



# Sproutings

## The Chatham Garden Club

[chathamgardenclub.org](http://chathamgardenclub.org) | [facebook.com/chathamgardenclub](https://facebook.com/chathamgardenclub)

*"May and October, the best-smelling months? I'll make a case for December: evergreen, frost, wood smoke, cinnamon." – Lisa Kleypas*

## December 2023

All links are underlined in blue

### What's Happening in December?

**Dec. 2nd: Festival of Trees:** Atwood House\* **See below for ticket info**

**Dec. 2nd:** Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive - Ocean State Parking lot 10-2

**Dec. 2nd:** [Harwich Garden Club Holiday Boutique](#) & [House Tour](#)

**Dec. 7th:** Holiday Party, Wequassett Resort

**Dec. 8th-10th:** [Chatham by the Sea Christmas Stroll](#)

**Dec. 14th:** [Make a Holiday Centerpiece](#) offered by Agway in Orleans \$50.00

**Dec. 31st:** [First Night Chatham](#)

**\*Festival of Trees: It's not too late to purchase a ticket to our Festival of Trees!**  
[CLICK HERE TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD](#) (for Festival of Trees only)



Just ONE of our gorgeous Festival Trees below!  
Please join us on December 2nd at the Atwood House!



photo by Catherine Purcell Gryska

Pictured is Judy Schmitt & Edie Hamilton, but the tree was trimmed by all of the members of the Atwood House garden crew including: Judi Izikewicz, Deb Cody, Blair McLain, Donna Kaufmann and Marjorie Farquharson.

BEAUTIFUL!



[GCFM website](#) (Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts). See a picture of some of our members at Habitat planting on GCFM's website. Hit the link above and scroll to the bottom and look for Chatham Garden Club on the loop. You can also access their newsletter, *Mayflower*, under the Resources tab. Past editions of their newsletter, *Mayflower*, Link: [Mayflower](#)

See and share your Native plant photos on

GCFM's website: [Native Plant Pictures on GCFM's website](#)

See GCFM's link for our **Festival of Trees!** [Club Events](#) | [gcfm](#)

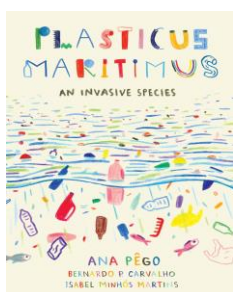
**Chatham** has been named # 10 of the 25 best towns in Massachusetts in 2023 to see holiday lights: [Magical places to visit for Christmas lights](#) *fromnewenglandwanderlust.com*



**Gardening & Conservation books** for children for holiday gifts to foster an interest in gardening and conservation with your grandchildren or a special child: Thanks to Liz Scheld and Annie Holton for researching and coming up with books to give children this holiday season. Books below and **additional books** can be found on our website under the Resource tab. **Hit Link:** [Resource Tab on our website](#) Check for books locally, or order from Amazon.

### Conservation books:

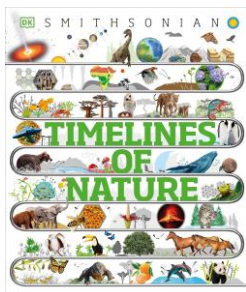
Titles from left to right: 1. *Plasticus Maritimus: An Invasive Species*; 2. *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth*; 3. *Timelines of Nature: From Mountains and Glaciers to Mayflies and Marsupials*; 4. *Sea Lions in the Parking Lot: Animals on the Move In A Time of Pandemic*; 5. *Tree: A Peek-Through Board Book*



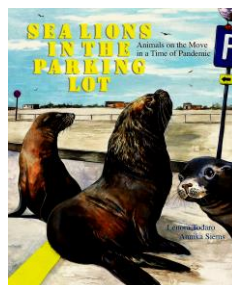
Ages 12-18



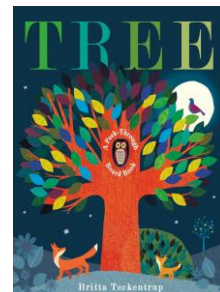
Ages 3-6



Ages 9-12



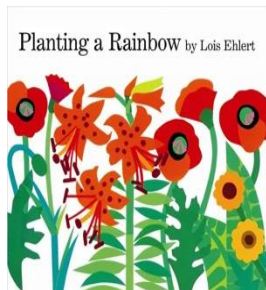
Ages 4-8



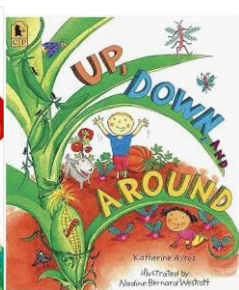
Ages 3 mos-3 years

### Gardening books:

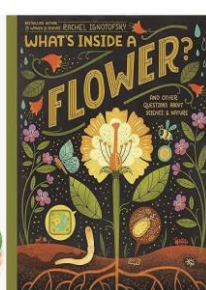
Titles from Left to Right: 1. *Planting a Rainbow*; 2. *Up, Down & Around*; 3. *What's Inside a Flower?*; 4. *Let's Get Gardening*; 5. *Gardening Lab for Kids*



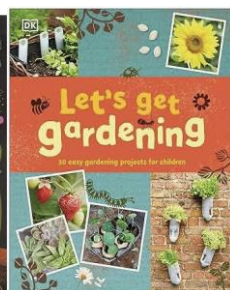
Ages 1-4



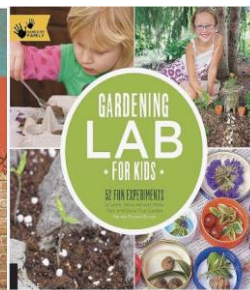
Ages 2-5



Ages 3-8



Ages 5-8



Ages 7-10

As we enter the cold months of New England and the winter season, here's a cheery memory of the wonderful summer and autumn we had!

Debbie Gaines picked these zinnias in the last days of October with a comment *"they keep on coming"*!



photo by Debbie Gaines

Chatham Garden Club

## PLANT SALE



Our plant sale will return this year - June 1st, 2024.

If you would like to be involved or on the committee, please email:

[Nancy Boughton](#) or [Kit Curtis](#)



Town Garden fall cleanup continues! Here's some of the ladies from the Sears Park garden crew on a gorgeous October day! And they are all smiling at 8:00 am!!!



Jen Stello, Ellen Healy, Eileen Yeates, Marilyn Sink and bending over, Nancy Boughton  
Photo by Ann Dickson



Mary Ellen outdid herself with November's Horticulture table! Pairing our speaker with wonderful pictures of Pilgrim/Wampanoag life at Plimoth Patuxet Museum (aka Plimoth Plantation) but she also made delicious Indian pudding and real cornmeal muffins!

[Winter Weeds](#) from *missouri botanical garden.org*. (Scroll down in the link for pictures of the weeds.)

**Fertilizing your Lawn:** Use of Lawn Fertilizer is **banned between November 12th - April 14th**; [Chatham's Lawn Fertilizer Use](#) and [Turf Fertilizer Regulations](#) from [www.chatham-ma](http://www.chatham-ma)

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**Easy Holiday Appetizers:** [Cranberry Brie Appetizer Bites](#)  
[Ultimate Party Meatballs](#)

**Christmas Tree Craft Video**

[No-Sew "Quilted" Christmas Tree - Free Pattern Download | Shabby Fabrics](#)





## Hellebores

by Donna Maiocca

Around the holidays, you will most likely find “Christmas Rose” hellebores (*Helleborus niger*) *outside* at your local garden store. I know from going to Mahoneys in Falmouth one year with Pat O'Reilly after Christmas (for their after-Christmas sale!) I found them outside in their attached greenhouse. They don't like the warmer temperatures in the indoor areas of the store. And YES, you can plant them outside if the ground isn't frozen, but be sure to water them when there is little to no precipitation! I read that you can plant them in pots, so I tried it last year in my cast iron pots, but found only one of the two survived to transplant to my garden in the spring. They like to be planted in part to full shade and it would be nice to see one this winter near your entry door to admire each time you enter or leave your house, or on your way to feed the birds..especially after any snow melts!

Some of the older leaves will look ragged and half dead come the warmer months - just clip those unattractive leaves off.

Here on the Cape, the 'Christmas Rose' will start to bloom from late November to early December through March, just in time for the “Lenten Rose” to take over the show! Deer and rabbits usually ignore these plants! I have had no issues with either eating or nibbling on mine!

The common name is hellebore(s) and the *Helleborus* genus is part of the Ranunculaceae family, which also includes monkshood, delphinium, buttercup and anemone to name a few (hard to believe they are cousins!).

**Propagating Hellebore:** Although I've read conflicting articles on when to divide hellebores, it seems like the fall or spring is most preferred for both the Christmas Rose and Lenten Rose. “It is easiest to dig the entire plant and shake or wash off the soil so you can see where the buds are on the crown. Make sure each division has at least 2 buds.” They prefer soil on the alkaline (sweeter) side.

## The Legend of the Christmas Rose *by Selma Lagerlöf*

*According to legend, a young shepherdess named Madelon was tending her sheep one cold and wintry night. As she watched over them, a group of wise men and other shepherds passed by, bearing gifts for the newly born Jesus.*

*Madelon wept, because she had no gifts to bring the Newborn King, not even a simple flower...*

*An angel, upon hearing her weeping, appeared and brushed away the snow to reveal a most beautiful white flower tipped with pink - the Christmas Rose.*

**Decorating your Outdoors for the Winter: See links below for ideas!**

[Filling Urns With Winter Branches | GardenLady.com](#) (CL Fornari)

[Greening for the Holidays & Conserving Energy Use!](#) from *The National Gardening Association Learning Library*

[Outdoor Planters for winter & the holidays](#) from *apieceofrainbow.com*

**Winter pot decorating ideas:**



*Bird bath idea!*





Start or keep a **Garden Journal** - Write down what plants you want to move or plant in the spring, what annuals you did or didn't like in your containers or window boxes, and thoughts for different ones next year, note any diseases or pests that affected certain plants and what you did to correct it, and remind yourself to be on the look-out next year for same thing. You would be amazed at what we forget over the winter! A Garden Journal is a great gift for others to give you for the holidays!

[Different types of Holiday Cactus](#) *from gardeningknowhow.com with video*



Thanksgiving cactus



Easter cactus



Christmas Cactus

[Winter color plantings](#) *from gardendesign.com*



[How to get color in your winter gardens](#) *from Crocker Nurseries*

**Fish Pier crew decorating our tree and pots**

photos by Donna Maiocca



Barb, George, Gay, Jan, Jenn Maiocca, Midge, Claire & Pat,  
with our two Harbormaster's crew, Wally & Craig in the back.

Please stop by and look at how lovely the pots looked all “greened up”



Smaller pots at the Fish Pier:





Lovely birdcage centerpiece by Lynne Payne

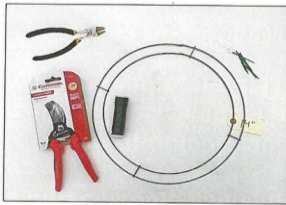
I recently took a “**Gathering Wreath**” class at Hyannis Country Gardens and was thrilled with how it came out for my first attempt! Maybe a future workshop for our Garden Club? Look around your yard or woods for items to gather to add to your wreath! I found some berries,



turtlehead flowers that had finished blooming - it was fun to walk around my yard and look for things to add to my wreath. Some brought in boxwood stems, grass plumes, sedum heads, bayberry, etc.

We used wire 'sticks' to first wire bunches of assorted greens together, and tied them to the ring with the same wires or used a spool of wire to tie them to the ring. I didn't bother with a bow!

## MAKE A GATHERING WREATH



*Forage for greens, grasses, sticks, cones, dried flowers and seed pods from your yard.*

You need: a wreath ring, preferably double wire, flat, 14" for the average door. A spool of wire, some wired wooden picks, a pair of pruners and a wire cutter.



For the base of the wreath you should have at least three different types of greens. Look for different colors and textures. More than three is fine - it's nice to have some needled evergreens such as the white pine, spruce and arborvitae shown, but also some broad-leaf evergreens such as holly.



Begin by cutting your greens and sorting into piles. Cut them between 6 and 8 inches long. If you want to highlight some of the longer, thinner stems, cut them 12 to 14 inches long. You will need enough of each type of green so that you can use it around the entire wreath. Have at least six or seven of the longer stems so they can poke out beyond the rest.



Begin by making a small bunch with your greens, binding the first with the wire around the bunch. Wind the roll of wire around each bunch of greens and then the wreath frame. Pull it tightly. Continue to make small bunches placing each 2" lower than the last. Wrap the spool of wire first around stems, then the wreath frame, moving all around the ring.



After the ring is filled with greens, you can add lichen-covered twigs, pine cones, grasses plumes seashells, dried flowers, pods and other greens. This type of wreath is best when natural materials are used. A bow is optional.

**HYANNISCOUNTRYGARDEN.COM**

