

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

"Go Green - Plant Bourne"



Monthly Newsletter January 2025



*"There is peace in the garden.
Peace and results"*

Ruth Stout

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK WAS FULL OF FABULOUS FOOD, FRIENDS, AND LAUGHTER WITH A WONDERFUL RENDITION OF ***THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS*** BY BESTY WOODLEY WHICH INCLUDED A FUN GARDEN-THEMED ORNAMENT SWAP.



Fun afternoon with lots of smiles!



WELCOME!

We have four new members who were welcomed at our Annual Potluck Dinner

The Four "C"s were introduced by President, Jan Rogers:

Chris Reade
Cathy Kert
Connie Boyle
Clair Stone



Thank you Letter from Fire Chief Pelonzi:

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out to send a note of thanks for the wreath that you gave us. We proudly attached it on the front of our headquarters station.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!
Respectfully,

David S. Pelonzi, EFO
Fire Chief
Bourne Fire/Rescue and Emergency Services

[51 Meetinghouse Lane](#)
[Sagamore Beach, MA 02562](#)

office: (508) 759-0600, ext. 2223

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL AND WISHES FOR A HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2025.

IF THERE'S LOTS OF **STYROFOAM** FLOATING AROUND YOUR FESTIVITIES THIS SEASON ??? WE' D LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT **WE WILL HAVE A COLLECTION OF 'THE STUFF' AT OUR MONDAY, JANUARY 6th MEETING.**

SO PLEASE COLLECT IT UP, MAKE SURE IT'S CLEAN AND THAT IT SNAPS (if it doesn't it's not styro), BAG IT (please put your name on the bag or in the bag) AND BRING IT TO THE MEETING. EASY AS THAT!!! THANK YOU!!

SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR.

kso



Ho Ho Ho - The Garden Club Elves were very busy creating at our workshops



Boxwood Workshop



Wreath Workshop



Centerpiece and Mug Workshop



Holiday Greens and Bake Sale



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Monday, January 6, 2025 – Joint Meeting – 12:00 pm -Bourne United Methodist Church
Program: Perennial Gardening, Kathi Gariepy, a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association and Landsca Design Consultant will talk about perennials, the workhorses of the garden, and how to keep your garden bloom most of the season.

Garden Therapy at Royal Cape Cod – Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 10:30 am

Garden Therapy at Cape Cod Senior Residences – Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 3:00 pm

*****For all those members who will vacation this winter in a warm , sunny, enviornment where there will be flowers, plants, and botanical gardens – please email nzbuckley@yahoo.com pictures of your travels and a short description of where the picture was taken. It will be nice to see pictures of some bright growth during our winter editions of the newsletter. Thank you!*****

Annual Greens Sale and Bake Sale

Congratulations to all members for a very successful, profitable sale this year. This money will provide the club with funds to support our many civic, educational, floral design and horticultural projects throughout Bourne.

A huge thank you to **Julie Arnold and Moe Smith**, Co-chairs of Ways and Means for all their hard work, and outstanding organization skills when preparing the workshops and sale days to run smoothly and to be both productive and fun! Special thanks to **KSO** for her purchasing power, **Carolee Packard** for her bow workshops and boxwood tree leadership, **Sally Baer** for her wreath workshop demonstrations and tutoring, **Judy Sheehy** for her floral expertise at the centerpiece and mug workshop, and **Grace Moore** for chairing the bake sale. It takes many hands to make our annual Greens and Bake Sale a success, and we are so lucky to have so many talented members. Thanks to all members who attended a workshop, worked the sale and collected so many fabulous greens this year.

Garden Design Trends for 2025 Rebecca Sweet by Garden Design

Webinar on December 12th, 2024 summarized by Cathleen Glynn

Rebecca Sweet, landscape designer and garden writer, highlighted her Top Ten 2025 Garden Design Trends:

1. **Rise of Native Plant and Nativars.** Nativars are being created by selecting certain characteristics of the plant to breed into them – one of the most popular is a dwarf or more compact variety. Nativars are helpful to bridge the gap and get some natives in gardens and also to help convert people to be open to natives. More research still needs to be done but so far it does show that there is more variety and more visits of pollinators to Natives more than to Nativars.

2. **Redefining perfection: Finding Harmony in a Less Tidy Garden.** Leave even half dead or dead trees –



called a tree snug. Add a bug snug or an insect hotel ->

3. **The new look of low-water landscapes.** So many nurseries have small areas of plants for low water and so many of those have gray leaves, but planting purple and dark green and burgundy leafed plants can help avoid too much gray. Lawn grass is replaced with Dymondia (hardy in zones 9-11 - not hardy in New England)



4. **Fire-resistant gardening.** Yards are broken into zones with the first zone being close to the home that would include low or compact plants, 30 feet or so from the home - more of the traditional plants and keep the trees lower branches cut, 100 feet from home – more plants, trees.

Don't want the fire to be able to "ladder up" so that includes using more gravel and stone and less flammable mulch and planting plants farther apart. Debra Lee Baldwin has written a lot about fire resistant plants and gardens. Other suggestions for a fire-resistant garden: Make sure your plants are not water-stressed by keeping them adequately watered, which makes them more resistant to igniting. Limit accumulation of dead vegetation within or beneath the plant. Keep your landscape well maintained by removing dead branches and leaf litter beneath the plants. Replace older plants that are more woody than leafy. Open branching habits (which provide less fuel for fires). Selectively thin your trees and shrubs to open them up; remove densely crowded branches. Extensive root systems (making the plant more likely to recover after fire damage).

5. Creating more living spaces for people and wildlife. Rewilding cemeteries even! Colleges are rewilding. Replace lawns or parts of lawns with taller grasses, native plants, and mow lawns less.

6. Turning to resilient plants to manage environmental stressors. Plants are needed that can combat climate change and the stressors of heat, drought, insects and disease. Think Inkberry, Ginko trees and Yarrow. Penstemon is a drought tolerant, flowering perennial native to North America. Common sage and thyme are far more drought-tolerant than tender basil or cilantro. Blackberries and raspberries are very fruitful! Rhubarb and asparagus will continue to multiply year after year, even if they experience a season of drought or a sudden cold snap.

7. Focus on mental well-being in the garden. Take some chairs out to enjoy the garden. Read *The Cancer Survivor's Garden Companion* book by Jenny Peterson. Watch the popular *Blue Zone* on Netflix.

8. A Nod to nostalgia. (also called crevice garden or memory garden) Plant an area or a few plants that people will remember from their childhood such as peonies or roses or plants including dianthus in pale pinks and soft pastel colors.

9. Portable Plants- Gardening while renting. Wally pockets – use on fences and even inside walls - \$20-\$45 from Ecovibe.



10. Grow your garden knowledge – exciting gardening education opportunities both online and more and more again in person. Look into educational opportunities in your area!

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne- Briggs McDermott House Date: Dec 5,2024

Our Aptucxet Garden Club elves were very busy over the weeks and days leading up to the 2024 Holiday Greens and Bake Sale! Additionally, some elves were busily beautifying the Briggs McDermott House for the community to come and visit. The theme this year was Stories of Christmas with the Dining room's theme "The Nutcracker" and the Bedroom "The Mitten, Hedgehog, and others" from the Jan Brett collection.

Paula O'Neil, with the assistance of Julie Arnold, decorated the Dining room. The beauty of the individual table settings surrounding a centerpiece of red roses, greens and Nutcrackers was a feast for the eyes and imagination! The stockings were hung by the chimney with care and protected by a host of Nutcrackers. My love of reds was enhanced by the seasonal winter greens, and I could imagine a family enjoying a holiday dinner illuminated by the chandelier and candles. What talent in the creation of this vignette! I heard much admiration for the beautiful work and thoughtful interpretation of the Nutcracker theme!

Karen Cronberg's depiction of Stories of Christmas using the Jan Brett collection of books was inspiring! I personally love this author and her illustrations with some of her books in my own library. "The Mitten", "The Hedgehog" books were the leading theme of the room. There were interactive copies of characters/scenes from the books for children and adults alike to color. So many books, some of which I need to go and acquire, were accompanied by home knit mittens, children's toys, and the query of "how many mittens and hedgehogs can you find?" Again, what talent in this vignette combined with the ohs, ahs and thoughts of sugar plums dancing in our heads.

May all your hearts and thoughts be merry, have peace, and joy for this holiday season.

Submitted by Diane Conroy



A Few Favorite Recipes from Potluck Dinner

Vegetable casserole by Alda Barron

3 cups sliced carrots

3 cups sliced zucchini

3 cups cauliflower

1 large onion sliced

1 can of cream of mushroom soup

1 cup sour cream

Steam All vegetables one at the time (Not too soft) place in a large bowl.

Combine sour cream with soup and fold into the vegetables. In a large skillet melt 1/2 cup (one stick) of butter And add 4 cups of STOVE-TOP STUFFING MIX stir to combine.

In a baking tray place half of the stuffing, add the vegetables and top with the rest of the stuffing mix.

In a 350 degrees preheated oven

Bake uncovered for 20 minutes, cover and bake 10 more minutes. Bon appétit

Alda

Swedish Almond Brownies

My Mom's recipe – Submitted by Laura Murphy

¼ lb. (1 stick butter)

Pinch of Salt

2 eggs beaten

1 tsp. almond extract

1 cup of sugar

Sliced almonds

1 cup of flour

Sugar to sprinkle on top

Grease and flour 8" x 8" pan. Melt the butter. Let cool. Beat eggs until fluffy and add the sugar, slowly add the melted butter.

Beat in the flour, pinch of salt and the almond extract, and pour into greased pan. Sprinkle with sliced almonds, gently pat down then sprinkle with small amount of sugar.

Bake in a 325-degree Fahrenheit oven for 30 minutes.

Sue's Famous Portuguese Kale Soup - Sue Barlow

1 pkg (about 1 lb) ground linguica
1 stick of chourico sliced (mild or hot if you prefer it spicy)
2 T olive oil
1 onion chopped very fine
12 baby carrots chopped very fine
1/2 bunch of kale chopped very fine
dried parsley
dried oregano
2 cloves garlic chopped very fine
1 can red kidney beans (do not drain or rinse)
1 can black beans (do not drain or rinse)
3 cans beef broth
1 can stewed tomatoes – chopped add all the juice from can too
2 med. Potatoes - precook in boiling water until just under done – then remove and dice into small bite size pieces.
Ground pepper to taste

In a large pot heat olive oil over medium heat– add onion, garlic, herbs, carrots – sauté for a few minutes – add linguica and chourico and cook for 5 –10 minutes. Add beans tomatoes then broth and (par-boiled) potatoes, add kale. Cook on low heat until all is tender – about an hour

Can put in crock pot to keep warm, if desired.

It tastes even better the next day!



Message from the President

Dear Garden Club friends,

Happy New Year. Twenty twenty-four was a year of new energy, new members, started our AGC Facebook page, and created a pollinator garden for the community. We made some adjustments in our meeting dates and in how we can offer hospitality at our meetings. In Decembers, we worked together to make our annual Holiday Greens Sale a success and gathered 41 of our members to celebrate friendship and the holiday season. Nice job, everybody!

So now 2025 has begun. There are lots of wonderful things on the horizon. Look for our updated membership flyer at the Jonathan Bourne Library. Consider taking a class to learn new skills for yourself and some to share with the club. Last year, I attended the Backyard Horticulture class, sponsored by the Cape Cod Master Gardeners, at the Barnstable County Complex. It met every Thursday afternoon in February and March. It is being offered again this year. Maybe carpool with other members and hear some great speakers. Linda Coven and Mary Pat Barry, two of our speakers this year, presented at the Backyard Hort. class. GCFM has a Landscape zoom on Jan 23 and NGC has a 2 day zoom class on the same topic. AGC has scholarship funds to cover your costs if you complete the class. If you are not going south, what else will you be doing in January?

AGC was recognized this year for joining the Federated Garden Clubs in 1948. It's been 75 yrs. In 2028, we will celebrate our 90th anniversary of the founding of our club. That day will come sooner than we think. To appreciate our past, we need to study it. I'm told there are bins of photo albums and folders of documents stowed away somewhere at the Bourne Historical Society. I'm looking for a committee to explore the bins and determine what we should preserve and convert to digital files to tell the story about how AGC ladies created and maintained some of the beautiful public spaces in our town. In October, we will host a SE District President's Luncheon. We need a committee to plan and host our President's Luncheon and a historical preservation committee to begin the re-discover for our AGC story. Email me if you are interested.

Maybe our New Years resolution as gardeners could be to nurture nature, get involved and have more fun in 2025? Be well, safe travel to our snowbirds. See you in the spring.

The Aptuxet 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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Visit the Aptuxet Garden Club Website www.aptuxetgardenclub.com