

# Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



## "Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

April 2025



*"I love Spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden"*

*Ruth Stout*

Aptucxet Garden Club

Day Meeting

03/10/202

**Program Title: Native Bees and Butterflies**

**Speaker: Mary Pat Berry**

The AGC of Bourne was introduced to Mary Pat Berry and her program about Native Bees and Butterflies. Mary Pat is a Master Gardener and a Certified Sustainable Landscape Manager. She has a great passion for the Native Bees and Butterflies, whose existence are significantly threatened by climate change and loss of habitat.

I was not aware of the number and species of native bees and butterflies that exist in our native habitat. I learned a small tidbit about the easy difference between butterflies and moths. They used to compete for habitat, but over many hundreds of thousands of years have adapted to a time of the day to be out. The abundance of information during the program was extensive covering multiple topics: Inviting and Hosting native bees and butterflies: how pollination and pollinators rely on the ecosystem and each other for their existence and why native plants are important for pollinators. The Best Practices and keys were noted that these processes are not an all or nothing event but rather do things over time: plant for your conditions; no pesticides, herbicides, insecticides or fungicides; and do not buy plants or seeds that are chemically treated.

The final portion of the program showed a wide variety of plants and how they help with enhancing a Pollinator Garden if you are so inclined. Ideas for plants, bushes and trees were suggested with wonderful slides noting their impact on the birds, bees, and butterflies. She also noted what the bloom cycles were so that we can enjoy the color, foliage, and beauty of our gardens throughout the growing season.

The final slide responded "Pursuit of perfect becomes the enemy of something good...1) Lots of non-natives do wonderful things for bees; 2) Straight species are not always pollinator's favorites (Penn. State Study); and 3) there is So much we do not know."

Thank you, Mary Pat, for an insightful and important topic, your brightness, and smile that infected me with your passion and love of Native Bees and Butterflies.

Submitted by Diane Conroy

## HOSPITALITY



### **Hospitality March day meeting Theme: Shamrocks**

Great luncheon buffet and floral arrangements.  
Thanks to Alda Barron, Marilyn Crane, Anna Holmes,  
Betsy Ferris, and Cheryl Keown



Julie Saunders with her beautiful  
"Pot-et-fleur" Spring arrangement



### **Hospitality March night meeting Theme: Hello Spring**

Fabulous selection of sweet and savory snacks  
and desserts and pretty spring bouquets.  
Thanks to Ellen Migliaccio, Cathleen Glynn and  
Laverne Newman



## FLORAL DESIGN

Carolee Packard demonstrated Botanical Art Design. She introduced different kinds of flower show botanical art entries. She emphasized the importance of using only natural materials and following the theme and rules of the floral show handbook when submitting an entry. Below are examples of past entries of Carolee and Alda Barron: Pressed Flower, Sailors Valentine, Birdhouses, Mannequin Dress and Doll dress, all of which are made with natural materials.



## HORTICULTURE

(Excerpt of) Horticulture Talk “SOIL” by Darlene Chickosky, Cape Cod Master Gardener since  
2006 March 10<sup>th</sup> Day Meeting

### **What is Soil?**

- Made of minerals, organic matter, water and air, broken down bedrock and mountain stones. Contains living organism like worms and fungi. Clumps together when wet. Rich in nutrients and microbes.

Components of soil:

- Sand, Clay, Silt

### **Types of soil:**

- Sandy soil has large particles, is quick draining, low in nutrients and low in moisture retaining capacity
- Clay soil has fine particles and excellent water retention but may become compacted
- Silty soil has medium sized particles, is fertile and has good water and nutrient retention.
- Loam is a mixture of sand, silt and clay. We are all jealous of those with wonderful soil!

Soil may be chalky: highly alkaline due to calcium or calcium carbonate (lime)

To amend sandy soil, I use worm castings (also known as black gold), compost and Espoma Biotone. This is an excellent way to combat compaction. As organic matter decomposes, it attracts soil organisms that naturally aerate the soil. I compost dead heads, non-diseased leaves from flowers and other garden debris.

### **Suggestions for soil amendments:**

Worm castings, Seaweed, Compost, Manure, Bloodmeal (check for product expiration) which is high in nitrogen, Bonemeal, which is high in phosphorous, Bio-tone, made by Espoma from natural organic ingredients. These products enhance beneficial microbes and encourage deep roots and blooms

### **Recipe for improving your yard**

- Pick out one area in your yard to start with.
- Loosen the soil; use a shovel or pitchfork and dig 6-12 inches down. Put this over to the side for future use.
- Remove debris such as weeds, rocks and debris.
- Combine compost and your reserved soil
- Incorporate worm castings, which contribute to soil fertility, enhance water retention and promote soil health.
- Sprinkle bonemeal across the soil. Bonemeal is high in phosphorus, which is crucial for strong root development and flowering.
- Blend the compost, worm castings and bonemeal together. This will provide an optimal environment for plant roots.
- Water the combined soil well to help the amendments settle and activate microbial activity. Adequate moisture is essential for the breakdown of organic matter and nutrient absorption for plants.
- Wait 2-4 weeks to plant. Allow the soil to settle in before planting. Give amendments time to integrate with existing soil to ensure a stable environment for your plants.



## Thoughts on Prairie Style Gardening – March 19<sup>th</sup> – evening

Traditional gardens have beds (islands) and borders (edges) surrounded by grass. However, in September, we heard our speaker Neal Sanders describe his new Homegrown National Park, a big garden of plants without any grass; upcoming in April, our own Lori Keleher will talk about her experience removing all her grass. But how do we replant? How do we juggle chaos and order in this very large garden, which may be thousands of square feet?

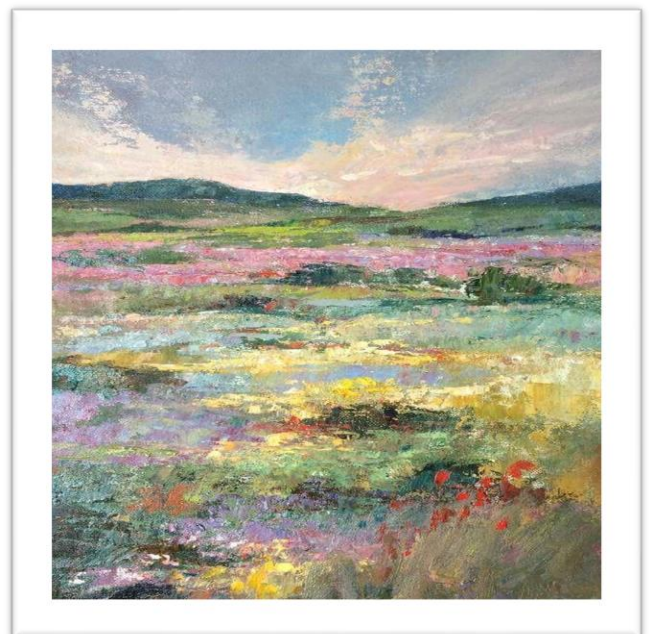
For some, the solution is a meadow. Using art as an analogy, it is the Jackson Pollock approach.

If that doesn't call to you, consider the English cottage garden, where every plant is a gem, and the overall organization is secondary. Continuing the art analogy, it is like Pointillism, like a Seurat painting, composed of thousands of tiny dots. if well done, it results in a skillful composition.

Submitted by: Cheryl Keown



Piet Oudolf Landscape



Monet Landscape Painting

## Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

*Monday, April 7, 2025 – 12:00 – Pocasset Community Center*

*Program: Thinking Globally, Acting in your own Yard. Rebecca Warner author of The Sustainable-Enough Garden, will talk to us about replacing some of our lawn with alternatives.*

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*Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 5:30 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church*

*Program: Color All Year: Multi-Hued Landscape Plants. Master Gardener Gary Bowden will discuss how to add color and drama to your garden all year long*

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*Arbor Day – Bourne Library - April 3, 2025 – Drawing Trees 1:00- 3:00 pm – signup at library*

*Arbor Day – Bourne Library – April 5, 2025 – Soil Testing Master Gardeners of Cape Cod 9:30 – 12:00 pm, bring dry sample of soil in plastic bags labeled from your garden – refreshments will be served.*

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*Garden Therapy at Bourne Manor – Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 10:30 am*

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*Garden Therapyt at Cape Cod Senior Residences – Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 3:00 pm*

### Next Styrofoam Collection Days

Monday, April 7, Pocasset Community Building  
and Wednesday, April 16 at Bourne United Methodist Church

At AGC's day meeting on Monday, April 7, and evening meeting April 16, we will be collecting CLEAN only, non-biodegradable Styrofoam which includes: egg cartons, packing peanuts, Styrofoam coolers, packing Styrofoam and food trays and cups.

There should be NO labels, stickers, paper, or tape attached to the Styrofoam and NO DIRTY items. If the material does not snap when bent, the recycler does NOT accept it! SO NO: urethane foam, foam wrapping, or pluck foam, or bubble wrap.

Bring your Styrofoam in BAGS MARKED WITH YOUR NAME. Thank you for doing your part!

Betsy Woodley and Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

## Aptuxet Garden Club of Bourne- Evening Meeting

03/19/2025

**Program Title:** How to Build a Rain Garden at your Home **Speaker:** Michelle West, PE

The AGC of Bourne was introduced to Michelle West and her program on How to Build a Rain Garden at your Home. Michelle West, PE works for the Horsley Witten Group in Sandwich, MA as a Senior Water Resources Engineer.

Michelle reviewed Stormwater 101/ Green infrastructure, what is a rain garden and the considerations when building one. Review of Storm water 101 demonstrated how rain water would naturally drain into the earth in a natural environment. Rain water runoff in an urban environment is impacted by multiple factors i.e. roadways, sidewalks, driveways with potential runoff into storm drains, then dumping into storm sewers with final outlet into waterbodies. In the urban space, storm water runoff carries excess nutrients, bacteria, sediment, oils which can cause waterbody impairments and harmful algae blooms.

Now to the positive and sunny view of what can be done to help in mitigating this problem, Rain Gardens! Green Infrastructure should mimic nature through both structural and non-structural practices. Examples include filters, rainwater harvesting, pavement removal, revegetation and public education. Additionally, residents can reduce the use of fertilizers, pesticides, area of lawn, plant native plants, pick up pet waste, rain barrels or rain gardens, and septic maintenance to assist.

Michelle then walked the group through what a rain garden is and how to develop it. These areas include site selection, design, site preparation, digging, inlets and outlets for the water, and of course the ever-beautiful plantings! Michelle had handouts about a homeowner's guide to rainwater gardens, suitable plants for sun and some shade, grasses, and a company document "Build and Clean Water will Come!" by Michelle West, PE.

Michelle worked with the development and building of the rain garden that is to the right side of our own Bourne Town Hall! It was built in June 2024 and currently is just starting to regenerate; however, the growth was really cut back recently so it looks a little sad right now. Please wait for it to spring to life over the following weeks. If you want to see the build of the Bourne Town Hall Rain Garden build you may find it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks3uNfYQM\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks3uNfYQM_c)

I was very interested in this project and pardon my article if it appears too lengthy! In my short time with the AGC, I more deeply understand the work that we can do whether it is for fun 🌳 (i.e. workshops), educational and environmental 🌱 (i.e. birds, bees, butterflies and rain gardens) or to enrich our community through our volunteer work and beautification of our community. 🌻

Submitted by Diane Conroy



## WAYS AND MEANS

### **Plant sale May 10th 9:30am - 12:00pm. Pocasset Community Building**

Sign-up sheets were circulated at both day and evening March meetings. If you have not signed up and would like to, please contact either Moe Smith or Julie Arnold (*contact information is our members' yearbook*).

Sign up opportunities to consider:

- Bake sale bakers
- Volunteers to dig plants for members who would like to donate but are unable to dig plants themselves
- People who could use help digging. Maybe they have a friend who would like to donate but needs help digging.
- Workers for the day of the sale. Either 8:15am- 10:15am Set OR 10:15am - 12:15pm selling/clean up

A Bake Goods Sale will be held on the morning of the sale. Donations can be dropped off at Connie Boyle's house 5/7- 5/9 (*address can be found in our member's yearbook or stay tuned for the E-Blast that will be going out soon*).

**Reminder** to start digging plants **NOW** so they will have a chance to get established and look good for the sale. We are looking to collect a variety of plants (variety is the spice of life) If you need pots, contact Julie or Moe and we will coordinate with you.

- Plant donations can be dropped off under the tree at the rear of the Pocasset Community building Monday 5/5 through Thursday 5/9.
- **Label each plant** with the common name, color of flower (if you know it), whether it likes shade/sun and if it is a native plant. If you need materials for labels, contact Julie or Moe.

We are not offering tool sharpening nor selling used tools this year. Instead, we would like to offer used gardening books for sale. Donations can be dropped off at the April meetings or contact Julie or Moe to make arrangements.





# IKEBANA WORKSHOP



# APRIL DESIGN WORKSHOP



GCFM and Designing Workshop Present  
National Garden Clubs Flower Show Judge

*Dolores Ahern*

## **ALL FOLIAGE FLORAL DESIGNS**

Thursday, April 24, 2025  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saint Patrick's Church  
82 High Street, Wareham, MA



- Learn how to create beautiful arrangements with JUST foliage, no flowers, no berries, nada!
- All levels of experience in floral arranging are welcome
- Bring your floral snips or scissors
- Attendees do not have to belong to a GCFM garden club
- Bring a friend with you for a most enjoyable morning

To register for this class please send your check, made out for \$55 by April 7 to GCFM, Inc. (Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts) to:

Margo Yie

6 Dancer Farm Drive  
Dover, MA 02030

*(Please include your email address so  
your payment may be acknowledged)*

After April 7, please contact me at 781-718-4667 or [margo\\_yie@verizon.net](mailto:margo_yie@verizon.net) to be sure there is sufficient room and supplies.



## HAPPY 101<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY LAURIE YORK



Laurie is with her son receiving the birthday floral arrangement made by Alda and a birthday card signed by members of the garden club.



### Message from the President

Dear Garden Club friends,

Spring has arrived and my mind is starting to plan for my garden even though, it is a little too early to start the big projects, I have planned. I get impatient with the fact that spring, on the Cape, has a very slow start. As you know, I lived in VA for 35 yrs. and frequently went into DC. Spring was my favorite, because DC was filled with blooming azaleas, cherry blossoms, dogwoods, and parkways filled with daffodils and tulips. How come? Turns out that in 1965, Lady Bird Johnson launched a campaign for Civic Beautification. She raised money and awareness to make our Capitol and our highways beautiful by mass plantings of flowers, shrubs and trees. You have probably admired them on an April vacation trip to DC. She said, "where flowers bloom, so does hope." Civic planting, "brought the natural world and the man-made world into harmony." So why do I share this story? Civic beautification just doesn't happen!

AGC's Laurie York, (101 yrs. old) is our own Lady Bird Johnson. She joined Aptuxet Garden Club in the 60's after a career in mental health support services. She quickly became the civic projects chair, and that was just the beginning. She championed the restoration of the Briggs-McDermott home and gardens, planted trees at schools and ball parks, created the Three Mile Look on Scenic Highway and established the Cape Cod Wildflower Garden at Aptuxet Trading Post, along with their historic herb garden.

Now it is time for all our members to follow in the spirit of Lady Bird and Laurie. Sign-ups are coming around to help with clean up, weeding, watering, and planting at the Briggs Gardens and Aptuxet Gardens. AGC plants and maintains 17 planters along Main Street, and there are village island gardens that need our care too. Civic beautification is the mission of our club and the National Garden Club Federation. It brings value and beauty to our town and communities.

Wash your garden gloves, sharpen your clippers and come help. Catch up with old members and meet our newest, 11 as of today. Share in the delight we bring to our fellow citizens of Bourne.

PS. Lady Bird fought to make American cities more beautiful by planting flowers and adding garden benches. The AGC will install a garden bench at the Aptuxet Wildflower Garden this spring to honor Laurie York.

Peace, Jan

**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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