



Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne

“Go Green – Plant Bourne”

Monthly Newsletter

April 2026



“Sweet April Showers,
do spring May flowers “

Thomas Tusser

Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne- Day Meeting

Date: March 9,2026

Program: Blueberries and Raspberries

Speaker: Catherine Cetta

Cathy Cetta has been a Master Gardener since 2018; she is a former oceanic researcher and educator. She is a speaker for the Master Gardener Association of Cape Cod speaking on topics including Soil, Vegetable Gardening, Vegetable Pest & Disease Management (Organic), Native Plants, Invasive Plants, Backyard Berry Growing, and Cape Geology and our landscape.

Why do we grow berries? My answer – to eat of course. Cathy had many more specific categories including food, wildlife support, ornamental value, and FUN! During this wonderful presentation she discussed the importance of sun, soil preparation, and siting. We all know that sun is key, mainly full sun for most berries. The thing that I did not know was soil preparation. Planning is important because you need to start at least six months or a season ahead. Have your soil pH determined. The most encompassing information comes from the University of Massachusetts Soil Testing Lab. Here’s is the link that I found to learn more about soil testing performed <https://www.umass.edu/agriculture-food-environment/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>

Make sure, when planting, to protect your crop(s) with temporary covers or permanent structures, scare tactics using reflective tape that works when it is breezy and dry. Remember that the birds and other critters are very determined to get the food that they feel is theirs not yours. (sigh) Cathy told a story of a Catbird that was not happy that her blueberry bush was covered and was very loud about its displeasure. However, with time and patience the bird did get the berries. FYI... also make sure to stake your covers and that the openings in the cover are small, because given the opportunity and an opening to squeeze through all animals, chipmunks were noted, will find their way to those luscious berries. Online avenues to purchase plants included Nourse Farms, Fedco and Stark Bros. She found out that June bearing strawberries are the best type to plant on the Cape. Other berries noted were Chokeberries, Elderberries, and Lingonberries.

Next were the different types of brambles including red, black, purple raspberries, blackberries, loganberries, and boysenberries. Siting, planting, supports, and growth cycles was covered regarding brambles and how to tell the difference between a “Fall Bearing” or Primocane versus a “Summer Bearing” of Floricane, pruning, and when to expect fruit.

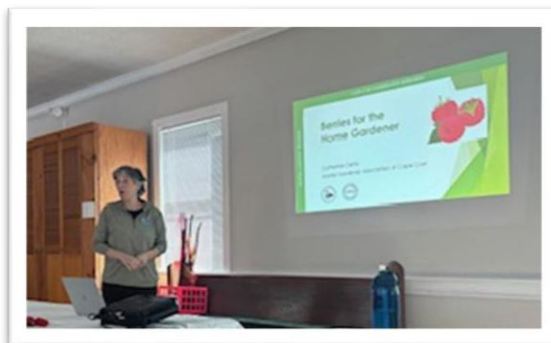
Last but not least were strawberries growth cycle, Everbearing versus June bearing. Again, this novice found out that June bearing strawberries are the best type to plant on the Cape. Other berries noted were Chokeberries, Elderberries, and Lingonberries.

Cathy’s program was extensive on her experience of varieties that were better, care, pruning and winter protection (blueberries), and hints that worked for her.

In summary, please note the following from Cathy:

1. Choose a sunny site.
2. Get a soil test & prepare site for planting.
3. Plan for crop protection.
4. Start with blueberries or red raspberries.
5. Choose varieties based on
 - plant characteristics
 - harvest time
 - fruit characteristics
6. Attend to watering, feeding, & pruning.

Submitted by Diane Conroy



HOSPITALITY Day Meeting



Hospitality Committee: Betsy Ferris, Connie Spilhaus, Donna Mohan, Anna Holmes



Creative St. Paddy's Day Centerpiece of shamrocks and potatoes

FLORAL DESIGN



Alda Baron demonstrated Creative Line Design
Theme: Heat Wave



Judy Morgan, GCFM Flower Judge and Nancy Costa, NGC Flower Show Judge, members of Wareham Garden Club, were guests and did a surprise critique of Alda's design. They gave her design high praise for its creativity.

**AGC Horticulture Presentation on Plant Sale Donations, by Cheryl Keown
3/18/2026**

What to dig

- Our dilemma is that the plants we have to share are also the most prolific and common. So be generous; donate a few less common plants, in addition to those everyone has. Rare and unusual plants sell quickly, even though we price them higher.
- Don't bring more than 5 of the same plant; donate as much variety as you can afford.
- I believe almost anything will sell if it is priced cheap enough. But is it worth your time to dig a very common or very prolific plant, if it can only be sold for a dollar or two?

What not to dig

Do not bring anything on the MA invasive plants list:

<https://massnrc.org/mipag/invasive.htm>

While I think anything will sell if it is cheap enough, more experienced members suggest no:

- *Violets
- *Honesty (money plant)
- *Vinca (periwinkle)
- *Common green Hosta
- *Common orange daylilies
- *Little cedar and holly volunteers

When to dig

- As soon soil thaws and spring growth appears: any time in April
- Dig Hosta early, before leaves unfurl. When leaves are damaged, plants are harder to sell. Furthermore, your remaining signature plant won't have damaged leaves.

Pots Garden centers keep their plants in pots for months, so they need room for roots to expand. Our plants won't be, so they don't need deep root space.

- Use shallow wide pots like mum pots, patio pots or hanging baskets w/o hangars.
- If using deep pots, fill the bottom with pinecones, oak leaves, or crumpled newspaper.
- If you have tuberous plants like iris, that you want to lie flat on a tray, rather than plant, don't! You know it will transplant OK, but our buyers don't. If it isn't worth your time to plant it upright, it may not be worth donating.

- Ask Jan, Julie, Moe, Sally, and Cheryl for pots if you don't have enough!

How to dig-

Dividable plants like Hosta: like a pie

- 2 sharp straight cuts from the center
- Arc at or beyond the drip line, to get big roots balls.

Spreading plants like Shasta daisy – water first, so dirt stays adhered.

- Don't lean your shovel out after the first dig– that rips the remainder of the roots.
- Dig a complete circle (or arc) straight down as deep as the roots go.
- Lean shovel back ONLY after all roots are freed.
- Leverage plant from ground and brush off perimeter dirt, until about 1" of roots show.
- Select a pot that will contain exposed roots.; don't cram the roots into a too small pot.
- If necessary, separate plant into roots balls small enough to fit your pot.
- Whether you have used filler on the bottom or used a shallow pot, add at least an inch of soil at bottom, plus enough so that crown will be within 1" of pot rim. A plant too low in a too-deep pot doesn't look professional.
- Fill perimeter gap with good humus-y soil to stimulate root acclimatization.
- Water immediately, to settle the soil into contact with roots.

Two Special conditions: jumping worms and weeds

We haven't talked much about Jumping worms lately, but they are still out there.

- They have a distinct thrashing movement; but they are visible only from June to freeze.
- To prevent spread of jumping worms, know their life cycle:
 - * In late summer, they deposit egg-filled sacs the size of mustard seeds in soil.
 - * Unlike earthworms who dive deeper into the soil, they die when the ground freezes.
 - * Those egg sacs survive the winter and hatch as tiny worms in May.
- Therefore, if you saw jumping worms last summer, you need to completely wash all soil off roots to remove egg sacs and repot them in clean, purchased, potting soil.

Weeds

- Put ONLY ONE type of plant in each pot.
- Our buyers tend to be newbies who may not recognize weeds or stray plants. But, in a year, when that plant is surrounded by weeds the buyer didn't have

before, they will remember where that plant came from and may not buy from us again.

- Therefore, if you have intermixed weeds or garden plants, shake off all soil from roots and separate out any different-looking roots. For example, lily of the valley might not be up yet, but their thick white roots are clearly visible and easy to separate.
- If you have plants growing amongst fibrous-rooted weeds, like creeping bellflower, spurge, or mugwort, or grass that can't be separated, DON'T donate them.

Labels - Waterproof

At least: an 'N' for native (if you don't know for sure, don't guess; look it up, or leave N off)

Common name

Sun or shade

Flower color

Nice to add: Month of flowering; Height at maturity

Dry or moist conditions; sand or clay

Type: groundcover, vine, perennial, shrub

Special instructions (deadheading, prolific seeder, spreader)

Scientific name

The last 8 days leading to May 9th Plant Sale

- Don't dig any plants in May – they won't recover, won't look good, and it wastes your time
- Keep even sun-loving plants in all or part shade (morning sun); roots have been disrupted; in sun, they lose water through leaves faster than roots can take water in.
- Water regularly, but don't drown.

In summary: dig with care, pot with care, label with care, and you will have lovely plants to donate.



Thanks, Cheryl, for providing a helpful reference guide for our plant sale donations.

Floral Design Prep Night -March 16



The Member Participants who created the designs that were to be judged at the evening meeting Program: **“The Ins and Outs of Creative Design”**

Back row: Cathy Kert, Marcia Willmott, Diane Conroy, Laverne Newman, Cathy Glynn, Pam Chmielinski,

Front Row: Julie Arnold, Bobbie Dwyer, Isabel Melo

(Missing from picture is Alda Barron who hosted the prep night at her home.)

Evening Meeting- March 18



Lovely St. Paddy's Day Arrangement



Hospitality Team: Cathy Glynn
Laverne Newman, Ellen Migliaccio



Isabel at Member Check in Table

Aptucket Garden Club of Bourne- Evening Meeting Date: March 18,2026

Program: The Ins and Outs of Creative Design Speaker: Christine Decas

We were very fortunate to have Christine Decas, who is a talented designer and Flower Show Judge from the Wareham Garden Club. She was accompanied by Yvonne Capella who is an accomplished floral designer, Flower Show Judge, and self-acclaimed Flower Show Geek. Both women are friends, colleagues, and well known by Alda and other members of our group. Christine and Yvonne were both at our November 2025 Joint meeting.

There were 12 club members participating under the tutelage of Alda. Materials were provided including flowers and frames. The arrangements were designed based on the provided assignment and the requirements as set forth in the book "*Designing by Types.*" The judges assessed each design making suggestions regarding the design and flowers. Observations, discussions between Christine, Yvonne, Alda, and the participating club members were free flowing. There were many questions and many answers/alternatives for the designs. Laughter and joy were evident in the room. Both Christine and Yvonne were impressed with the designs.

The following Designs (see page 8 for photos of the designed discussed below) were provided with positive critique always first, followed by ideas on how to better compose, provide rhythm, use materials, sage advice/hints and much more.

- Angular Design
 - #1: suggested the flowers were too delicate and small, the color was wonderful, and it would be better to remove the willow branch leaving the orange grid as the support for the flowers
 - #2: suggested that either the open Lily be removed or add another open Lily at the bottom of the design. This provides better symmetry and balance of the design.
- Frame Spatial Design
 - #3: orange palm branch top was outside of the frame and the bottom below the frame. The fishing line used to stabilize the branch was distracting against the black panel background. The panel was removed making the line less noticeable.
 - #4: again, the design needed to stay within the frame used and the flowers were too large for the design.
- Panel Design
 - #5: the flowers were too large, the top flower was removed, suggested that more flowers be added to the lower portion of the container for balance/symmetry
 - #6: back panel design distracted and should have been incorporated with the front of the design. The flowers were out of scale and there were too many flowers present. The back panel was moved off-center which enhanced the design.

Christine then gave a demonstration of two of her own designs. So beautiful!

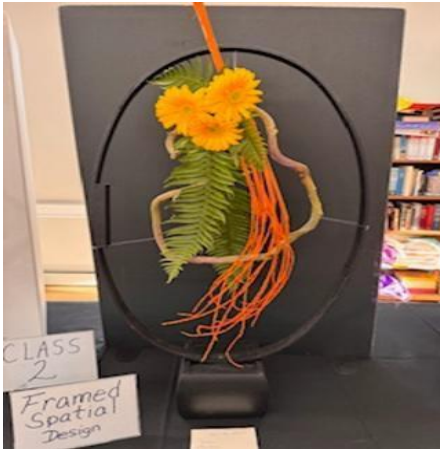
I was very fortunate to be able to participate in this workshop. I learned many new techniques and ways to create the design form I worked on. More to come in the future with my participation in this wonderful community. Submitted by Diane Conroy



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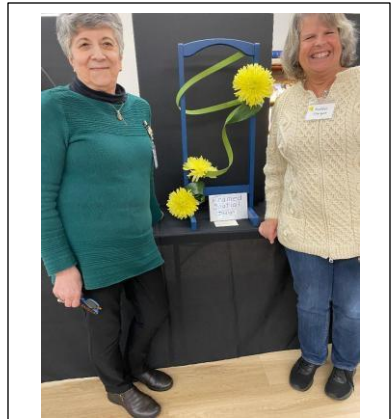
The Ins and Outs of Creative Design
Member Designs



Angular Design: Cathy Kert and Judy Sheehy



Angular Design: Cathy Glynn & Laverne Newman



Frame Spatial Design: Isabel Melo & Bobbie Dwyer



Frame Spatial Design: Marcia Willmott and Diane Conroy



Panel Design: Cathy Glynn Laverne Newman & Bobbie Dwyer



Panel Design: Julie Arnold & Pam Chmielinski

Christine Decas' Designs



Creative Angular Design



Creative Line Design

Looking Ahead - AGC Month Events

Monday, April 13, 2026 – 12:00 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church

Program: C. L. Fornari: Author, speaker, radio show host, and a garden consultant. Learn which vegetables provide the largest harvests, discover edible flowers, and how to use all your zucchini.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – 5:30 pm – Bourne United Methodist Church

Program: Orchids 101: Brian Leib from the Cape Cod Orchid Society will give us an introduction to growing and repotting orchids.

***** If you have questions or concerns specific to your orchid plant, you can bring in an easy to see, clear photo of the plant along with temperature, light, and humidity information. Mr. Leib will make recommendations based on the photo and conditions. *****

Garden Therapy - Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 3:00 pm– Cape Cod Senior Residences

Garden Therapy – Wednesday April 15, 2026- 10:30 am – Royal Cape Cod

Earth Month

Dear Members,

We live in a beautiful town. As I am sure you know, April is Earth Month. We as members of the garden club should be willing to help to preserve the beauty of our town. Please take a little time to pick up litter on our streets that you notice. Garden gloves are washable. Thank You.

Submitted by Joan O'Brien

Arbor Day

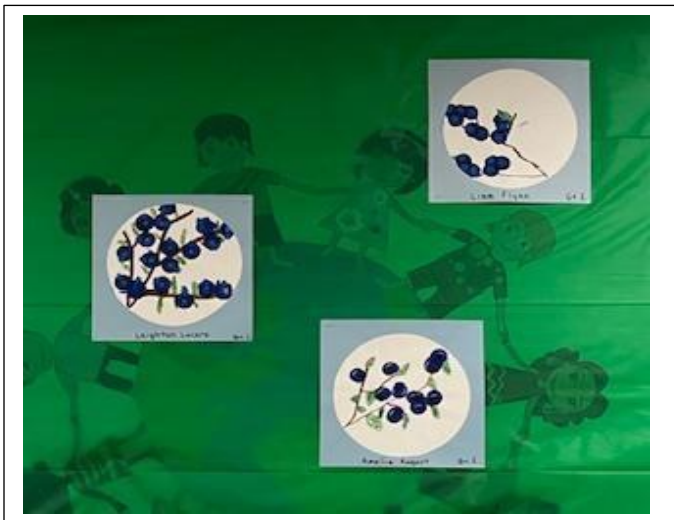
Month of April - Please check the display case by the children's area in the library for information on blueberries on Cape Cod!

Arbor Day: Saturday, April 25th – 10 am – 12:30 pm - soil sampling collection at the library. Forms available from cathleen.glynn@gmail.com or at the library! Ask a Master Gardener any of your lawn or gardening questions! One will be there to answer them!

Thursday, 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." No skills needed! Just bring your own colored pencils!

Submitted by Cathleen Glynn

Arbor Day – Children’s Blueberry Art Display - at Jonathan Bourne Public Library



Announcements

Archive Project of Aptucxet Garden Club History

Nancy Selchan and Sue Dmochowski will co-chair the Archives Project. Member volunteers will need white gloves to handle items to be archived for Aptucxet Garden Club history.

Laurie York

Laurie York is featured in an article “Notable Neighbors” published in the Cape Cod Life Publication’s 2026 Annual Guide



Future Field Trip

Debbie Webster announced that there will be a field trip in June to a fabulous Rhododendron Garden in Falmouth – stay tuned for dates and signup.

Monetary Gift to Buzzards Bay Beautification

Buzzards Bay Beautification was gifted \$200.00 toward the cost of filling planters from the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce with a thank you note to Marilyn Crane acknowledging all her hard work.

Scholarship Awards to be Given by Aptucxet Garden Club

There will be (2) \$500 Toolship Scholarship Awards to Graduates of Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School. There will be (1) \$2,500 scholarship to a Bourne High School graduate going into the Horticultural field.

Members may also be reimbursed for courses in floral design and landscape design. GCFM offers landscape courses on Zoom. The courses do not have to be taken in succession except for Floral Design which requires Course 1 be completed before taking courses 2, 3, or 4.

Check out educational opportunities on their website. Gcfm.org



Message from the President

April 2026

Dear Garden Club friends,

We made it! I was beginning to think winter might be permanent. Thankfully not, because I am counting the days till I see my daffodils bloom in my front flower bed, then it will really feel like spring. Did you know that April is National Garden month? It's officially the time to put your garden plan into action. It is also the time to reconnect with our garden club friends, share the joy of improving our yards and work together on our AGC beautification projects.

April is also a time for a new leadership for our garden club too. Our bylaws state that the new slate of officers will be announced 2 months before our annual June meeting. Members will be asked to vote at the May meetings. SO, I'd like to announce our new slate of officers for the 2026-2028 program year:

President – Julie Arnold, First Co-Vice Presidents Cathy Glynn and Laverne Newman, Second Co- VPs Cathy Kert and Kellee Twaddle, Third VP Marcia Willmott, Treasurer -Marilyn Crane, Co-Recording Secretary Nancy Buckley and Debbie Webster, and Corresponding Secretary Linda Wagner. I will serve on the board as Past President. These officers will officially be announced at our April meetings.

There are many other chairmanships that will also be changing leadership too. Pages 13-16 of your yearbook list all the committees and their current members. Seriously consider taking a more active role in the many projects that our club supports. AGC also needs someone with desktop publishing skills to work with our new president to compile our 2026-2027 yearbook. We all have a role to play to continue the mission of our club.

Happy spring

Peace,

Jan

The Aptucket 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 Aptucket Garden Club Website www.aptucketgardenclub.com