

CLIPPINGS



Wareham Garden Club Newsletter

January 2022

President's Corner

Welcome New Year! I'm looking forward to starting seeds, the days are getting longer and spring is just 74 days away. Catalogs are arriving and my milk jugs are ready for me to plant my native seeds that need a long cold period to germinate.

In this issue we have recycling, conservation, hort, garden therapy and program articles. Let's make 2022 a banner year for inspiring gardening, floral design and environmental education and projects.

Barb

Hort Hint

WINTER MULCH

The main idea behind winter mulching is to keep the ground frozen by shielding it from the warmth of the sun. A steady temperature will keep the plants in dormancy and prevent it from triggering new growth during a brief warm spell. Winter mulch will also help conserve whatever water is in the soil.

When the ground repeatedly freezes and thaws, it expands and contracts (called "heaving"). If a plant is sitting in expanding and contracting soil, its roots get loosened, and the plant eventually gets pushed up through the surface of the soil, exposing its crown and roots to freezing temperatures and drying winds.

Once the ground freezes hard - temps at 25 degrees F - usually after Christmas in this neck of the woods - shredded leaves, mulch, straw, pine needles are all good materials to use. Cut boughs of Christmas trees, even snow cover, can function as mulch, and is a great insulator.

Kathleen

Plant of the Month



"I'm particularly fond of my *Bowiea volubilis*, Climbing Onion. The large above ground bulb produces straggly stems in winter. A few short lived leaves and small greenish flowers appear before the stems die down in late spring." So says Dr. D. G.

Hessayan, author of THE HOUSEPLANT EXPERT.

He continues on with "The Sea Onion or Climbing Onion is neither- it is both rare and repulsive. It is grown only as a novelty, so that visitors can express their surprise."

Now that is a harsh statement. It's really a most interesting plant. It is very easy to care for, slight watering twice a month, lean soil draining well, window sill sun is fine.

Its bulb layers can be peeled as you would an onion. If you put this peel in a shallow dish and keep it damp, eventually small bulbs will grow from the edges of the peel.

The long strands coming from the top grow quickly. They will stick to each other, allowing shapes to be created along forms such as bonsai.

Anyone interested in one?

Joyce

Program

Happy New Year!

On January 13th Wareham Garden Club members will learn more about a critically important topic for all. Blake Dinius, from Plymouth County Extension Service will lead us to a better understanding of bees.



Here is a preview of his presentation:

There's a lot of "buzz" about bees these days. Protect our pollinators! Save the bees! Avoid "spicy bees!" It's no question: Bees are critical to the life we are familiar with today. But, it's important to stop and think about what we're all fighting for. What exactly defines a "bee?" How is it different from any other animal?

Massachusetts is home to at least 365 species of native bees. Each of these has unique requirements, behaviors, and seasonality.

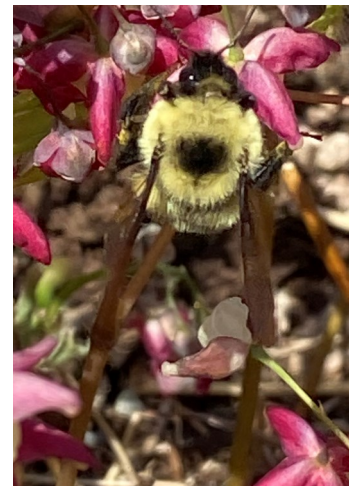
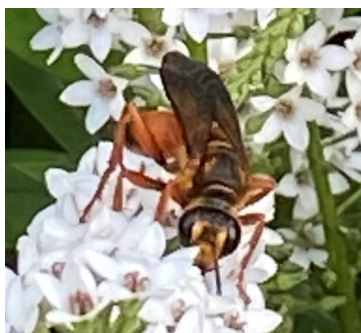
If we truly want to help bees, we need to think about the biology of bees. What plants should we grow to best suit any dietary restrictions? How should we treat our gardens and yards to provide suitable homes? What habits do we have today that might be negatively impacting their populations (even if inadvertent)?

Bees need our help now more than ever. But, with the right knowledge, we can make a difference.

Together, we will review the following:

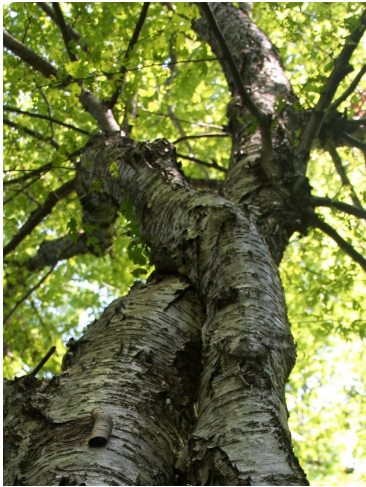
- Differences between our native bees and honey bees (which come from Europe)
- Unique challenges bees face
- Gardening tips to help support our bees
- Can we modify those trends to accommodate for our native bees?
- Is there anything else we can do beyond gardening to help our native species?

Diane Cook, Program Chair



Self-Grafting Trees

Here's an interesting article from the Native Plant Trust courtesy of Mike Bower:



When two individual trees growing in close proximity begin to rub against one another, the bark can erode exposing each tree's cambium. If their cambium comes into direct contact, they can self-graft and become conjoined or fused. This

process is called inosculation. Or, two trees might be intertwined with one another and not actually grafted to one another but retain a very close relationship. In that case, they're called "hugging trees."

Thanks, Mike!

Recycle at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library!

You can now bring in your unwanted computer cables, power cords, extension cords, USB cables, telephone cords, and cable wires for recycling to our Power Strip and Cords waste box.



Also, your empty inkjet and toner cartridges can go for recycling in our other Zero Waste Box.

You bring the waste and TerraCycle will ensure it gets recycled responsibly!

Recycling News

Happy New Year to all. To start the new year it is all about paper!

As I wrapped those gifts for the holidays I was prepared to separate all of the used paper and get it straight into the appropriate recycling bin. Come to find out most wrapping paper is NOT RECYCLABLE as it is coated with various chemicals or "sparklies" or some other fancy stuff. I did notice, however, that some wrapping paper was labeled 100% recyclable and I had never noticed that before.

As far as tissue paper is concerned, that is also non recyclable because it has already been recycled.

This is the bit of news that really caught me off guard. At the Wareham Recycle Center we always take shredded paper in our "paper bin". Recently we were "reprimanded" and asked to no longer accept shredded paper. We learned that "shredded paper is dreaded paper". It seems our bin had a leak; the paper got wet and froze; and the workers at Zero Waste had to take a sledge hammer or two to the load to try to break it apart. Once shredded and exposed to any moisture shredded paper turns to pulp or else it ends up floating around like confetti as it goes through the machinery.

From now on, please take your shredded paper to a shredding facility or wait for a shredding event in your area.

We are hoping to find a way to sponsor one of these events at our Center.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. And please remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Jennifer Gady

Garden Therapy - January

Garden therapy will be held on Friday January 14th at 10:30- 11:30 at the Wareham Senior Center downstairs in the gym. The leaders are Kathleen Coyle and Barbara Smith; their helpers are: Chris Heywosz, Maria Carvalho, and Chris Michaud. We look forward to a fun project that is planned by Kathleen and Barbara.



A big thank you to Chris Damiano and Diane Cook and their helpers: Donna Greenwood, Ellie Eldridge, Elaine Johnson, and Barbara Smith for a floral design done in Christmas mugs on December 10th. The project was warmly received by the big smiles on everyone's faces!

Pam

On Another Note

Does anyone have any felting wool that you are not planning to use? I will take it off your hands for a project I have in mind for a workshop.

How about small spray bottles 1/4 or 1/8 cup size?

Please text (802 999-6338) or email me. dc-cook@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Diane Cook

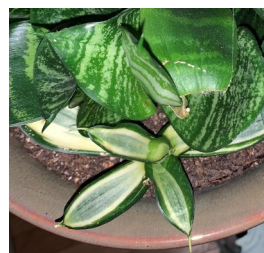
Sports

I'm not talking about football. A sport is a spontaneous genetic mutation of a plant. It could be a leaf, flower or branch. Often this is where cultivated varieties of plants arise.

Sometimes sports lead to new types of plants. Some of our tastiest apples come from trees that grew as a sport, which was then cultivated.

Sports can revert back to the original plant. You will notice this in weeping trees such as cherry trees. There will be a branch or branches that suddenly begin to grow vertically and not 'weep'. These branches can be quite vigorous, growing out of proportion to the plant.

This is often because the sport is genetically weaker than the original. This is referred to as reverting. If you want to keep the weeping tendency just remove the vertical branches back to the trunk.



Sansevierias, mother in law tongue plants, sport easily. It is not uncommon to see a leaf growing with different colors or leaf patterns.

If you have a plant that produces a favorable sport you can keep it. Just separate it from the mother plant and grow as you normally would.

Sports are different from plant viruses and witches brooms. More on that another time.

Joyce