



Sproutings

The Chatham Garden Club

chathamgardenclub.org | facebook.com/chathamgardenclub

"Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year."

– Chad Sugg

October 2023

What's Happening in October?

All links are underlined in blue

Oct. 10th: GCG Board Meeting 1:00 Community Center - Conference room

Oct 13th - 31st: Pumpkin People in the Park - Kate Gould Park

Oct. 17th : General Meeting **NOTE DIFFERENT TIME: 4:30*** Program: Fall Migration of Cape Cod birds - see more information on our website under November Programs

Oct. 21st: Chatham's Oktoberfest [Oktoberfest in Chatham](#) at Kate Gould Park

***Change of time for our October meeting. This will occur again at our May meeting.**



Sad News: A long-time member Mary Ann Gray, recently passed away. Please see this link for more information about Mary Ann: [Mary Ann Gray](#)

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, the organization that we have recently joined, offers many benefits to its members. I encourage you to go to their website and become familiar with what they offer - various services and schools such as Flower Show, Gardening, Landscape Design and Environmental Science and other information that may interest our members. They also publish four seasonal newsletters, entitled the Mayflower which I will share with the membership via a link in the near future.

Link to GCFM's website: [Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts \(gcfm.org\)](http://gcfm.org)



Food Pantry Collection at October meeting:

The new managers of the Chatham Food Pantry, Linda & Peter Hughes, will attend our meeting, and collect our donations. This year they have asked for personal care products such as *toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body lotion* - soap is NOT needed as the Pantry buys soap. These should be regular size products. A separate email will be sent as a reminder.



Festival of Trees

We are excited to bring back the Festival of Trees event here in Chatham! More information is on our website: Hit this Link: [Festival of Trees](#)

347 Stage Harbor Rd. Chatham - 508-945-2493

Here is what you need to know if you're considering being a part of this December event:

The Festival of Trees will take place at the Atwood House Museum on Saturday, December 2nd. The Atwood House will be open to the public 10am-3pm. Our ticketed event will happen that evening, 5pm-7pm with a small handbell choir, keyboard, drinks and hors d'oeuvres and of course, the museum will be all aglow with our beautiful trees. Guests will be able to purchase a tree by bid or by voting with their purchased ticket.

We have several 3'-6' pre-lit trees available to decorate. They are not overwhelming and will be fun to decorate. Contact Lynne 508-523-5363 for pick up. We have the trees set up so you can pick the one you like.

You will have the option to decorate your tree at home and bring it to the Atwood House on Nov. 29 or 30. Or you can bring your tree and decor to Atwood House and decorate there. We will be there setting up and decorating the larger trees. *Fa La La!*

If you are interested, please contact: [Lynne Payne](#) [Ellen Healy](#) or [Bette Hahner](#)

Chatham Garden Club

PLANT SALE



Please consider digging up, dividing and potting some of your perennials for our **Plant Sale in June** while the soil is still soft and the weather is good!

Tips for overwintering perennials in pots: *Huddle the pots for warmth. If you have multiple containers, group them together and place them in a protective corner. Also, they'll be more protected from cold if you put them on the ground rather than up on a deck. And avoid locations with prevailing winds. It may also be beneficial to cover them with mulch to provide even more cold protection. Water the plants well before the first frost.*

To join the Plant Sale committee, contact: [Nancy Boughton](#) or [Kit Curtis](#)

**Winner of our Beautification Committee's "Curbside Appeal" award:
98 Seaview Street**



photos by Jen Stello

Thanks to Madonna and her committee for their choice of a "winner"!

Atwood House gardens looking beautiful! Thanks to Judy Schmitt and her crew!



photo by Judy Schmitt

“Leave the Leaves” : Allegedly started by the Xerces Society, of late we are being encouraged to leave the leaves in your garden beds. Here’s some links:

[Leave the Leaves](#) *from Patriot News*

[Leave the Leaves](#) *from nwf.org*

[Leave the Leaves](#) *from xerces.org*

Caution: the possible downside of leaving a lot of the leaves on your lawn is they can smother your grass. Chop them up with a lawn mower and spread in your garden beds or back onto your lawn.



[Bulb Planting](#)

It’s Garlic Planting Season! See link below *from CL Fornari’s blog*

[Garlic Planting](#)

[Planting Garlic & shallots](#) *from smallfarms.cornell.edu*

Seaweed: Don’t forget, while the weather is still warm, stroll our beaches and collect seaweed for your garden beds! We are all so lucky to live so close to a natural & organic source of fertilizer for our gardens! Just spread it on top of your soil and it will break down over the winter. [Seaweed for your gardens](#) *from organicauthority.com*



photo by Donna Maiocca

October is Cranberry month and is also Massachusetts' state berry. Cranberry juice is the official beverage of our Commonwealth!

We are fortunate to have so many cranberry bogs here on Cape Cod - I even have three working bogs in my backyard and I share these bogs with Barb Cotnam and Edie Hamilton's neighborhood (see photo above). It's great walking around them on a crisp fall day and watching them harvest the berries!

Local tours are offered:

Harwich: [Cranberry Bog Tours | Guided Tours of a Working Cranberry Farm](#)

Chatham, E. Sandwich & W. Barnstable: operated by Cape Cod Cranberry Bog Tours: [Frequently Asked Questions \(capecodcranberrybogtours.com\)](#)

Dennis: [Annie's Crannies | Massachusetts Cranberries](#)

[Cranberry Recipes](#) from CCCGA - Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association



A lovely and 'worth-the-read' new book released by APCC (Association to Preserve Cape Cod):

To read the book online for free, hit this link: [Guidelines for Cape-friendly Landscapes](#)

The book is for sale at Crocker Nursery for \$15.00 or for purchase and mailing on APCC's website using this link below:

[Guidelines for Cape-friendly Landscapes | Association to Preserve Cape Cod \(apcc.org\)](#)

Be sure to hit the first link above to enjoy this charming, colorful and very informative publication on-line!

The book starts with soil, insect & bird life, then on to Design principles, Eco-land Best Practices, and even 'How to hire the right landscape professional for a cape-friendly landscape', and finishes with a list of helpful Resources. An enjoyable read by hitting the first link above.

Fall, Winter or Spring Pruning?

Spring-flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned immediately after they finish blooming. If you prune them later in the growing season or during winter, you'll remove flower buds and decrease the amount of spring bloom.

Summer-blooming trees and shrubs should be pruned in winter while they're dormant, or in early spring just before they push out their new growth.

Fruit-bearing trees and shrubs should be pruned in early spring. The earlier the better. Pruning can be done any time temperatures are above twenty degrees and before spring growth starts

Don't prune any trees or shrubs in the fall! Just cut back your perennials...that will keep you busy!

Here is a link from the extension office at *University of Maryland* that also gives examples of HOW to prune [Pruning Shrubs & Hedges](#)

Although we know to wait until Spring to prune our bigleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla* - i.e. our famous Cape Cod Nikko blue) here's other info from *UMass*: [Hydrangea Pruning for Blooms](#)



Pick a Pumpkin on Cape Cod

In keeping with the spirit of Fall and Halloween, picking out a pumpkin is a fun way to spend an Autumn afternoon.

[Coonamessett Farm](#) in East Falmouth has pumpkins of all sizes. and Coonamessett Farm lets you visit with its animals as well. Additionally, [Bourne Farm](#) celebrates [Pumpkin Day](#), a festival that features hayrides, pony rides, a petting zoo, and more. [Crow Farm](#) in Sandwich offers pick your own apples as well as pumpkins. [Tony Andrews Farm](#) in Falmouth hosts many pick-your-own produce. [The Pumpkin Patch](#) on the front lawn of the Chatham Congregational Church, 650 Main Street is filled with pumpkins, and will be open October 1st - October 31st. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, rain or shine. Fall Festival at [Taylor-Bray Farm](#) in Yarmouth Port Saturday October 7th 11-3

Pumpkins are **native to North America** and have been cultivated for thousands of years by indigenous people for food and medicine.

Photos from our 55th Anniversary Luncheon - September 19, 2023

Photos by Catherine Purcell Gyska & Donna & Jenn Maiocca

Honoring our Past Presidents

Most of these past presidents are still actively involved in our club: Marty Koblish volunteers at Oyster Pond gardens and was able to provide information on the origins of our 'Silver Trowel Award'; Judy Doe is the person who still continues to print all of our name tags; Barb Cotnam has designed or played a major role in designing many of our town gardens (including Sears Triangle and Oyster Pond) and other gardens in Chatham, and a crew member at Fish Pier gardens; Bette Hahner is our go-to chef for most if not all of our social events and still plays a major part in some of our fundraisers, was the designer of our parade float flowers along with co-leader of Town Hall window boxes/trough; both Marilyn Sink and Liz Scheld are still active members of our Board with Marilyn heading up Ways & Means, Team Leader for two of our Town Gardens, and Liz Scheld works at Oyster Pond gardens, chairs our Conservation Committee with both programs and regular additions to Sproutings and Linda Halvorsen & Harriet Prout work hard in several of our Town Gardens with Linda being the Team Leader for Training Field/Queen Anne Triangle. *Thanks for all you did and still do ladies!*



Front row: Harriet Prout, Marty Koblish, Ruth Lund, Liz Scheld
Back row: Linda Halvorsen, Donna Maiocca, Bette Hahner, Judy Doe, Barb Cotnam,
Marilyn Sink

Some of the kitchen/serving crew and Beth with her nine beautiful centerpieces for our tables.



Our lovely cake with some transit damage! & Bette-designed utensils & napkin place setting



Lynne getting our trees ready for members to take home to decorate:



More pictures from our 55th Anniversary luncheon. Both some new and long-time members are shown with Beth's wonderful centerpieces mixed in between!





Preparations for the luncheon:



Some of our new members that attended our 55th anniversary luncheon:



A 'not-so-pretty' picture from the Fish Pier....we not only weed and water, we also clean up the trash left behind! Claire collected these items below over the Labor Day weekend.

Photos & clean up by Claire Krueger



Looking to our members to contribute an article for future Sproutings! Please consider sharing anything of interest with our members - Gardening, conservation, etc. Please email [Donna](#) .

We are currently seeking someone to interview some of our long-time members for their stories and remembrances of Chatham Garden Club in our earlier days, and then help write an article for a future Sproutings! Please consider this and email [Donna](#) if you are interested in helping to preserve our club's history!



Hydrangea centerpiece at our 55th anniversary luncheon by Catherine Purcell Gryska

"In autumn, don't go to jewelers to see gold; go to the parks!" - Mehmet Murat ildan