

# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



## "Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

February 2025



*"The Garden Is A Love Song, A Duet  
Between A Human Being and  
Mother Nature."*

*Jeff Cox*

**Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne- Joint Meeting**

**Date: 01/06/2025**

**Program: Perennial Plants**

**Speaker: Kathi Gariepy**

The AGC of Bourne started the new year with a program about Perennial Plants given by Kathi Gariepy, Lifetime Master Gardener of the Mass Master Gardener Association and landscape consultant. Perennials are considered the 'workhorses' of the garden and the majority of them return every year.

Much to my astonishment, I discovered biennials and perennials! Biennials last two years, reseed so the second year produces better blossoms before dying. Perennials can be hardy but know your zone. Herbaceous perennials are all about the root system, so while the foliage dies back at the end of the season, they should re-emerge the next season. An additional tidbit for those brave enough to start their perennials from seed, by the third year the plants have developed sufficient roots systems to provide that beautiful foliage and flowers that we love. Now I know why they are so expensive when I go to buy them. Ha!

Kathi explored how we could keep our gardens in bloom for most of the season through exploration of which perennials work best in the garden and how to keep them in good form. She reviewed propagation methods to allow the gardener to create more plants through seeds, cuttings, and dividing.

Again, a common theme for our presentations continues to be the right plant and the right place:

- Know your zone
- Know the location for planting- wet or dry, sun or shade, soil type
- Read the label of the plant(s), when does it bloom, and what does the foliage contribute to the garden?
- Color, Foliage, and variety can add interest, dimension, and a focal point to a garden.

There were beautiful pictures and examples of plants, strategies, and professional tips that I need to pay attention to... Now all I need to do is go forth, grow, and weed!

**Submitted by Diane Conroy**



*Judy Sheehy and Alda Barron demonstrate the Floral Design*

### **IKEBANA**

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

The Principles of Ikebana:

- Minimalism
- Symmetry
- Harmony

The philosophy behind Ikebana is grounded in Japanese aesthetics, which emphasized simplicity, understated elegance, and a respect for nature. An Ikebana design creates a harmonious relationship between the natural materials used in the arrangement and the space around them.



*Hospitality Committee for January's meeting:  
Connie Spilhaus, Anna Holmes, Judy Sheehy,  
Nancy Buckley, Susan Barlow, Chris Reade*

January 6, 2025, Meeting theme: PEACE



Herbal Wreath Peace sign

**The Cindora Goldberg Award**  
*seeing and creating in an innovative manner*

**2024 Recipient: Alda Barron of the Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne**

**CONGRATULATIONS ALDA!**



CINDORA GOLDBERG 1921 - 2002 The Cindora Goldberg Tribute Award was announced in the 2002 Fall issue of the Mayflower to honor the ability she had to “continually see and create in an innovative manner.” Each entry is judged by a panel of experts, and the winner of this special award is announced each year at the GCFM Annual Conference in June.

# Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – Joint Meeting – 5:30 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church

Program: Winter in the Yard - Michele Fronk Schuckel , a Certified Master Gardener and owner of Natural Selections Gardens, specializing in design and education with a focus on organic practices and native plants. will present “ Winter in the Yard”. The quiet season for gardeners is anything but for the plants and animals outside your windows. Learn to appreciate the seasonal survival techniques of the animals in our yards and woods and the plants that best support them and provide you with four seasons of interest. This is a natural science-meets-garden design program that gets rave reviews from participants.

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Garden Therapy at Bourne Manor - Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 10:30 am

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Garden Therapy at Cape Cod Senior Residences – Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – 3:00 pm

## Garden Club has a Facebook Page!

Please friend and follow on Facebook - Administrators are Susan Barlow, Kathleen Glynn



# Ideas for Getting a Jump Start on Spring

Presented by Karen Cronberg on 1/6/2025

## **Easiest!**

Buy flowering mini-daffodils in pots from your local nursery or grocery store; Shaw sells them for \$3.99!



## **Forcing Bulbs**

Paperwhites - simple

- For Christmas flowers, start in early November. Stagger planting times for a longer bloom time
- Use a shallow, flat bottomed container and cover the bottom with stones about 1" in diameter.
- Add water to cover the stones. Set bulbs with root-side down on stones.
- Store in cool area for one week before setting in warmer lighted area.
- Add a shot of vodka to water, to stunt growth, if needed.
- If stems fall over, stake them, cut them back, or cover with a clear glass cylinder.

Hyacinth—very fragrant

- Require a cold period of at least 8 weeks, i.e., start mid-September for Christmas bloom.
- Cold period should be 35-45 degrees, consistently (no daytime spikes)
  - A wine cooler is probably not cool enough.
  - Do not store near refrigerated fruit, because fruit emits ethylene which interferes with flower development.
  - An unheated garage or basement works, if free of rodents.
- Fill a necked vase with water up to the smallest part of the neck.
- Set the bulb upright on the neck, so the roots will grow into the water below
- Place in a warm sunny area

## Hardy Spring-Flowering Bulbs: Daffodils, Tulips, Grape Hyacinth, Crocus, Snow drops, Dwarf Iris

- Require at least 2 ½ months of chilling, with similar chilling criteria to Hyacinth and Amaryllis.
  - They may be stored outside, with mulch to protect from freezing.
  - Bulbs advertised as ‘pre-chilled’ are available.
- Select a container with a drainage hole and a tray to collect drained water. Fill the container with potting soil.
- Set bulbs about 1” apart with 2/3s submerged in soil and green tips exposed.
- Store 1-2 weeks in a cool dark place until green shoots begin to appear; then move to a warm sunny area and begin to water
- After blooms fade, bulbs can be planted outdoors. Daffodils and hyacinth may flower next year; tulips are less likely to do so.

## Bulb ‘Lasagna’

- Start in fall, before January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Select a drained container at least 12” deep
  - Add 3” of soil
  - Add daffodil bulbs 1” apart
  - Add soil to cover bulbs
  - Add tulips 1” apart
  - Add soil to cover bulbs
  - Add small bulbs, like grape hyacinths, etc.
  - Add about 1” of soil to cover bulbs
- Store in unheated basement or garage for chilling
- Bring indoors in early March and begin watering

## **Cut Tulips – easy!**

- Available at Market Basket
- Last year, \$5.99 for 10 stems

On December 30, 2024 Dawn Labenski visited Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota Fl - Named #3 in USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards contest for "Best Botanical Garden" in the United States.

Submitted by Dawn:

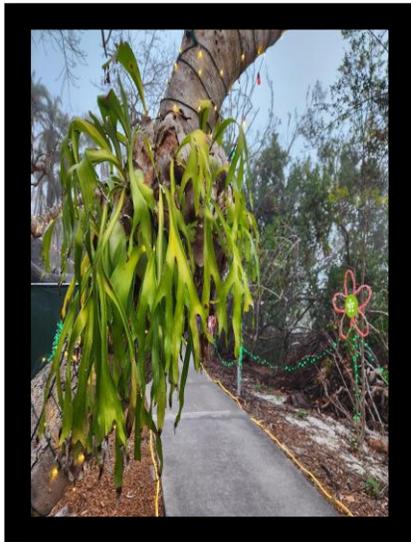
Alan and I arrived at 5:15 pm on 12/30/24, as heavy fog began to roll in off the ocean. It made for a dramatic and eerie display as the plants began to glow. I was excited to notice that a lighted tunnel cleverly obscured several boat wrecks stranded high in the mangroves, yet to be cleared away after the last 2 hurricanes. Many trees had their leaves completely blown off and there was evidence of fallen trees being removed or in some cases propped up to restore them



Coye Pond – Lights in Bloom 2024



Birds Nest Fern



Staghorn Ferns



Giant Cactus



Tillandsia Xerographica

**Thank you Dawn! Please send [nzbuckley@yahoo.com](mailto:nzbuckley@yahoo.com) pictures of your winter garden visits for future newsletters.**

## **Tallamy, Norton, and Smith Headline Cape Master Gardener Spring Symposium in March**

Doug Tallamy, renowned ecologist and champion of restoring nature to our backyards is headlining the MG Spring Symposium, Saturday March 29.

Registration starts Saturday, February 22. The Cape Cod Regional Technical High School in Harwich.

The cost is \$40 and includes refreshments and door prizes such as plants, tools, gift cards, and design books.

Tallamy's books, "Nature's Best Hope", "Bringing Nature Home", and others are New York Times best sellers. He is the T.A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and the author of research publications, seminars, lectures, and books that are influencing how home gardeners shape their landscapes across the U. S.

Why do our choices matter? Learn: the unbreakable link between native plants and wildlife and the impact a home gardener has on both, how invasive plants leap out faster than native plants and take over, and how choosing the wrong plants can help destroy a natural habitat. AND learn what you can do to support the Cape's ecology, where to source native plants, what to plant, and what to watch out for in plants invasive to Cape Cod that have taken root.

Hear from Russ Norton on why invasive plants blight the landscape and learn what native plants thrive on Cape Cod. Russ is Horticulture Extension Educator for the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program. Discover where to buy native plants and seeds with Trevor Smith. Trevor Smith is Weston Nurseries' Design and Education Manager. He has 20 years of field experience as an entrepreneur and regenerative landscape designer.

Celebrate this exciting program with us

Submitted by Debbie Webster, member of AGC and President of Cape Cod Master Gardeners

*"I think our club will be interested in knowing the details of the MG's Spring Symposium featuring Doug Tallamy! We MG's really want garden club members and others to be able to attend. Tickets will sell out quickly! Registration opens Feb. 22nd at <https://mastergardenerscc.org/events/spring-symposium>*

## Christmas Wreaths Recycle Information

submitted by Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

The metal hoops and wire used to fashion fresh-green wreaths are really, really, really bad for the grinding machine the DPW uses to chop up what we drop off in the compost pile at the landfill.

I was told that it's extremely expensive to fix the machine once it gets jammed up with these metal pieces -- and guess who pays for this fix: yup, it's us the taxpayer.

SO A SUGGESTION: place your old wreaths, sans ribbons and decorations, outside for the winter and let them desiccate over the winter.

Place them in the garden to protect tender perennials to help them make it through the winter.

In the spring remove the brown/dead boughs (should be easy as they've shriveled a bit and the wire is rotted) from the wire hoop and the wire too! Compost the boughs at the landfill and place the hoops and wire in the metal recycle bin at the landfill not in the mixed recycle bins we have at our homes.

Let's try to be good stewards of the land and the town's grinding machine :- ) too



Susan Dmochowski's summer garden visitor - can you find him?



### Message from the President

Dear Garden Club Friends,

The Farmer's Almanac said that the NE January temperature would be an average of 37 degrees and there would be below average precipitation. How do you think it measured up?

While some of you have moved south for the winter, most committee chairwomen, board members and a few long serving club members, gathered for a strategic planning meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, to discuss hospitality, leadership, club communications, and preserving our club's history. We also brainstormed ideas as to how to best use some of the generous, Carolyn Nelson Memorial Fund to work in our club and community. Garden benches, garden signage and supporting additional study for members were just a few of the great ideas suggested. The participants helped prioritize effort and the impact of the many ideas. We now have short-term goals, like a hospitality survey to help determine the value of our Luncheon Tea meetings and ways we can support the meeting chairs when they are scheduled: and long-term goals like installing garden signage in all our community gardens. I'll share more details in the months ahead.

The Almanac predicts February will be colder too, so consider checking out all the GCFM, New England Garden Club and NGC websites, webinars and Zooms.

[gardenclubfedma@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubfedma@gmail.com), <https://newenglandgc.org/> <https://gardenclub.org/>

I like the "Flora in Winter" Feb 27-Mar 1 at Worcester Art Museum and the March 7<sup>th</sup> Zoom about organic lawn gardening. April 10-13 is an NGC specialty Flower Show in RI. Maybe a group field trip opportunity? There are events, schools and even recorded webinars from the last few years. Check it out. It helps to dream about what is possible in your yard and in our club projects.

It still looks like winter outside so think about caring for your house plants, sharpen your tools and look at garden catalogues that are arriving every day. Spring is coming.

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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