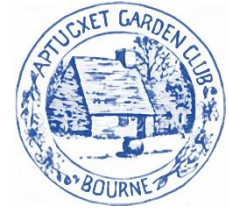


Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



"Go Green - Plant Bourne"

Monthly Newsletter

March 2026



*"If we had no winter, the spring
would not be so pleasant."*

Anne Bradstreet

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne- Joint Evening Meeting Date: February 18,2026

Program: Just Across the Brook. Wampanoag Women and English Garden

Speaker: Dr. Fredrick Dunford, PhD Plimoth Patuxet Museums

Dr. Dunford was the Museum Archaeologist at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History from 1982 through 2003. He has a BA in Anthropology from Harvard and MA/PhD from the University of Massachusetts. He is currently the Horticulture Specialist in the English Village at the Plimoth Patuxet Museums.

I was introduced to Dr. Dunford prior to the start of the meeting by Cathy Kert. He was gregarious, witty, and charming. The topic of the program was informative and interesting to me. The discussion began with a history of how Spanish and English Europeans originally came to the New World in the 16th and 17th centuries, their encounters with the native indigenous peoples, and how the native peoples taught these travelers about the foods that they produced which in turn was then carried back to the original countries and produced there.

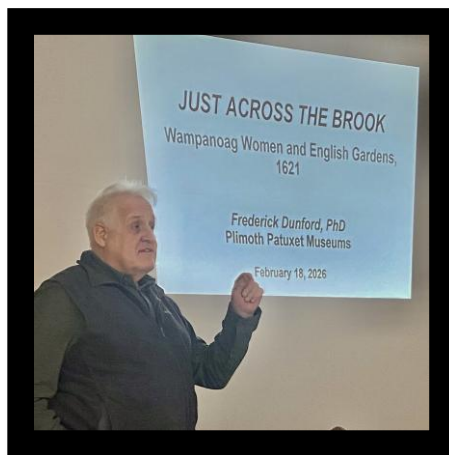
Dr. Dunford also described the Wampanoag people culture, migratory patterns, and the land of the Cape as it evolved over the centuries. Note that the Wampanoag calendar is based on the landscape therefore is 10 days earlier than our current calendar. An example was that their migration/circularity pattern was based on the seasons and what an area would provide for the people. His example was the weather change and the running of the herring. That indication was a change in the season and that it was time to start the planting of the gardens.

When the English people departed England, they had knowledge of the native indigenous peoples from prior explorations. However, when they arrived, it was December and therefore had insufficient time to build sustainable housing and plant gardens. Over half of the settlers did not survive. They came in contact with Wampanoag during the spring and a collaborative friendship developed. They lived peacefully for a generation sharing and learning from each other.

Dr. Dunford discussed the meeting of the English and Wampanoag and how the women playing a vital role in the shaping of the first English gardens at Plimoth. Wampanoag women living in the summer village on the south side of Town Brook in 1621, were instrumental in teaching the English to manure the fields with fish, to hill the corn and plant beans, squashes and pumpkins along with corn (Three sisters). In addition, the English constructed their houses and gardens in the fields that lined the north side of the brook. Those fields were created by thousands of years of clearing and burning which fostered the growth of strawberries, blueberries, sunflowers, milkweed, butterfly weed, jewelweed, Jerusalem artichokes, Chenopodium and a host of other edible and medicinal plants used by Wampanoag women who in turn shared knowledge of these plants with their new neighbors.

The program was dense with history of the archeology of the Cape, the anthropology of the native indigenous people and settlers, how each of the peoples lived, and the development of a cooperative and reciprocal community. Dr. Dunford was brilliant in his knowledge of the times and the community that existed.

Submitted by Diane Conroy



Floral Design

Judy Sheehy demonstrating angular design.



Angular Design is a Creative Design emphasizing strong angles as the main component.

In this design, the angles are made with sticks and millet stalks as well as folded and cut leaves. Mini peppers are added for contrast, balance, and rhythm.

Hospitality:

Alda Barron, Betsy Woodley, and Carolee Packard



Ways and Means

Moe Smith and Julie Arnold speaking to club about upcoming Plant Sale



AGC Horticulture Talk on February 18, 2026 By Donna Mohan



Botanical



Autumn Embrace



Dahlia Dreams

Gathering Inspiration

My work begins outdoors. I walk in my garden, hike in nature, and visit public gardens, taking photographs along the way. I collect natural materials — leaves, twigs, blossoms — that may later become part of the piece itself.

Choosing Color and Composition

Back in the studio, I determine the color palette, often consulting a color wheel to guide harmony and contrast. I begin forming an idea for the composition and gather fabrics, paints, threads, and the natural elements I plan to use.

Creating the Background

The background is built through layers of paint and mark-making. I frequently use a gelli plate to create depth and texture. Paint is rolled onto the plate, and I press leaves or twigs into the surface before laying fabric over it to absorb the design.

This layering process is intuitive and playful — adding, subtracting, and building until the background feels complete. I often refer to my photographs for guidance. Sometimes I paint directly onto leaves or twigs and press them onto the fabric, using them as natural printing tools.

At times, I print my photographs onto fabric or Transfer Artist Paper and incorporate those elements into the layered surface (as seen in *Dahlia Dreams*).

Constructing the Quilt

Once the background is complete, I create a quilt sandwich by layering the painted fabric with batting or felt and a backing fabric.

Stitching and Surface Enhancement

I then use free-motion stitching to enhance movement and texture. I work with a variety of threads, including metallics, to add dimension, light, and energy to the piece.

Finishing

When the work feels resolved, I square the edges, zigzag stitch around the perimeter, mount it onto mat board, and frame it.



Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Monday, March 9, 2026 – 12:00 pm - Bourne United Methodist Church
Program: Cathy Cetta, a master gardener since 2018 and former oceanic researcher and teacher will discuss how to best grow blueberries, raspberries, and other “small fruit” in your backyard.

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 5:30 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church
Program: The Ins and Outs of Creative Design – Christine Decas is a wonderful designer and flower show judge from the Wareham Garden Club. She will “Judge” creative designs that will be created by two groups of club members, and she will also demonstrate some of her work.

Garden Therapy - Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 10:30 am – Bourne Manor

Styrofoam Collection at March 9th Day Meeting – Styrofoam should be clean (no tape, staples, etc.) placed in a bag with your name on it.

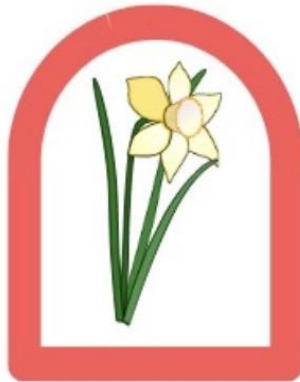
Arbor Day:

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

April 30th – 10:30 -11:30 am at Bourne library – Cindi Walsh-Hamlin will be giving a Drawing class - \$10 material fee – sign up on the library website “Learn to draw blueberries, strawberries and other delicious fruit.

Flower Show

1776 Flower Show



Presented By:
The Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury, MA
A Member of:
Central North District of Massachusetts
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
National Garden Clubs, Inc

CELEBRATING IT'S 75th ANNIVERSARY

The Presbyterian Church
330 Concord Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776

April 16, 2026 3 pm to 7:30 pm
April 17, 2026 10 am to 5:00 pm

Free Admission ~ Handicap Accessible

***** Members interested in going could carpool to this show *****

Educational Symposium

The Master Gardeners Association of Cape Cod
invites you to

"Explore the Living Garden"

Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School

351 Pleasant Lake Ave, Harwich

Featuring: Larry Weaner, Landscape Designer & Author
"Ecological Design as Garden Art; the Artistic Thread"

With: Blake Dinius, Entomologist & Educator with Plymouth
County Extension



"Little Bee, Big World"

and



Mark Faherty, Science Coordinator, MA Audubon's Wellfleet
Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

"Landscaping for Birds, Bugs, and Beyond"

Registration opens on March 2, 2026

\$40 per ticket, pre-registration required

mastergardenerscc.org

Garden Therapy

Carolee Packard and Ellen Migliaqccio participated in Garden Therapy at Cape Cod Senior Residences on Feb 18, 2026.



Pictures of Carolee Packard making bows for the resident's Valentine's flowers

Submitted by Ellen Migliaccio

Garden Visit- Sunken Gardens



In February of this winter I was fortunate to vacation in the St. Petersburg area of Florida. Whenever I am on vacation, I search out the local botanical garden. St. Petersburg is home to the Sunken Gardens, a restful oasis in the heart of St. Petersburg. It is one of the first and last remaining original Florida roadside attractions.

The land Sunken Gardens is on was purchased in 1911 by George Turner, Sr. and his wife Eula who were both avid gardeners. The property was a marshy 4.1 acre lot fifteen feet below sea level which was drained creating a sinkhole of rich soil perfect for gardening. The property remained in the Turner family until 1989 when the City of St. Petersburg purchased the tropical oasis.

Today thousands of visitors a year enjoy Sunken Gardens. The Gardens serve residents and visitors with garden tours, horticultural programs, special events, and weddings. It is a world-renowned attraction with tropical palms, orchids, flamingos, parrots, and waterfalls.

For more information on the history of the Sunken Gardens visit: sunkengardens.org/history

Submitted by Nancy Buckley



Wedding Lawn bordered by flowering Bouganvillea



Palm Grove



Arched bridge over Koi Pond



Red Vein Flowering Maple



Flamingo Pond



Orchid Arbor



Message from the President

Dear Garden Club friends,

Well, I guess the saying, “March comes in like a lion and our like a lamb” might just be true. Astrologically, the constellation of Leo (the lion) becomes prominent early in the month and Aries, (the lamb), appear toward the end. This past week has been the fiercest of lions for sure. Our speaker last month, Fred Dunford, Lead Horticulturalist at Plimouth Patuxet, said that the native people first encountered the pilgrims in March, when the herring started to run. The Wampanoag people wintered inland to hunt, (probably near Bridgewater), and returned to the coast when the growing season could begin again.

March is certainly a transitional month, and based on the snow mounds, starting seeds indoors and cleaning tools might be our only option. Or you can still explore the many schools offered by GCFM and NGF. Gardening Schools are offered on Zoom. Floral Design school is in person later this month. Today, I watched a recorded zoom offered through Massachusetts Pollinator Network. The topic was *Invasive Management: Our Gardens and the Big Picture*. Kristin O’Brien defined what ‘invasives’ are; why they are a problem; how can we remove them; and what might be a good long-term plan going forward. MAPN has many recorded presentations to watch, all this through Grow Native Massachusetts. Some of you must know this resource. I like that MAPN is local.

I think March is a month that carries hope and a promise that winter is behind us and that spring will be here soon. Days are getting longer, and sunlight seem brighter. We can only hope it might melt our snow more quickly.

I read that March gardening is about setting “the stage”. What do you want your garden to look like in the coming season? Look back at your photos. Remember the plans you made last October. What needed early pruning? What plants needed to be divided and what invasives need to be removed or managed once they appear after the snow melts? I

will look back at my photos and refer to my garden journal. I want to be ready to go when I see the earliest sign of spring. I’m getting tired of organizing closets and drawers. March 20th, the spring equinox, can’t come soon enough!

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.

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Buckley, nzbuckley@yahoo.com
Visit the Aptuxet Garden Club Website www.aptuxetgardenclub.com