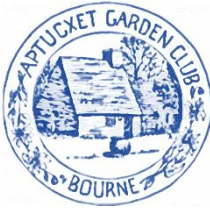


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



Where Flowers Bloon, So Does Hope

Monthly Newsletter October 2025



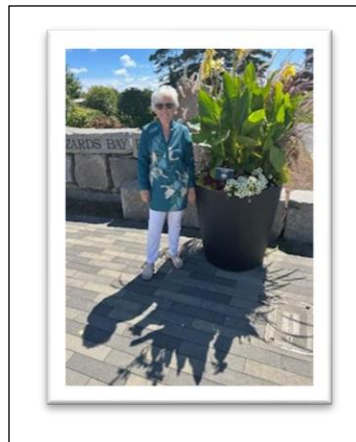
*“And all at once,
summer collapsed
into fall”*
Oscar Wilde



Buzzards Bay Beautification Team gathered August 31st to install the new signage in the planters.
(left to right) Grace Moore, Nancy Buckley, Jan Rogers, Ann Walsh, Moe Smith, Sue Barlow, Diane Conroy, Jan Sudol, Paula O’Neil, and Marilyn Crane

New Signage

The Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne signage has arrived. We ordered 20 small (3" x 5") signs and 10 large (4" x 6") signs which are on 24" stakes. These will be displayed in our planters and gardens that we maintain throughout Bourne. It will give the Club recognition in the community to know who plants and tends these gardens. These signs are like the signs you will find at Heritage Gardens. They are made of photosensitive anodized aluminum and designed for permanency. They are UV Stable, Abrasion Resistant, Temperature Resistant, Fluid Resistant and 100% Recyclable. Special Thanks to Mark Bergeron for the logo needed in the design process and to Bob Nelson for his generous donation that made these signs possible.



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

October 8, 2025, 12:00 pm. Presidents' Day! Joint Day Meeting, Bourne United Methodist Church
Program: Anna Holmes will demonstrate various methods of drying and preserving flowers.

Important Note: Parking for The Presidents' Day Meeting

Both the Pumpkin Patch and our Presidents' Day meeting will be held at the church on October 8th. We anticipate that parking may be problematic for our Presidents' Day meeting. We have been given permission to utilize the Briggs property for overflow parking, If you are able, please consider parking in the spaces to the right of the Briggs, or on the grass to the left of the Forge.

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

October 30, 2025, 3:00 pm – Garden Therapy at Cape Cod Senior Residences

Workshops – please contact Julie Arnold or Moe Smith if you would like to attend and have not signed up yet – There will be no sign-up sheets at Presidents' Day Meeting

AGC Bow/Pic Making Workshop: Monday, October 6, 2025, at 10:00 am
at Carolee Packard's home, 22 Bellavista Drive, Pocasset

AGC Bow/Pic Making Workshop: Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 10:00 am
At Carolee Packard's home

Fall Clean Up at Aptuxet Gardens: October 28, 2025, at 10:00 am
Making some soil amendmets, putting straw from walkways on herbs, taking hoses in and any other clean up. Refreshments will be served. Join us, it's a fun time.

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne - Day Meeting - September 8, 2025

Program Title: Grow Green, Feed America Locally

Speakers: Carolee Packard, Bill Goranson, Diane Speers, and George Slade for the Valley Farm Community Garden and support of the Bourne Food Pantry. Peter Lindberg for the Bourne Council on Aging (COA) and the Bourne Food Pantry

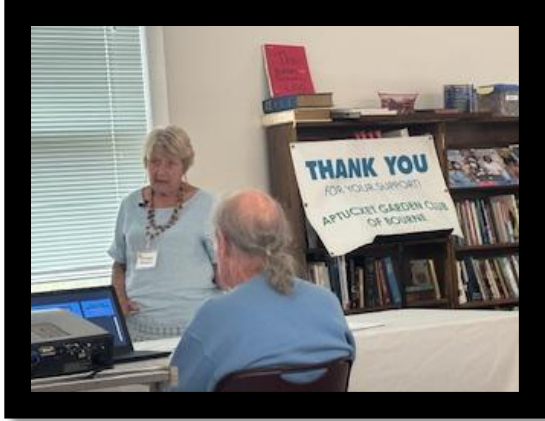
Our first meeting of the 2025-2026 year was so informative and inspirational for this member! Carolee spoke about the Valley Farm Community Garden's (VFCG) history. It all began in 2008 with the purchase of a 1931 farm in Barnstable County. In 2010 the brush was cleaned out and the initial raised garden plots were built. The community garden launched in 2012 with 21 garden plots. Over the years, a new shed was built (2013), town water stations added, more garden plots added (currently 98 total), all supported with the assistance of many volunteers and sweat equity to develop the current beautiful and abundant community garden that supports the Bourne Food Pantry with fresh vegetables.

The VFCG has a thrift shop, which was the original farmhouse, which supports and sustains our Bourne heritage, preserves the agricultural use of historical farmland, and encourages community gardening. Plots are available to residents of Bourne for \$20-30 per year for the season. (WOW what a deal!!) Gardeners represent all ages, abilities, and almost every village in Bourne. Many of our own members are very actively involved with the success of these gardens. Alda even has a large swath of land where she creates her magic with glorious flowers! Plots are available on a first come first serve basis.

Lastly, the Bourne Food Pantry and those residents of Bourne who are eligible, all benefit from the fresh produce donated. Additional donations from outside groups, including our AGC, and individuals support the success of the Bourne Food Pantry. In 2024 pantry provided for 419 families which has increased to 448 families by June 2025. The Bourne Food Pantry is a Choice Program entitling the families to choose from available fresh veggies, canned goods, dried pantry items, and fresh or frozen meats like going to a grocery store. This reduces waste and promotes autonomy within the structure of the program.

How fantastic are we to enjoy a program to not only encourages community; meeting new, current and old friends; learning how to grow your own vegetables – which would be me; access to tools which are available for use; and supporting the continuance of the fresh and stable foods for those who suffer from food insecurity. Come join the community and volunteers who gather during the season for fun, workdays, and food!

Submitted by Diane Conroy



Carolee Packard presented the slide show



Typical Tray of Donated Food for Pantry



Valley Farm Community Garden



Scarecrow at the Garden



Pollinator Garden at Valley Farm Community Garden designed and tended by AGC

FLORAL DESIGN

ART IN BLOOM DEMONSTRATION BY JUDY SHEEHY



Using the puzzle picture, Judy created a bouquet that represented the feel of the picture. Terracotta pot for roof color, Magnolia branch for mountains, Blue Hydrangea for water, Pink carnations for the window boxes.

Floral Design Principle for Art in Bloom
is
Interpretation not Imitation



Hospitality Bouquet

Last Breezes of Summer
from Amy's Garden

Supporting Monarch Butterflies – Presented by Pam Chmielinski, September 8, 2025

The monarch butterfly is one of nature's most fascinating creatures. It is not only beautiful, but also one of the greatest travelers in the animal kingdom.

Life cycle: Monarchs go through four stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly. The female lays



eggs on milkweed; the caterpillars eat the leaves, which actually makes them toxic to predators, and then they transform into butterflies through metamorphosis. It is nature's ultimate symbol of transformation.

Migration: But life cycle is only half the story. Every fall, millions of monarchs make a journey up to 3,000 miles from Canada and the US to Mexico. What's amazing is that no single butterfly makes the entire round trip; it takes multiple generations. And yet, the butterflies somehow find the very same mountain forests their ancestors did. It's a mystery of nature. This incredible journey shows us just how connected these butterflies are to their environment.

Ecological importance: Monarchs are more than beautiful; they are pollinators. They help flowers and plants reproduce, and their close tie to milkweed shows how important native plants are in keeping ecosystems balanced. But, unfortunately, monarchs are facing some serious challenges.

Threats: In the past 30 years, monarch numbers have dropped drastically, sometimes more than 80%. Why? Habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change all play a role. Fewer milkweed plants mean fewer caterpillars. And shifting weather patterns make their migration even riskier. The good news is there are ways we can help.

How can we help: We can all take action.

- Plant milkweed and nectar-rich flowers.
- Avoid pesticides
- Support conservation groups
- Most importantly- spread the word

Even small efforts add up when many people are involved.

Conclusion

The monarch butterfly isn't just a delicate insect; it is a powerful symbol of resilience, transformation and the interconnectedness of life. By protecting them, we protect the larger ecosystems we all depend on. I hope that the next time you see a monarch fluttering by, you'll remember the incredible journey it represents



ART IN BLOOM – PLYMOUTH CENTER FOR THE ARTS- SEPTEMBER 26 TH– 28TH
Beautiful Designs using a chosen painting for interpretation and inspiration.



Alda Barron - Egyptian Dream



Cathleen Glynn - Majestic Observer - Voted Second Favorite Design in the Show by show attendees



Kathy Sargent- O'Neill – Window View



Judy Sheehy - Rain Dancer - Voted Favorite Design in the Show by show attendees



Julie Arnold – Blue Hill in April

Horticulture

Propagating Plants : Presentation by Kellee Twadell

BUTTERFLY BUSH

This attractive shrub can be easily propagated by seeds, cuttings, and division. In fact, one of the easiest ways to propagate this plant is from butterfly bush cuttings. Simply take branch tip cuttings in spring or summer. Make cuttings at least 3 inches (7.5 cm.) long and remove the bottommost leaves. (Note: Pinching off the tip of cuttings will also promote bushier plants)



As with most cuttings, making an angled cut will allow for better nutrient absorption and make rooting easier. If desired, dip the end in [rooting hormone](#) and then stick into moist, peaty sand or [potting soil](#). Place in a shady but well-lit area, keeping it warm and moist. Hardwood cuttings can be taken in fall and treated the same way.

You should begin to notice root development on your butterfly bush cuttings within a few weeks.

Butterfly bush can also be propagated through division of its roots. This can be done in spring or fall, depending on where you live and personal preference. Carefully dig up mature butterfly bushes and remove excess soil.

Then either separate the roots by hand or use a [spade shovel](#) to divide the plants. You can transplant these into containers or place them in other suitable areas of the landscape.

HYDRANGEAS

SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS

Acquire softwood cuttings between late spring and early summer, as that's when the stems are younger and more flexible. May to July would be the ideal time to do this. Softwood cuttings are significantly greener with fresh and flexible growth.

You'll find that these are not as woody and root more quickly compared to other hardwood types. Despite this, softwood cuttings are still relatively delicate.

Take these anytime between May and July, depending on the climate conditions you're working with.

Like with propagating any plant, you want to pick the healthiest-looking parent plant and acquire fresh stem cuttings that have no rot or unwanted fungal spots on them. Try your best to keep the cuttings relatively short and tidy; anywhere between 4-6 inches is ideal.

In order to prepare your softwood cuttings, you want to remove all leaves from the lower third of the stem and only leave a few leaf nodes (I also like to cut the tips of the leaves but that's optional).



If you want faster rooting, I'd suggest dipping your cuttings in rooting hormone, but this is completely optional.

When it comes to planting, the soil type and texture are two very important variables. Generic potting soil works great, but so does a sand/peat mix, as long as it's given adequate moisture. Since hydrangeas prefer humidity for optimal rooting and growth, cover your plant with some sort of plastic dome or bag to trap humidity inside.

You can't just let your cuttings be once you plant them. They need love and attention to root properly. Keep them in bright, indirect light and, instead of heavy watering, mist them lightly from time to time. Proper care should get the stems rooting in about 2-4 weeks.

HYDRANGEAS

HARDWOOD CUTTINGS

Take hardwood cuttings between late fall and mid-winter since your hydrangeas will most probably have gone dormant around this time. October to February is the best time for this task.

Though this may sound counterproductive, hardwood cuttings are best taken in late fall to early winter after the leaves drop. Unlike softwood cuttings, these are much woodier and easier to snap.

Rooting time for hardwood cuttings can be comparatively slow, but definitely much more dependable in the long term.



When it comes to hardwood cuttings, what matters more than picking fresh and healthy stems is looking for mature ones. It should ideally be the same year's growth that has turned dry and woody.

Like with softwood cuttings, cut your stems up to 6 inches and remove most of the leaves. You can optionally dip them in rooting hormone for faster rooting.

Unlike softwood cuttings, hardwood can withstand a lot more clumsiness and pressure from harsh conditions. So, you can actually plant your cuttings outdoors in the garden soil or a cold frame.

Since these cuttings can take longer to root, you'll have to gather up a lot of patience to wait till spring to get them to start rooting.

That said, you can't just stick them in the ground and forget about them! They still need a bit of care to root properly. Keep the area lightly moist and make sure they get bright, indirect light. With a little attention, they'll quietly do their thing over the winter already to grow once warmer days arrive.

GERANIUMS

Dividing Hardy Geraniums

Taking on a clumping form that can sometimes trail, hardy geraniums must be divided every 3 to 5 years to revitalize the plant and prevent overcrowding in pots and gardens.

As a result, this is the geranium propagation method most often used with these plants.

The best times to divide your geranium for new plants are either in the fall when uprooting the plant to overwinter indoors or in early spring.

As mentioned, this must be done every 3 to 5 years, even if you don't plan to propagate.

Aim your shovel straight down from just outside the radius of the plant's leaves to ensure you're getting the roots, then dig straight down and work your way around the plant to loosen it.

Gently remove the clump (don't worry if a straggly main root snaps, they'll often turn into their own geranium plant).

Division can give you a lot of leeway in how many plants you want to get from just one.

You can divide the plant in half, thirds, quarters, or at every intersection.

You'll know when you see an intersection because it will resemble a star shape with stems radiating outwards.

Once you've decided how many divisions you wish to make, take a sharp, sterile knife and position it between two of the intersections.

Now cut straight down through the roots and pull the two sections apart.

This may take a little untangling of smaller roots or even a little force.

Whether you're putting the divided roots into pots or the ground, you'll want to fill in slowly so you can ensure the roots are spread out a bit.

Once the soil is up to its current level, give the geranium a good drink.

Note that your geraniums will suffer from transplant shock, so a little wilting in the next few days is expected.

Starting Geraniums from Cuttings

Hand pruners or a sharp knife, take 4"-5" cuttings leaving two healthy leaves on each stem.

Dip the cutting stems into a rooting hormone powder.

Place the cuttings into a small pot with drainage holes making sure the moist soil mix does not cover the two leaves.

Firm soil around the cutting and water well.

Place potted cuttings in bright light but not direct sunlight, Wait for roots to develop.

**Evening Meeting
Floral Design
presented by Judy Sheehy**



Vertical Design



Creative Design



Traditional Design

Hospitality



**Hospitality Team - Night Meeting Ellen
Migliaccio, Lori Keleher, and Bobbie Dwyer**



**Lori created this beautiful
unique arrangement using forsythia,
hydrangeas and baby's breath.**

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne- Evening Meeting -Date: September 17, 2025

Program Title: Herbs for All Seasons

Speaker: Paul Split

Paul Split was a wonderfully engaging and knowledgeable speaker for our meeting. Paul has been part of the Green Industry since 1971 with a multitude of positions as a horticulturist as the Director of and Consultant of Horticulture for Live Nation at the Xfinity Center and principal of Walden Gifts and Nursery. He is a Nationally recognized Designer and Presenter of green workshops and lectures for Garden Clubs and organizations since 1971.

Imagine yourself entering our meeting room and there are tables set up, a head table loaded with flowers, herbs (mmm that smell wonderful), salad, cut pieces of baguet, and bottles of herbs suspended in liquid and a host of bottles with unknown contents. Paul presents himself in a royal blue chef's coat and begins his presentation starting with a bunch of fresh basil. We are taught about how basil is an annual and that its flower heads spread its seeds for the next year, don't allow it to flower because the plant will then ultimately die. Next up are how to use, eat, and care for chives, garlic, thyme, sage, borage, nasturtium, rosemary, sage to mention just a few. Did you know that you should plant cloves of garlic between each tulip bulb that you plant?? Chipmunks love the bulbs but do not love the smell or taste of the garlic. Instant and natural deterrent for critters. To dry your fresh herbs, you should rinse in tepid water only and then place them in a brown paper bag in a closet to dry out, and you have fresh herbs until you start planting again.

The finale was how to make herb butter, herbs in vinegar, and demonstration of easy-to-follow recipes for use of the bounty on the tables.

1. Herbed butter: unsalted butter, hand chopped basil, chives and garlic; mix well, place in 1) silicone trays with shapes, spray with Pam, freeze 15-20 min, pop or 2) waxed paper and make a roll, freeze and for both processes and individually for later use during gatherings.
 - a. Other suggested additions: for lamb: mint; for turkey: cranberry and walnuts
2. Herbs in vinegar: use white (5% acidity) vinegar, berries or fresh herbs, place washed herbs/berries into sterilized bottles/containers, add vinegar to cover and small amount of balsamic vinegar as finish. The vinegar does not require sterilization due to its acidity. These can be placed in a cool location until ready to use.
 - a. Additions: when making a vinegar for storing, DO NOT ADD oil as that requires cooking and would affect the flavor of the vinegar you are creating
 - b. Vinegars: Strawberries were used for a salad dressing, Spicy: basil, garlic, chives, peppercorns, and chilies (cayenne), and Tarragon vinegar. He added a small amount of balsamic vinegar to each vinegar to add flavor and color.
 - c. Strawberry Salad dressing: drain vinegar from strawberries to container, add California extra virgin olive oil in a constant stream and beat until thickened and mixed completely using an immersion blender or whisk, then add mustard

(binder), small amount of balsamic vinegar, natural sweetener to cut the acidity, mix again, then ½ lemon with rind, ½ lime with rind, and ½ orange with rind and add to the mixture and let sit until ready to use. Paul did not squeeze the lemon, lime or orange, he added them cut into quarters and added them whole to the liquid.

The finale was how to make herb butter, herbs in vinegar, and demonstrations of easy-to-follow recipes for use of the bounty on the tables. We ended the meeting with a small cup of salad with strawberry dressing and baguette with herb butter. Paul's wit and humor regaled us during the entire demonstration with common statements of "people will think you have too much time on your hands", "write that down" to this member, and "don't write this down" with a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face. He is a wonderful showman!!

Submitted by Diane Conroy



Bow Workshop on September 25th



**Bows were made for the Green Sale wreaths
Lots of experienced bow makers**



Gorgeous Mums purchased from Olsen's Nursery for the Main Street Planters



Message from the President

Happy Fall Garden Club Friends,

Thank you everyone for jumping in and getting our committees and projects back in gear. Ways and Means held their first of many workshops to make all the adornments for our holiday greens. The Aptucxet Gardens team visited the “Three Sisters Garden” at Heritage, to learn more best practices to help the Trading Post Gardens thrive. The Village Beautification committee installed 17 AGC signs in the town planters on the last Sunday of August. The signs look great and soon after they were installed, we received a public thank you in the Enterprise. The long-awaited benches are assembled. The plaques will be attached this week, then we will schedule dedications soon.

In late September, several of our arrangers participated in Art in Bloom in Plymouth. Congratulations to Judy Sheehy who's artistic design was voted show favorite and to Cathy Glynn who's design was voted second favorite.

This week, I had the pleasure of representing our club at the SE District Presidents meeting. GCFM president, Kim Edwards, said her leadership theme this year is, “it takes a village”. That phrase identifies the commitment to work together to support and nurture projects with a common goal. Club presidents gave reports about their activities and accomplishments. As I shared our many club accomplishments, I realized that Aptucxet Garden Club is a thriving village. Our diggers installed lovely pollinator gardens: hospitality creates a welcoming space every month so we can gather and build friendships; floral design and horticulture plan meeting topics and demonstrations: as well as all the above committees and teams mentioned.

Before I close, I do want to encourage you to visit the GCFM website. There are floral design classes to take coming up soon. There are also a nature photography Zoom classes too. NGF has a 12-hour landscape design class, also on Zoom. That class is part of a 4-session series, well worth it, and especially if you are re-designing your own gardens or helping a friend.

Our Presidents' Luncheon Committee, led by Laverne, has planned a most memorable meeting for our October 8th. Kim Edwards, GCFM President, will attend as will many of the Southeastern District's presidents. They will see firsthand, the engaging energy and spirit of AGC.

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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