Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

"Go Green – Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter **January 2026**

"Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity."

Lindley Karstens

Holiday Greens and Bake Sale 2026

Our sale was a huge success and was result of many members creating beautiful wreaths, centerpieces, arrangements, boxwood trees, and delicious bake goods.

Clare Stone flagging in customers to our annual sale.

Wreath workshop – December 2nd, 2025

Sally Baer demonstrating wreath making

Beautiful Sale Wreath

Cheryl Keown, Kathy Sargent-O'Neill & Bob Nelson

Isabel Melo, Grace Moore, Connie Boyle

Julie Arnold & Moe Smith - Co-Chairs of Ways & Means

Paula O'Neil, Sheila Murray, Betsy Woodley

Laura Bergeron, (Marijane Tuohy guest & prospective new member), Judy Sheehy, Darlene Chickosky, Joan O'Brien

Town Wreath

Clare Stone

Centerpiece workshop – December 3, 2025

Alda Barron

Julie Arnold, Judy Sheehy, Bobbie Dwyer

Moe Smith and Nancy Guimond

Kellee Twadelle, Diane Conroy, Grace Moore

Kathy Sargent-O'Neill

Emilee Martin

Pretty Table Arrangement for Sale

Fun and Festive Mugs for Sale

Lovely Centerpiece for Sale created by Sally Baer

Holiday Greens and Bake sale – December 5 and 6, 2025

All the workshops culminated in our annual sale, which was a great success thanks to all the members who created beautiful pieces and worked the sale

Big Thank You to Our Awesome Leaders:
Julie Arnold and Moe Smith

Friday Day Sale Members:

Sue Barlow, Moe Smith, Diane Conroy, Nancy Selchan, Betsy Woodley, Chris Reade

Cashiers:

Laverne Newman and Treasurer, Laura Bergeron

Beautiful boxwoods

Friday Night Sale Members:

Moe Smith, Sheila Murray, Marcia Willmott, Julie Arnold, Kellee Twadelle, Melessa Fox, Nora Grant

Festive Wreaths, Swags and Skates

Betsy Woodley and Nancy Selchan pricing centerpieces and mugs

Bake Sale Members:

Grace Moore, Connie Boyle and Cathleen Glynn

Saturday Sale Members:

Moe Smith, Donna Mohan, Kathy Sargent-O'Neill, Ann Walsh, Sue Barlow and Nancy Buckley

Briggs-McDermott House

Each beautifully decorated room captured the spirit of Christmas using many of the Nelson family's treasured collection of Santas.

Aptucxet Garden Club Members and Briggs-McDermott House Docents: Joan O'Brien, Emilie Martin and Carolee Packard

Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Monday, January 12, 2026 – Joint Meeting - 12:00 pm, Bourne United Methodist Church
Program: Wine and Roses – Deborah Trickett, owner of The Captured Garden, is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and an award-winning container garden designer. Deborah will discuss how even beautiful gardens could still benefit from the addition of some darker tones.

Garden Therapy at Bourne Manor – Wednesday January 14, 2026, 10:30 am

Please collect and keep any interesting containers you may come across this season and throughout the year for next year's centerpiece workshop.

Recycling Styrofoam Program

As we enter the holiday season, many of us will become owners of much Styrofoam packaging.

To alleviate that situation. ....there will be a Styrofoam collection at the January 12th meeting.

Please note that Betsy Farris is now the Styrofoam Collection Coordinator.

A quick reminder about what we take:
clean (meaning: no tape, no food, no metal, no residue, no other packaging attached) Styrofoam ***only***.
The way to determine if it's Styrofoam **is that it will snap**.
If it doesn't snap it's not Styrofoam, throw it away in the trash!
Please put your name on the bag

Thank you Betsy Woodley for doing this job for many years and thank you Betsy Ferris for taking it on.

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

Wednesday, February 18th's evening meeting speaker is from Plimoth Patuxet with a program entitled "Wampanoag Women in English Gardens" illustrating the vital role Wampanoag women played in shaping the first gardens in Plymouth.

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

Thursday April 30th Cindi Walsh-Hamlin will present a class on drawing flowers as part of our Arbor Day celebration

Holiday Potluck – December 8, 2025

Beautiful orchid centerpiece created by Anna Holmes

Hospitality Committee: Alda Barron, Nancy Buckley, Nancy Selchan, Ann Walsh, Dawn Labenski, Sue Barlow and Anna Holmes (missing: Susan Dmochowski

One of the three tables of featuring potluck delicious dishes – Incredible selection from appetizers to desserts

Jan Rogers addressing membership

Members; Judy Sheehy, Marcia Willmott, Clare Stone, Cathleen Glynn & Laverne Newman

Members helping with set-up: Isabel Melo, Paula O'Neil, Sue Barlow, Ann Walsh, Nancy Selchan & Anna Holmes

There was a large member turnout for our fun holiday potluck and the last meeting of 2025.

Twas the Night Before Christmas Ornament Swap Led by Betsy Woodley

Recipes from Potluck

Goat Cheese Bites – submitted by Laverne Newman

Ingredients:
1 box phyllo shells
4 ounces goat cheese
½ cup fig jam
3 tablespoons chopped pistachios
3 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
(Note: Brie cheese and cranberry sauce can be substituted for goat cheese and fig jam.)

Instructions:
Crisp phyllo shells prior to filling by placing on baking tray and baking at 350 degrees for 3 to 5 minutes.
Add about 1 teaspoon of goat cheese to each phyllo shell.
Top the goat cheese with about ½ teaspoon of fig jam.
Sprinkle pistachios and rosemary over the shells.
Serve at room temperature

Italian Calzone – submitted by Sheila Murray

One loaf of frozen bread dough (she uses Rodes frozen bread dough)
Let bread dough thaw and rise

1/4 lb. ham - sliced thin
1/4 lb. genoa salami- sliced thin
1/4 lb. sharp provolone cheese - sliced thin
1 jar Pastene Pepper Salad (drained)

Once dough has thawed and risen - roll out on a floured surface - (similar to rolling out for a jelly roll 16 inches by 10 inches)
Layer with ham, salami, cheese, and pepper salad

Roll from the longest end tucking everything in as you're rolling it
Let it sit for about an hour
Brush with an egg wash

Place on a greased cookie sheet or one lined with parchment paper

Bake 375 degrees; 20-25 minutes
Enjoy!

Garden Therapy, Wednesday, December 9th, Cape Cod Senior Residences

"Today we had Garden Therapy, and it went very well! Instead of glass vases with water, we had baskets using oasis! The ladies had fun with it. Donna Mohna, Carolee Packard & Marilyn Crane helped out today. "

Submitted by Laura Bergeron

Laurie York sends a THANK YOU for the holiday arrangement and card from the club.

Submitted by Alda Barron

Message from the President

Dear Garden Club friends,

Happy New Year! 2026 has officially begun. The January 2026 forecast is for real winter temperatures, so I guess we'll be inside cleaning garden tools and perusing plant catalogs. There are a few Zoom classes offered through GCFM (https://www.gcfm.org/calendars-and-events) and NCG. Check them out. I'm hoping to take two of the landscape courses being offered.

You may recall last year at this time, committee chairs and board members participated in a long-range planning meeting. Hospitality was a big topic, because members felt the time, cost, and preparation had become a burden. There has been a small group of members that have made sure that daytime hospitality ran smoothly, even when assigned team members did not participate. For many, many years, the tradition has been that daytime meetings provide lovely tea service luncheons with sandwiches, desserts, and several beautiful floral arrangements. As a reference, there are no national or state garden clubs by-law that dictate a standard for hospitality.

Hospitality is a 'gift" we provide to our members to foster friendships and connections, create a welcoming space for new members, and celebrate our shared interests and accomplishments. Hospitality is important!

Following that big meeting, you were all asked to participate in a survey regarding hospitality. Two thirds of members responded. The consensus was a desire for a consistent meeting day, social time with members, and a simple and less costly hospitality service. In the September 2025 newsletter, I proposed some options of what simplifying hostility might look like. Since that time, some of our members have attended meetings in Falmouth and Wareham. Those clubs, as well as others in the region, now host morning meetings that conclude by noontime. They offer social time, finger foods and simple tea and coffee options. They purchase recyclable paper goods, bring their own mugs, and eliminate the need for major clean up after meetings. Only two other clubs in our district currently provide a luncheon every month.

AGC executive board spent many hours this fall discussing new ways to stay true to our garden club mission while still making changes. They reviewed the preferences suggested in the members' survey to accommodate the busy lives of our wonderful members. As a result, the board has unanimously voted to **change Day Meeting time to Wednesday morning at 10AM, next year, starting in September 2026**. Hospitality will provide coffee, tea, and light finger food snacks. Meetings will conclude by noon. This new plan will be easier for Hospitality's food preparation, meeting set up, and it will give members plenty of social time.

We are changing the day of our meetings to Wednesdays because that is the time slot available to us at the Bourne United Methodist Church.

Evening meetings will remain the same.

AGC will continue to hold an annual Christmas Potluck meeting at noon, as well as a bi-annual June picnic.

FYI, we hold 6-7 daytime meetings each year and incur a $75 dishwasher-use cost with luncheon meetings. I recognize that to some of our new members this is "new" to you. Thank you for joining us as we "grow" into our modern garden club future.

As I reflect on all we have accomplished in the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the dedicated hard work and enthusiasm of our members. Let's continue to make a difference in our Bourne community in 2026. Happy New Year.

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. Massachusetts, the New England Garden Clubs and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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