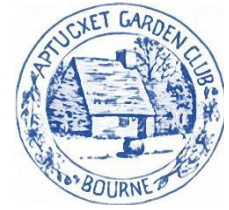


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



"Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

December 2025



" Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is time for home."

Edith Sitwell



Alda Barron receiving the huge, handmade, Thank You from Lori York's family.

Program Title: Design Workshop with Flowers and Leaves: Speaker Yvonne Capella



I walked into the community room of the church, obtained my name tag, and at the front of the room were 7 spectacular floral designs created by a small group of club members. There was much animated conversation and laughter. A feast for this member's eyes. Isabel told me that there was a Flower Show today, the theme was Barn Dance Flower Show Workshop and there would be judging. WOW!

Yvonne Capella is an accomplished floral designer, flower show judge, and self-acclaimed Flower show Geek. There were other Garden club positions and organizations that she had to her resume; however, I cannot write that fast so I missed them (sigh). There were 2 additional Flower Show judges in attendance, Christine Decas and Hila, who are friends, colleagues and well known by Alda and other members of our group.

The assignment was to use Creative style which included Classic Traditional Mass Design, Classic Horizontal Design, Parallel Design, Creative Vertical Design, and Creative Design. Each arrangement was labelled with all plant material and the common names, Class number, and type of design with description. Yvonne and Christine made a point at the beginning of the judging that any critique was not of the person but rather the assignment. Additionally, the members used provided materials and designed based on the provided assignment i.e. Parallel design. Positive critique was always first, followed by ideas on how to better compose, provide rhythm, use materials, sage advice/hints and much more. Two points that were made was the use of the triangle in designs to offer balance and interest and "less is more".

Yvonne had hidden her design from view. She discussed how she plans her design based on the theme of the show, materials to use, and the container. Yvonne gave the history of the container that was used and who gave it to her, Bobbi Lingard. What a wonderful memory for members. The final design was powerful and the members there were in awe when it was revealed. We were privileged to watch the final materials added, with commentary and insights from Yvonne.

The program ended with a raffle of Yvonne's design followed by raffling of other arrangements, flower bundles which only added to the festive feeling of the event. Another excellent program and learning experience for this writer. What a gift.

Submitted by Diane Conroy



Cathy Kert and Isabel Melo
Creative Parallel Design



Alda Barron and Clare Stone
Creative Design



Nora Grant and Chris Reade
Horizontal Mass Design



Connie Boyle & Laura Bergeron
Creative Parallel Design



Grace Moore and (missing designer Dawn Labenski)
Traditional Mass Design



Judy Sheehy and Julie Arnold
Creative Vertical Design

Hospitality November 2025 Meeting



Cheryl Keown, Emilie Martin, and Pam Chmielinski



Hospitality Beautiful Fall Arrangement

Food Pantry Donations



Approximately \$200.00 worth of canned goods were collected at the November AGC meeting. Cathy and Charlie Kert brought all these canned goods to Bourne Food Pantry. Thank-you very much for your donations!

Submitted by: Marilyn Crane

Collecting Greens and Decorating Wreaths

Julie Arnold – November 5th Horticulture Talk

For our Holiday Greens Sale to be held on December 5th-6th, a major fund-raising event for the Aptucket Garden Club, we need lots of member participation and lots of cut evergreens. Please sign up for the upcoming workshops, which, in addition to benefiting our fund-raising, offer fun and camaraderie.

How we use the greens:

- At the wreath workshop on December 2nd, plain pre-made yew wreaths are hand-decorated with 12-18 tiny mixed green sprays bundled with floral wire.
- At the centerpiece workshop on December 3rd, centerpieces are created using Christmas mugs, baskets and seasonal containers.
- At the boxwood tree workshop on Nov. 30th, mini Christmas trees fabricated with floral foam and boxwood (generally purchased rather than collected) are decorated.

Therefore, we need a large collection of all kinds of evergreen cuttings: pine, cedar, juniper, variegated euonymus, boxwood, yew, magnolia, leucothoe, etc. Red dogwood, winterberry, teasel dock and Siberian iris stems make nice accents. Do not bring holly; it dries up too quickly.

In addition to your own yard, other sources of these greens include generous neighbors, the ISWM landfill, and abandoned lots. Bring the greens when you attend the wreath and centerpiece workshops, which will be held at the Methodist Church. When you arrive, please arrange your greens in piles with similar types, for easy sharing. Bring your own clippers.

Notwithstanding our current focus to the Holiday Greens Sale, in no time, next April, it will be time to dig plants for our May Plant Sale. Therefore, now is the time to collect empty plastic mum containers, patio pots and hanging baskets from Dorothy's at ISWM. They are commonly available in the fall, as people discard summer annual baskets and fall mums. They are well suited for our Spring Plant Sale, because they have shallow, wide proportions, compared to standard plastic plant pots used by nurseries to allow for more root growth and require more soil or filler. Please, collect your stash now!



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 9:30 am-3:00 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church –
Wreath Workshop - Come and help make our wreaths for the Holiday Greens Sale – Pizza will be served.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church –
Centerpiece Workshop – Come and help make centerpieces for the Holiday Greens Sale – Appetizers Will be served.

Friday, December 5, 2025, 2:00 pm - 6:00pm – Briggs- McDermott Forge – **Holiday Greens and Bake Sale**

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Briggs-McDermott Forge – **Holiday Greens and Bake Sale**

Monday, December 8, 2025, 12:00 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church – **Holiday Potluck** - Members are invited to our festive holiday luncheon. Bring a garden themed ornament and a dish to share.

Garden Therapy, Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – 3:00 pm - Cape Cod Senior Residences

Garden Therapy, Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 10:30 am – Royal Cape Cod

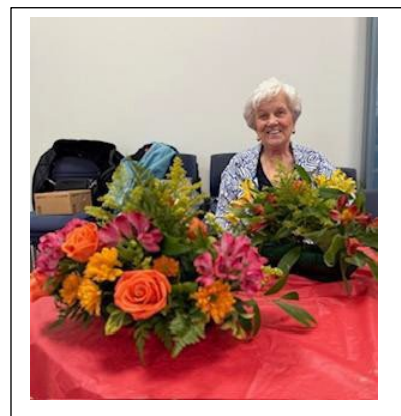
**** Note: Program Updates ****

Wednesday February 18th evening meeting will be a speaker from Plimoth Patuxet entitled “Wampanoag Women in English Gardens” on the vital role Wampanoag women played in shaping the first gardens at Plimouth.

Saturday April 25th from 9:30am-12:30pm – soil sampling collection at the library.

Thursday April 30th will be Cindi Walsh-Hamlin giving a class on drawing flowers as part of Arbor Day.

The Aptucxet Garden Club hosted a Floral Design Workshop at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library on November 22, 2025. Attendees were given floral materials and instruction on how to make a beautiful holiday arrangement for the mere cost of \$15.00. This small fee helps defray the cost of the floral supplies. This is a much sought after workshop which fills up every year.



BUZZARDS BAY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE DECORATES MAIN STREET FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Moe Smith



Grace Moore & Connie Boyle



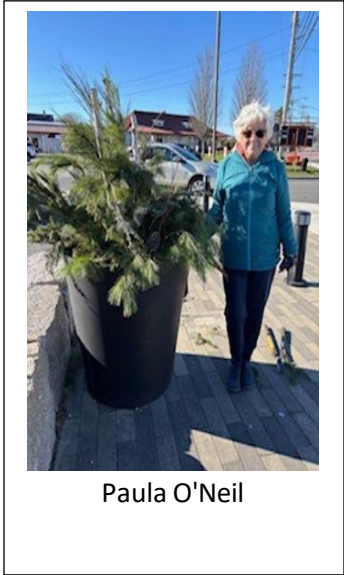
Sue Barlow & Diane Conroy



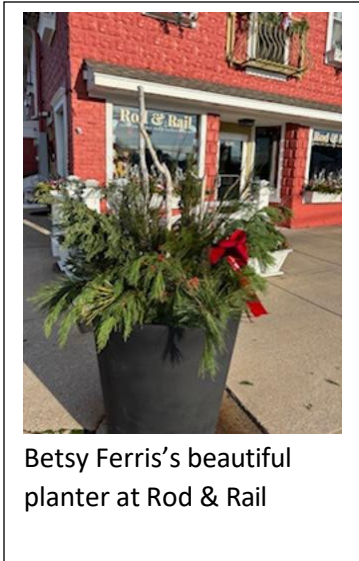
Nancy Buckley



Buzzards Bay Beautification Committee post-planting lunch on November 29th : Paula O'Neil, Betsy Ferris, Moe Smith, Nancy Buckley, Diane Conroy, Sue Barlow, Grace Moore, and Connie Boyle



Paula O'Neil



Betsy Ferris's beautiful planter at Rod & Rail



Planter - Town Hall

BOXWOOD WORKSHOP – NOVEMBER 30, 2025 – BUSY HOLIDAY ELVES AT WORK





Message from the President

Holiday Greeting Garden Club friends,

I have a feeling that many of you are “making a list and checking it twice”, to get everything just right for the Christmas holiday. I love this season because it is all about “the greens”. It wouldn’t feel like Christmas, if I didn’t make time to cut greens and make wreaths and arrangements. Not sure where I got this addiction, but I’ve had it a long time. Glad I’m in a garden club with our Greens Sale just around the corner.

In many cultures, Christmas time symbolized a sense of hope, renewal and the beauty of nature. The Germans and Austrians, sometime in the 16th century, may have been the first to bring ever-greens inside to celebrate the Christmas holiday. The Romans believed that holly had sacred qualities, and they used it to honor Saturn, the God of Agriculture. The British gathered boughs of greens in their windows and hearths. Poinsettias, which are native to Mexico, were displayed in Nativity scenes at the early Christian missions in California. Even Charlie Brown knew the power of his scrawny little evergreen tree when his friends gathered to care for the tree and share the message of hope and joy for all people. I still watch that 1965 cartoon every season.

The holiday season all about, hope and joy, and the beauty in nature! You can find that as you make and create beautiful decorations for your friends and family. Looking beyond the holiday and into the new year, it will be time to make resolutions. Consider an GCFM zoom class. In January, there is a three-day virtual course from their Environmental School. The Landscape Design virtual course begins January 23-25, 2026 followed by the second of 4 classes on January 30-31, 2026. GCFM has gifted members like us, with educational opportunities to learn more about horticulture, landscape design, floral arranging, and gardening, so we can share our skills within our club and our community. Enjoy the season of good cheer and reflect on your gardening successes. It’s been a good year.

Happy Holidays,

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