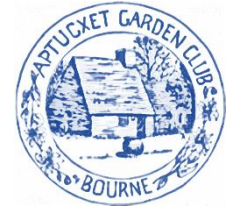


Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne



"Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

March 2025



"I love March as it gives me hope that new beginnings are always beautiful."

Anamika Mishra

Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne – Joint Meeting

Date: February 12, 2025

Program: "Winter in the Yard" presented by Michele Schuckel , Certified Master Gardener and owner of Natural Selections Gardens. www.NaturalSelectionsGardens.com

Michele presented Practices to Support Winter Guests

- Plant Low Maintenance, Native Plants which have seasonal color
- Go Organic for healthy places for people and pets
- More Garden, Less Grass
- Use Leaf Litter,
- Plant trees, trees, trees
- Conservation of Water
- Support for Birds and Small Mammals

Design Considerations: Form, Color, Texture, Contrast, Wildlife Support, Winter Bloom, Low Light Lusters, and Bulbs for later winter show.

Design Tips: Consider the form and shape, Keep a collection, Use color and Variegations, Do a trial-run, Its OK to move plants over time

Favorite Plantings for Winter Gardens:

Sculptural Trees such as **Weeping, Conical, Spreading, Vase-like, Twisted**. Examples: Weeping European Beech, Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, Japanese Maple, Dogwood, and Oak. Plant trees that have interesting Bark – rough, peeling, colored, textured or stonelike smooth . Examples: Red or Yellow Twig Dogwood, River Birch, Hawthorn, or Service Berry.

Decorative Fruits and Flowers. Examples: Crab Apple, Service Berry, American Hornbeam, Pieris japonica, Witch Hazel, Winterberry and Spent Flower Heads

Needles and Leaves: Give Color Length, Shine and Texture. Examples: Hinoki Cypress, Wintertur Viburnum, Oak, Juniperus, and Grasses

Best Practices for the Winter Gardener: Plan for all seasons, Encourage Guests with Plantings that provide Shelter, Food, Habitat. Leave the Leaves, Go Organic and Compost

Petite Winter Garden: To overwinter plants in containers: Select a frost proof container, Prioritize form, Use a good potting soil, Stop feeding in Fall, Water into Winter, Repot every few years.



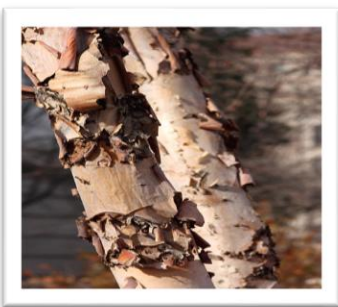
Red Twig Dogwood



Witch Hazel



Weeping European Beech



River Birch



Grasses



Juniper

HORTICULTURE

Plant Swapping – Feb 12th evening

Submitted by Cheryl Keown

In November, I talked about Gardening on a Budget, but not about plant acquisition on a budget, because it is a big subject in itself. In May, Laura Bergeron will talk about starting annuals from seed; today I'll discuss Plant Swapping.



Are you cut out for Plant Swapping?

- Do you want a garden full of exotic plants?
- Do you want to know the scientific name of all your plants?
- Do you love seeing the newest hybrids at your local garden center each spring?
- Is your time for gardening limited, perhaps to a few hours on the weekend?
- Do you have a plan for what plants you want to plant, and where?

Then Plant swapping is NOT for you!

To the rest of you:

- You hate to see a plant you paid good money for, die.
- You are happy to grow plants that naturally thrive on Cape Cod
- You don't mind knowing only the common name of plants, if that
- You have the flexibility to drop what you are doing and hop in the car to collect a plant which will probably be gone soon
- You may have an inconspicuous area to test stuff you are unsure of
- You have a concept about how your garden should look, but not a fixed, labeled plan.

How do you get started Plant Swapping?

By far the easiest, most accessible way to start is to join **Cape Cod Plant Swap** Facebook group. Free plants also show up on **Cape Cod Gardening Buy Sell and Trade** group, and occasionally on **Bourne Buy Nothing** group.

Many plants are offered without a trade, by avid gardeners with large gardens who need to thin, don't need more plants, yet hate to see a good plant go to waste. Therefore, newer gardeners without surplus can still benefit from those Facebook groups.

When you see a plant offered on Cape Cod Plant Swap, act fast. Send a Facebook Messenger note to the poster, asking where and when you can pick it up, and volunteer what you have to share. Wait, and hope she contacts you back. When you have spares, post them, with pictures, and end with a swap request. Use ISO to mean 'in search of'.

I will close with Plant Swap Etiquette.

You will find the same gardeners offering plants over and over, so you will begin to see the same gardens and faces, usually of avid gardeners. Whenever they have spare plants, you want them to pick YOU! So here are a few guidelines to become known as a good plant swapper:

- Always show up, even for a 'contactless' pickup. Failure to show drives people crazy, and wastes their time.
- Be timely; bare-rooted plants in a bucket don't last long.
- If it isn't a contact-less pick-up, bring your own shovel and containers.
- If you are concerned, ask about jumping worms, and learn to identify the coffee ground type soil they produce.
- Ask to hose off the roots at their house, not yours.
- Keep a stock of extra plants in pots, so you can bring and offer a plant, even if they didn't ask.
- Bring a drywall bucket of compost from the dump, or elsewhere, and offer to fill up the hole.
- After its planted, send them a thankyou note on Facebook Messenger, and again, perhaps a year later, with a photo, telling her it is thriving.

To end, I hope you enjoy adding to your garden with plant swaps, like I do. (author's note: In response to a question after the talk, I calculated that I have paid for 7% of my garden plants; the other 93% were free!



HOSPITALITY THEME: ROMANCE
Great snacks and presentation thanks to
Betsy Woodley, Carolee Packard, Ellen Migliaccio



Artistic Design Demonstration by
Alda Barron and Judy Sheehy



AGC Garden Therapy Committee's February 12th
visit brought smiles to many residents of the
Cape Cod Senior Residences when they brought
flowers and vases to create beautiful Valentine
Day bouquets !



ARBOR DAY PROGRAMS

Arbor Day will be celebrated this year on Thursday, April 3, and Saturday, April 5, at the Jonathan Bourne Library. The committee of Darlene Chickosky, Joan O'Brien, Paula O'Neil, Marilyn Crane & Cathy Glynn have planned various activities to have participants of various age groups to become aware of Arbor Day. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in the United States in 1872. Trees are essential to the health of our planet, so we are having an Art class focusing on trees.

April 3

Art class on drawing trees will be at the library from 1-3 pm. The class is for adults and the fee is \$10. Signup is on Library website.

April 5

Soil testing at the Library from the Master Gardeners of Cape Cod from 9:30-12:00pm. Please bring your soil sample of dry soil in plastic bags labeled from your garden. Refreshments will be served.

Library- Month of April

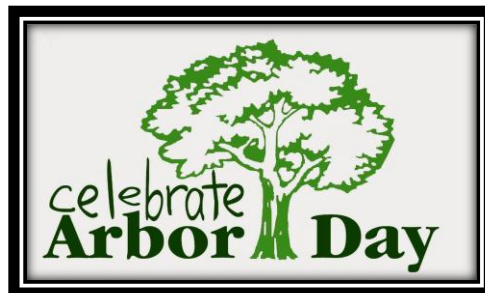
During the month of April, the Library will have books on trees. Books can be checked out. A showcase on Arbor Day theme will be highlighted near the children's room.

Community of Bourne

We will donate some shrubs for Arbor Day to Valley Farms Community Gardens in Pocasset. These plants will be nurtured and taken care by skilled gardeners.

Children Elementary

Lastly, we have contacted Bournedale Elementary, and we are coordinating with Art Teacher and School Librarian on a project with the children. The project will be on display at the Jonathan Bourne Library.



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Monday, March 10, 2025 – 12:00 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church

Program: Native Bees and Butterflies. Mary Pat Barry, a Master Gardener, who has certifications in sustainable landscape management and professional pesticide usage will discuss how to attract native bees , especially bumble bees, and butterflies to our gardens.

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - 5:30 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church

Program: How to Build a Rain Garden at your home .. Michelle West, a water resources engineer, will speak about rain gardens and why they are so important, and how we can build one at our home.

Garden Therapy at Royal Cape Cod - Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – 10:30 am

Ikebana Workshop - Saturday, March 22, 2025 - 10:00 am at Jonathan Bourne Library – The Workshop is full and those that signed up will receive an email reminder the week before.

Educational Opportunity

Submitted by Cyndy Hurley

The Master Gardener Association of Cape Cod in partnership with the Osterville Village Library proudly present the Community Propagation Workshop Series.

Growing Vegetables From Seed

Saturday 3/15/25 - Osterville Village Library ,[43 Wianno Avenue](#), [Osterville, MA 02655](#) - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m - 2nd floor, "Main Meeting Room"

Material cost: \$20.00 - [Advance registration required](#)

Come learn how to get your vegetable garden off to a great start in this hands-on session for new or seasoned gardeners.

There are also 2 virtual classes at Mass Hort but are recorded so could be viewed after these dates

March 1 11am-12 am Common Garden Mistakes \$14.95

Also

Design Tips and Plants for low maintenance gardens March 22 11am-12am \$14.95

APTUCXET GARDEN MEMBERS SHARE SOME PHOTOS OF FLOWERS AND PLANTS AND TREES THEY ENJOYED ON THEIR TRAVELS TO WARMER CLIMATES

Marcia Willmott visited Arizona and submitted below photos taken at two botanical gardens:



Mountain View at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, AZ



Grouping of three beautiful desert plants at Tohono Chul Gardens in Tucson, AZ

Mexican Blue Sage is in the foreground with Prickly Pear and a huge Organ Pipe Cactus in the background.

Susan Dmochowski submitted below photos taken on her South America cruise



The Silk Floss Tree, native to tropical climates, is known for its large showy 4-6" pink flowers that resemble a hibiscus. The deciduous tree can reach 50-60' tall, providing a burst of color, visual interest and shade to landscapes and busy streets of Argentina. The nectar is known to attract insect pollinators and hummingbirds. Its distinctive bottle-shaped trunk can dramatically swell to store water, making it drought resistant. The swollen trunk gives it a cartoonish appearance : hence the Spanish nickname "Palo Barracho" literally meaning drunken stick. A street lined with Silk Floss Trees is a dramatic sight to behold!



Here is an example of the colorful and hardy Great Bougainvillea seen everywhere in the tropics and subtropics, in various bright shades of purple, pink and white. It can be pruned or trained as a bonsai in a container Here it is growing on a city street in Uruguay. In the North it can be wintered over in a garage or greenhouse, letting it go dormant, watering sparingly. It's a showstopper?

Susan Barlow visited St. Petersburg, FL and submitted the below photo



Beautiful Banyan Trees of St. Pete

Native to India, and imported In 1925 by auto tire businessman Harvey Firestone as a gift to Thomas Edison . They are estimated to be 100 years old.

Trees are a type of Ficus called Banyan

They are known as St. Pete's most iconic feature and are in North Staub Park directly across from Alto Mare Fish Bar and Annata on Beach Drive.

Nancy Buckley visited Washington Oaks Gardens State Park in Palm Coast, FL and submitted below photo



Washington Oaks Gardens State Park in Palm Coast, Florida features stunning formal gardens which surround this ancient live oak. This Southern Live Oak, estimated to be between 200-300 years old, is one of Florida's oldest and sturdiest trees, able to withstand hurricane-force winds, fires, droughts and floods.

The Southern Live Oak gets its name from the fact that, unlike other oaks, it doesn't lose its leaves in the autumn. Live oaks are native to the Southeastern coast of the United States from Virginia to Florida and as far west as Texas and Oklahoma.



Message from the President

March 2025 Presidents Letter

Dear Garden Club friends,

SPRING? It is coming soon. Daylight savings begins March 9th, and spring officially arrives on March 20th. YEH! I'm looking forward to more time outside and watching the first snow drop and crocus emerge. Have you sharpened your tools? Pruning is on my list. I've identified woody shrubs that I will work on soon. And thanks to our February speaker, who talked about The Winter Garden, I plan to buy a few red twig dogwoods to add some color “

The GCFM Landscaping zoom class is offered March 26, 27 and 28 from 8AM till 12:30PM. Register by March 15th using the GCFM.Org click education /schools. One of the assignments is to create your own home garden landscaping plan too. And remember AGC will reimburse your costs.

March is also the month many of our migratory birds return to the Cape. I wonder where they've been. Mary Pat Barry, our March 10th speaker, might know. She'll enlighten us on how to have a lawn and landscaping that welcomes all of our birds, bees and butterflies.

We all know hospitality is an important and fun part of connecting with all the friends we have formed in the Aptucxet Garden Club. Next month you'll be asked to complete a brief survey to help us better evaluate the value of our time, effort and costs to provide food and beverages at every meeting.

“In the springtime, the heart regrows hope”, Angie Weiland Crosby.

The Aptucxet 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 Aptucxet Garden Club Website www.aptucxetgardenclub.com