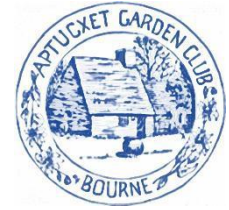


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



"Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

May 2025



"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul"

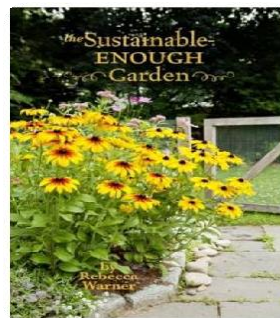
Alfred Austin

Think Globally, Act Locally theme of Rebecca Warner's presentation on April 5th.

Submitted by Cathy Glynn

What can one person do? Ms. Warner took us through a journey of the impact of grass lawns and their maintenance – gas mowers, fertilizers, weed killers, water, time away from the garden - plus the lack of biodiversity and food for insects and birds. She then took us through her journey to reduce the amount of lawn in her own yard in Newton. She had a lot of shade in the front yard, so she tried a couple of ground covers and now recommends Canadian wild ginger instead of ivy or pachysandra. She put in hardscape in areas where her children used to play on the grass. She put down mulch in her backyard since her dogs kept running around and wearing out the grass. She put a small pond in her backyard as well. She discussed the xeriscape approach – to group plants by water needs so not overwatering ones that don't need it and to add organic material, choose drought tolerant plants, mulch, and use rain barrels to capture the runoff. The lawn that you keep she recommended to leave the lawn higher – ideally 3 inches or more. Leave the grass clippings as they will disintegrate and help the soil. And of course, do not use any fertilizer or weed killers.

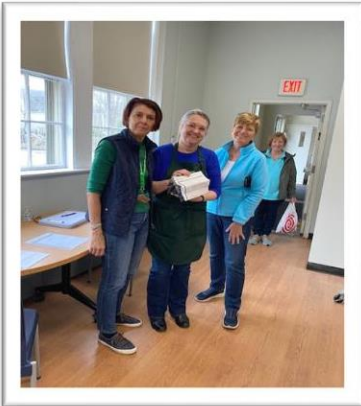
Her book, *The Sustainable Enough Garden* is available on amazon.



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS

Submitted by Darlene Chickosky

This Year we celebrated Arbor Day on April 3 and April 5th. The committee of Darlene Chickosky, Joan O'Brien, Marilyn Crane, Paula O'Neil and Cathy Glynn collaborated on the various activities for the Community of Bourne. The students of Bourne Elementary and Bourne Intermediate Schools made trees with creativity and various embellishments that were on display at the library. Cutouts of various trees were decorated and highlighted on the walls of the children's room in the library. A booklist and reading was offered to the children. A showcase featuring the tree theme and Arbor Day is on view to educate and enjoy for everyone. On April 3, a drawing class was held at the library. Cindy Walsh-Hamlin, an Art Educator, showed participants how to draw and use watercolor pencils. A white oak specimen was the featured drawing. On April 5, soil testing was offered to residents of Bourne. Refreshments and tree-themed cookies were offered. At a later date, six red twig dogwoods will be planted at the Valley Community Garden Farm in Pocasset, This year Arbor Day was a joint effort with Jonathan Bourne Library, Master Gardeners of Cape Cod, Bourne Elementary School, Bourne Intermediate School, Valley Farm Community Garden, Aptuxet Garden Club and Pollinator's Pathway.



April 5th Day Meeting

Theme: April Showers



Hospitality Team : Grace Moore, Cheryl Keown, Anna Holmes, Mo Smith, Debbie Webster and Claudina Quinn (missing from pic Nancy Selchan)

Thanks ladies for the beautiful display of the delicious luncheon selections!



Hospitality Table



Martha Washington Geranium



Isabel Melo, Membership Chair signing in Nora Grant



Potager- Horticulture Presentation by Debbie Webster

1. What is a Potager

A Potager is a French kitchen garden. It contains herbs, vegetables, fruit, and flowers. Planting these together provides what you need in much of your cooking and is a thing of beauty. Locating it near your kitchen door means you can grab herbs as you are preparing meals.

2. History of Potagers

Originated in medieval France. The first potagers were connected to monasteries. They were used to provide ingredients for le potage, a thick vegetable soup. Potagers were first vegetable patches. Soon flowers were introduced both for their beauty and as a control for insects.

During the French Renaissance emphasis was placed on the appearance. They became the grand kitchen garden planted along formal and grand architecture.

3. Design

Like the formal gardens of the Renaissance, they can be grand. However, most potagers are not. Mine fits in with my 'cottage garden' style. I began planting it in 2021 using square foot gardening. It was fun researching how many plants of each variety can be planted in a square foot. Needless to say, as enjoyable as that approach was, the following year as plants spread out I reverted to my cottage garden style.

4. What to plant

There are no rules as to what needs to be included in a potager. The idea is to have an assortment of vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers. Think about what you use in your meal preparation. I'm big on garnishes and would never present a dish without some sort of garnish. Herbs are a favorite of mine and my potager is heavy on them. Not only do I cook with them, but they are my go-to garnish. Having said that, be sure to try planting something new and different. It's fun to watch it grow and discover how you might use it.

5. Lifestyle

And finally, I will tell you that having a potager is a lifestyle. It is so fun to step outside your kitchen door and gather ingredients. When I have a dinner party I always ask a guest to come with me to harvest a few things for dinner. It's the best! I hope I have inspired some of you to plant your own potager!

Debbie's Favorite Plants for a Potager

- Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)
- Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
- Strawberries (*Fragaria* spp.)
- Parsley, curly (*Petroselinum crispum*)
- Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*)
- Nasturtium, dwarf (*Tropaeolum majus*)
- Lemon Grass (*Cymbopogon*)
- Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
- Lettuce (*Lactuca* spp.)
- Celery (*Apium graveolens*)
- Carrots (*Daucus carota*)
- Garlic (*Allium sativum*)



Debbie Webster's Square Foot Garden Potager from planting day to Fall

Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Saturday, May 10, 2025 - 9:30 – 12:00 Pocasset Community Building -Spring Plant & Bake Sale

Drop off plants under the tree the Monday 5/5– Thursday 5/9 .

Label each plant with common name, color of flower (if you know it) and if it is shade or sun plant and if it is Native.

Please BAKE for bake sale. Drop off bake goods day of sale or at Connie Boyles house 5/7-5/9 , 26 High Ridge Drive, Bourne

Monday, May 12, 2025 – 12:00 – Bourne United Methodist Church – Day Meeting

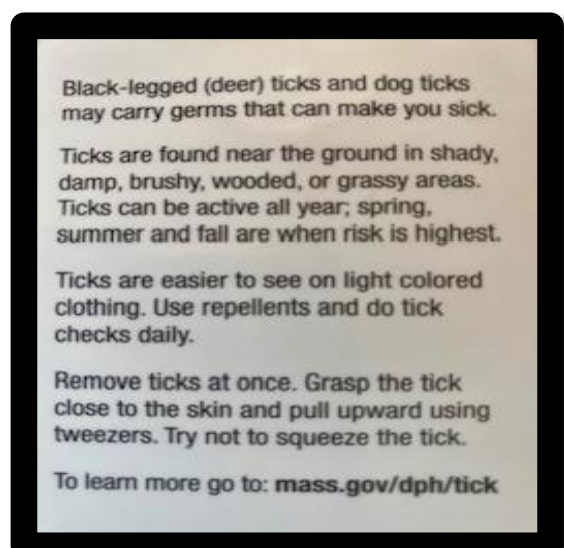
Program: A Floral Design Workshop in Memory of Sally Zeghibe – Headed by Judy Sheehy, Paula O’Neil and Alda Barron. We dedicate this program in honor of a dear friend and fellow AGC member, Sally Zeghibe.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 5:30 – Bourne United Methodist Church- Evening Meeting

Program: Propagating Outdoor Plants in containers; Betsy Szymczak, Past President of Natick Garden Club, NGC Consultant, flower show judge, and begonia and dahlia lover will present how to propagate outdoor plants in containers as a budget-friendly way to expand our gardens.

Garden Therapy at Royal Cape Cod, - Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 1030 am

Garden Therapy at Cape Cod Senior Residences – Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 3:00 pm



Hospitality – April 16th Night Meeting



Hospitality Team: Ellen Migliaccio, Melissa Fox, and Dawn Labenski

THANKS FOR ALL OF THE DELICIOUS AND HEALTHY SNACKS



THEME - MOTHER EARTH

Dawn filled a Mother Earth vase with a creative arrangement using lettuce, pansies, allium and starfish



*Happy Birthday to our President,
Jan Rogers - 70 years young*

Floral Design – Botanical Art



Above Botanical Art examples of floral show categories: Plaque, Brooches, and Dried Arrangement. Botanical art is made from dried plant material from your yard such as Iris tips, statice, seeds, dried petals. Plant material can be painted. Nail polish is allowed as paint and works well. Use a quick glue and tweezers when creating.



Thank you to Judy Sheehy for her demonstration of Botanical Art

Living a Lawn Free Life - Horticulture Presentation – April 16th – Lori Keleher

I am not speaking tonight to convince you that reducing the size of your lawn area is important. We all know about the pollinator crisis and our water quality issues. I am sharing with you my experience and plans for the future with the hope you will find it inspiring.

When I bought this property in late summer of 2018 it was with an eye to retirement. My dream was to have a home and garden that was low maintenance. It has been my experience that a lawn is anything but. To have a beautiful lawn here on the cape you need to be willing to slave over it or hire a lawn service and install an irrigation system. Between weeding, raking, mowing, aerating, watering, top dressing, and fighting grubs it is time consuming task after task.

That path was not how I imagined spending my time. So, what was my dream? I envisioned a morning stroll through my yard with a beverage checking out what is blooming, watching wildlife before I start my day. I thought about future generations milestone photo opportunities, family celebrations, and lazy days outside. Nights sitting out by the fire, listening to music or enjoying a meal.

Let's begin this journey with where I started. Initially, my yard was 90% lawn. The first question I asked myself was "how can I create an environment that allows me to do only the tasks I enjoy such as dividing and transplanting perennials and pruning". The answer was hardscape and plants only.

I started by installing a path through the yard, to provide access to all the garden areas and give myself a way to meander through the garden and enjoy the beauty. Then I added a couple of patios, one for burning pruning waste and one for dining. Finally, I added a couple of extras in the form of a bench swing and fountain.

On to the next step: adding plants. With my plant selection I had a few goals, in order of importance:

- Privacy
- View from the inside
- Noise reduction
- Filling the space completely.
- Evergreens were a must. They provide privacy, block unattractive views, help with the noise level and as an added bonus give year-round interest.
- Shrubs also assist with the privacy goal without making it look like I built a wall.
- Perennials will complete the goal of filling in the space completely.

How does this plan support the low maintenance goal?

Once the plants that I have in place grow to their full-size, weeding will be a very minimal task. I don't have to mow, aerate, or de-thatch, I rake once a year in spring, and I don't need an irrigation system. The benefit of planting close together is that the plants will create a canopy that protects the soil from evaporation, reducing how much water is needed.

How expensive is it?

Apart from the firepit patio which I paid a landscaper to install, I did most of the work myself, so the cost of hardscape and plants to date is less than \$5,000. Much of this was purchased at the end of June sales from the Cape Cod Wholesale Nursery. As an aside I bought a Hardy Geranium from

Mahoney's for \$20 in Sept 2022 which I divided in Sept 2024, I got 40 seedlings and 5 plants similar in size to the original.

I spent a good amount investing in a layer of mulch each year for the past 5 years to improve the soil and give the new plants protection from the sun. I will no longer need to add mulch each year since the plants are now well established.

Would I do anything differently?

My path to this is not one I recommend to everyone. I dove off the deep end feet first and ripped out the entire lawn in the spring of 2019. My neighbors thought I was a lunatic. It took three years for them to see what my vision was.

At this point I get a lot of positive feedback. I can't stress enough how after five years the effort level dropped drastically. I am now securely in the final stage with my perennials, continuing to add enough to fill up all the open space that remains.

What's Next?

I will not be adding more mulch this year, that expense is in the past. The money I have spent in the previous five years on mulch will go to perennials for the next two years. Between 2025 and 2026 I will have installed enough perennials that the task will be completed.

I will also have a diverse supply of perennials that will need to be divided and moved each year, allowing me to perform those tasks that I enjoy. This will also benefit the annual plant sale.

My long winter months will be spent coming up with ways to rearrange my perennial beds with mixes of plants that create a new floral display.

Since I am still a few years away from retirement myself and my yard is close to being completed I have been able to secure a new project aimed at eliminating a lawn.

My daughter wants her property to be a place where pollinators prosper, and our water quality does not suffer. She has many more altruistic reasons for making this decision than I did in 2018. She does not want to rile up her neighbors and we will be taking a more sedate approach and altering one area at a time.

First up is the front yard which we will be doing in three parts: Side, House, and Street. Her goals are a bit more privacy, view from her screened in front porch, and low maintenance.

To provide a view from inside, we will tackle the House section first, in 2025, building layers which descend both down towards the house and down towards the street from a central high point of the front yard. For 2026 we will add some privacy on the Side. In 2027 we will complete the front yard by tackling the Street. We will see then if she wants to tackle her large backyard in smaller workable sections.

Conclusion: Every little change helps not only the environment but also ourselves, unless of course you enjoy slaving over a lawn. Some people do.

I hope sharing my path towards a lawn free life will inspire you to travel the same road. I do recommend a piece at a time as my daughter has opted to do. If you would like to come and see the yard, I will be on the summer tour list again this year. Thank you for your time.

Program Title: Color All Year: Multi-Hued Landscape Plant

Speaker: Gary Bowden

What is a multi-hued plant? The definition that was used included

- Interesting foliage color
- Multi-season interest i.e. Foliage that may change color over seasons
- Flowers that may change color over the seasons
- Winter interest – colorful stems

Debbie Webster enthusiastically introduced Gary Bowden to the AGC. He is a Master Gardener, 1st VP of the Master Garden Assoc of Cape Cod, Co-Chair of the Pollinator Pathway with our own Debbie Webster, active in two additional garden clubs and loves his hydrangeas. This program was to focus on a typical Cape Cod home perennial landscape. His discussion included perennials, shrubs and trees, plants that can survive on the Cape, emphasizing nothing too exotic and highlighting plants that can be found in our nurseries.

There were tips, essentials and basics reviewed. Plant densely; plant in drifts; consider your soil, sun, and moisture level(s); consideration of “visitors” to your yard i.e. bunnies and deer, plantings that are resistant-ish, and fences are your friend; and lastly experiment if that is in your nature or observe and take your time.

Gary’s color suggestions were novel in that he does not believe in rules or obsess over color theories, but he does strive to establish a sense of order in his gardens. He does this with balance, specific color schemes, while keeping the eye moving by planting large groups of each color in repetition. Lastly, if your garden has more than one color scheme, don’t just butt them together. Add transitional spaces that are neutral and soften the contrast between different sections allowing the viewer’s eye a chance to rest.

My big take-away from this fabulous presentation was:

- Plant densely for effect, color saturation, multi-seasonal interest and weed control!
- Consider that my yard is basically shade with areas of partial sun and only one single area that qualifies as full sun.
- Take chances and see what works and what does not. Be adventurous.
- Review the handout for the many suggested plants ... especially shade plants.

I feel like a sponge at this time of year and what to know what are options our very overgrown and unimaginative yard. I want to incorporate natives, pollinator friendly plants, color, ecologically friendly landscape including peace and serenity to my home. Dreams... and more to learn.

Submitted by Diane Conroy

Part 2 - Thoughts on Prairie Style Gardening – March 19th

(inadvertently omitted from the March newsletter)

If the meadow (Jackson Pollock style) or the English cottage garden (Seurat style), which we considered last month in Part 1, don't call to you, consider a third approach: the Monet analogy; distinguished by big masses of color.

Recently I learned the term American Prairie Style, and the name of its leading landscape design practitioner: Piet Oudolf. You may have seen his design for the High Line in NYC.



Monet painting



Piet Oudolf Landscape

To be successful with this approach, you need special attention to order and composition, so your garden doesn't descend into chaos.

Here are my guidelines to create order in an American Prairie Style garden (which also apply to any kind of mixed perennial garden):

(continued on next page)

HIERARCHY:

Paths, for one example, create Hierarchy.

I wanted to eliminate paths, but, in a large, planted area, they are a practical necessity. You may want a primary path, to take you to your destination; in my case, it is from the street to the front door. Secondary paths encourage one to stroll through and enjoy the garden at a closer scale. I also need a third level; maintenance paths, to avoid stepping on stuff.

COLOR:

Pick a unifying color scheme. Since I had a lot of yellow to start with, I added purple and white to create my color scheme. I heard a native plant designer later say that yellow and purple are dominant native plant colors.

SCALE:

Plant at least 10 sf of each plant: 3' diameter or 2' x 5', to create large masses of color

BALANCE:

Have 3 to 5 masses of each plant, so the eye is carried around the garden as a whole. Also consider gardening's fourth dimension: time. For example, have 3 to 5 masses of white irises in May, white peonies in June, Annabelle hydrangeas in July, Shasta daisies in August, Montauk daisies in September, and white Korean chrysanthemums in October.

TEXTURE:

If you want 6 months of color, perennials bloom for 2-3 weeks, so at any time, only 15% are blooming. Therefore, foliage texture and color is just as important as flower color, especially if you have a Shade Garden.

FORM:

Pick mounding plants, which have a distinctive form. Be wary of spreading plants, like Shasta daisy, which, if not controlled, will quickly turn your garden into a meadow.

Finally, EDIT:

Unless you are a garden design professional, be prepared to do a lot of transplanting.



Message from the President

Happy Spring, garden club friends. It looks like those April showers finally did bring May flowers and warmer temperatures too. Once the garden centers open and start displaying all the new plants and shrubs, I can't help myself. Sometimes, it feels like Christmas morning! I don't know what to pick up and look at first. I know you all make great plans for your garden all winter long. The catalogues and garden magazines offer so many possibilities for garden beds and containers. Well, the time is now. You can shop locally – meaning our club plant sale on May 10th from 9:30 – 12:30. If you are on the early work shift you can shop, pay, and put your purchases in your car before our regular customers rush in to get “the good plants”.

Thank you to everyone who have divided up your pollinators, natives, “boutique perennials, fancy grasses and tree saplings, to sell at the sale. They will go fast and more importantly, support our local habitat along the pollinator pathway.

I am happy to report that AGC had 8 members participate in the GCFM design workshop in Wareham last week. We had a great time and took home lovely foliage only arrangements. Last month, Alda Baron and Julie Arnold attended the Flower Show Judges workshop in Milton. GCFM is offering “FUNdamentals” of Floral Design on May 27, June 3, and June 10th, from 10-12 in Charlton. It is a long ride but it will be worth it. And remember, AGC has scholarship money for members to continue their gardening and design skills.

Check the GCFM website for the Plant Sale Flyer Gallery for more garden club plants sales throughout the month. The Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod has a native perennial plant sale too. You can order online then drive to their office in Dennis and pick them up. The Cape's own, C.L Fornari, in her book, [The Cape Cod Garden](#), writes, “garden club plant sales are an excellent place to buy plants that are tried and true performers, perennials with established root systems, and unusual varieties that may not be available at local garden centers.” So, make your wish list, choose your plant sale and get started. May is the perfect month to make those winter garden plans a reality.

Peace,

Jan

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