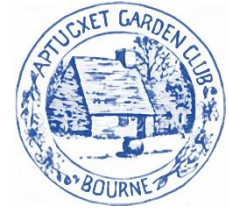


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



"Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

February 2026



"A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love."

Max Muller

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne- Joint Meeting Date: January 12,2026

Program: Wine and Chocolate

Speaker: Deborah Trickett



We were welcomed back to the New Year Joint meeting with a most inspiring and congenial speaker, Deborah Trickett. Her resume is extensive and includes being a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and Landscape Professional, lecturer on creative container gardening including speaking engagements at the New England Spring Flower Show, Connecticut Flower Show, Newport Flower Show, Northwest Flower and Garden Show, and the Philadelphia International Flower Show. She is the owner of The Captured Garden with a passion for perennials, and creating gardens and containers that are beautiful, not typical, and one of a kind.

There was approval of the program and topic of Wine (preferably red) and Chocolate (preferably dark)! The discussion was to revolve around the principles of adding darker tones to our gardens, less is more, contrast is key, and Site it right.

Deborah's slides began with gardens and what did we see? Member participation was encouraged and comments appreciated. Many varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals were shown. Guidance of how, we as gardeners, might be able to bring greater attention, diversity, and wow factor to our gardens and/or planters through color, lights and darks, texture, contrast, and finally by location of the plantings. To name a few trees: Cercis 'Merlot', Acer palmatum 'Velvet Viking', 'Bloodgood', and my favorite Fagus 'Red Obelisk'. Shrubs included many varieties with these as incitements: Cotinus 'Winecraft Black', Sambucus 'Black Lace', Callicarpa 'Pearl Glam', and Weigela 'Fine Wine', 'Very Fine Wine', and 'Spilled Wine'. Finally, the perennials and annuals were too many to note be here are a few: Ajuga 'Black Scallop', Hellebore 'Dark and Handsome', Columbine, Coleus "Chocolate Mint", 'Dark Chocolate' and 'Black Prince', and Angelica gigas. Don't forget about the pollinators and birds! I know that would never happen in this group!

Deborah pictures were her own gardens, planters, and window boxes. The gardens are extensive and all on a single acre of land! She did mention that her property also backed up to conservation land... how lucky is that! She will be offering tours of her gardens if you wish to enjoy a beautiful day. She is also working on increasing her plantings to attract both the pollinators and birds. She was delightful, funny, and I enjoyed her showing how I might even begin to plant my garden. I am still learning.

If you wish to find out more, I highly suggest the following sites:

www.thecapturedgarden.com

Instagram.com/thecapturedgarden

www.facebook.com/thecapturedgarden

Submitted by Diane Conroy

January 12, 2026, Meeting Theme: Peace



Cathy Kert with her beautiful "White Dove Peace" floral arrangement

Hospitality Team:

Judy Sheehy, Anna Holmes, Isabel Melo, Clare Stone, Diane Conroy & Cathy Kert



Styrofoam Collection

Betsy Ferris will be collecting the Styrofoam at the meeting every other month. Styrofoam should be clean, placed in a bag with your name on it. Next collection will be during the March Day meeting.





Jan welcomes new member
Linda Diamantopoulos



Surprise visitor, Pat Nemeth (center)
President of AGC 2022-2023
with Carolee Packard and Joan O'Brien



Large Turnout for the first meeting in 2026-
47 people – five guests

Artistic Design:

Alda Barron demonstrated the use of different containers for Parallel, Creative, and Mass Designs.



Vertical design. Use an odd number of containers. Containers in a flower show should not have any motifs or designs.



Creative Design – Alda collects lots of items on her walk such as driftwood to use in the creative design. Creative designs use less flowers and more leaves.



Mass and Traditional Designs always have flowers emerging from one entry point.

All containers should be solid color, glass containers can be sprayed, painted, or covered with ribbon or leaves. The containers should not be shiny. Use shoe polish or wax to take the shine away. Always follow Rules of Design when creating your floral design.

Horticulture

Finding the Mother Tree Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

by Suzanne Simard

A Review by Cathy Kert – Jan 12, 2026

Ecologist Suzanne Simard explains that trees in a forest are interconnected: they communicate and share resources through a complex underground network of fungi. Her book follows her work, which has led to a shift in thinking about ecological relationships and follows her interesting personal life.

If you want to learn more:

Key themes and concepts

- **Underground networks:**

Trees are linked by mycorrhizal fungi, creating a "wood wide web" that allows them to send nutrients and signals to one another.

- **Cooperation over competition:**

Forests function as social systems where trees cooperate, recognize kin, and support each other, rather than just competing.

- **Mother Trees:**

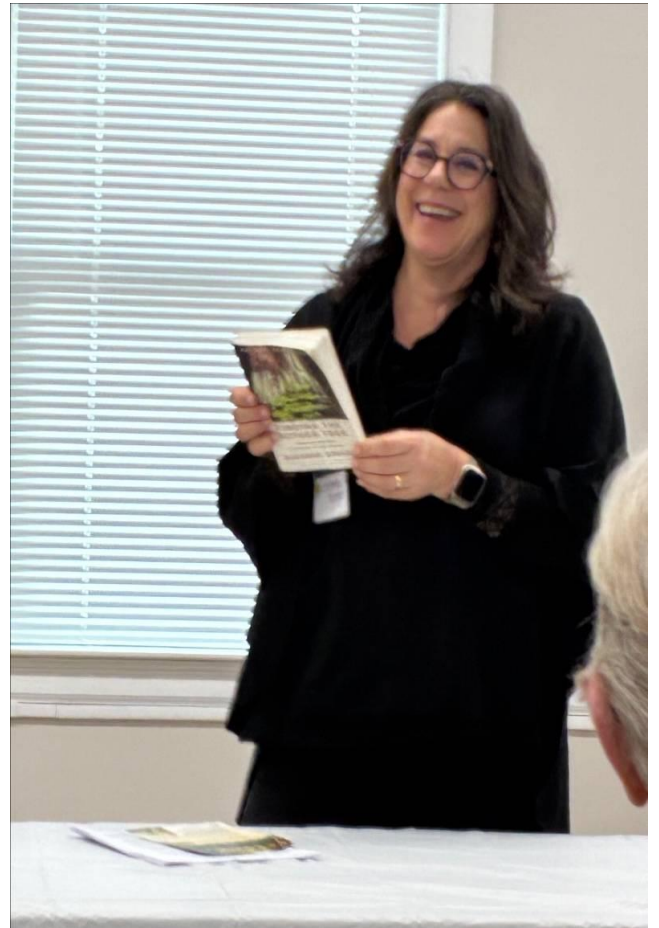
The largest, oldest trees act as central hubs, nurturing younger trees and connecting the forest.

- **Personal and scientific journey:**

The book intertwines Simard's life story—from her childhood in British Columbia to her scientific career—with her discoveries, showing how her personal connection to the forest fueled her research.

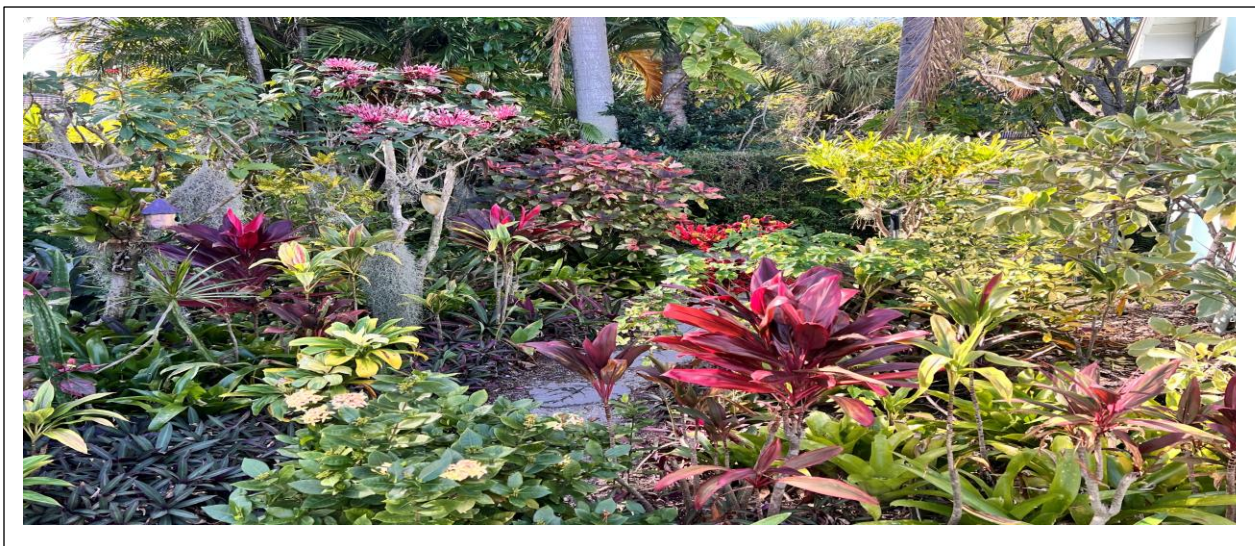
- **Challenging the status quo:**

Simard faced skepticism from the forestry industry, which viewed trees as commodities, but her work proved their interconnectedness.



Garden Visit

On Monday, January 19th, 2026, Laura Bergeron visited a former garden club president, Dot Erickson. Dot was a past President of Aptucxet Garden Club from 1990-1992. She owned a beautiful farm- house when she lived in Pocasset. She hasretired full time to Singer Island which is located on the east coast of Florida near West Palm Beach. Laura reports that she is 93 years old and is happy and enjoying her beautiful house and the gardens she designed. She is a well-traveled lady with beautiful art from all over the world. One item she brought back from Thailand is an evil spirit house that is installed in her garden. Dot indicated that she keeps all the evil spirits in that house. Her gardens are beautiful and full of beautiful tropical colors. Thanks to Laura for sharing!



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – Joint Evening Meeting – 5:30 pm, Bourne United Methodist Church
Program: The speaker will be from Plimoth Patuxet entitled “Wampanoag Women in English Gardens”
on the vital role Wampanoag women played in shaping the first gardens in Plymouth

Garden Therapy at Cape Cod Senior Residences – Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:00 pm

Garden Therapy at Royal Cape Cod – Wednesday February 18, 2026, 10:30 am

Winter Webinar with Kerry Ann Mendez- Foliage-Driven Garden Design

Saturday February 7, 2026, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm To register - go to Heritage Museum
webpage and register.

If you cannot attend the webinar at that time, you will receive a link and password by email,
that will enable you to view the podcast for up to 72 hours after it has aired.

Kerry Ann Mendez also issues a free garden newsletter named Perennially Yours. To subscribe
to this newsletter – google - Perennially Yours. You will need to submit your email address,
name and zip code. The newsletter is filled with garden and design tips, featured plants and
gardening products, sustainable practices, and information about gardening events and shows.

Future Events to add to your Program

Styrofoam Collection Day – March 9th Day meeting

Saturday, April 25th from 9:30 – 12:30 pm – 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 at the
library.

Sudbury Flower Show – April 16, 17 – More information to follow next month – Opportunity for members
to create a carpool group.

Leadership Retreat Agenda

On January 7, 2026, Jan Rogers and Linda Wagner led a Leadership Retreat for the Board of Officers, Past Presidents and Committee Chairs. The meeting was held at the Pocasset Community Building. Members gathered to discuss and develop plans for Hospitality, Aptucxet Garden Club Communications, archiving club records with Bourne Historical Society, encouraging future Leadership, and identifying future project funding from The Carolyn Nelson Memorial Fund. The meeting was productive and generated plans for archiving the 90 years of history of AGC, leadership nominations for 2026-27 program year, protocols for morning meeting hospitality, established priorities for funding community projects, and communications within the club and into the community.





Message from the President

Dear Garden Club Friends,

As I look back on my January letter, I'm realizing that the Farmer's Almanac was pretty on target about wintery temperatures and weather! I don't know about you but I'm getting restless to start thinking about my garden. But if I have learned anything from our many wonderful AGC speakers, I know that I must preserve the plant stalks, leave the leaves, and clean up the brush pile in the spring so our hibernating little insects are safe. It's about giving my garden the best chance for success in the coming seasons.

In early January, leaders in our club gathered to make plans to give AGC the best chance for success in the near and distant future. AGC will be 90 yrs. old in 2028.

Over the last 18 months, we've honored long standing members and welcomed close to 15 new members. To be a thriving club, we now need "home grown" leaders. We will elect a new board in May. Home grown leaders are club members who actively participate in committee workshops and projects. Home grown leaders attend most meetings and invite new members to join us. Home grown leaders step up to serve in new ways like becoming chair or co-chair of our many committees. Our active members number around 55, despite our membership list. As I've written before not all our ranks are physically able to support our club.

The good news is that several of our current board will stay on in new positions. Three members, our home-grown leaders, have come forward to self-nominate to serve on the incoming board too. This is great news. Some will share a position or be named as co-chairs. As of today, we have most board positions filled except **President**. The job of President can be shared with a friend. We've had co-presidents several times. I will serve on the board as past-president and I will become the chairperson of the Junior Gardener project. What our club needs is a good leader or team of leaders to chart the course of our future. There is a support team of experienced board members to lend a hand. Please consider stepping up and sharing your talents with your club.

Here is a poem from the NGC handbook on leadership.

Remember the story about four people names Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it. But Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. Well, it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Who are you in the poem?

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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Visit the Aptuxet Garden Club Website www.aptuxetgardenclub.com