



# Sproutings

## Chatham Garden Club

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

October, 2022

*Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade. –  
Rudyard Kipling*

### What's Happening in October?

Oct 1st: **October First Celebration** - Social Event: 5-7 pm at Mason's Lodge, see below

Oct. 11: **GCG Board Meeting** 1:00 Community Center - small conference room

Oct. 18: **General Meeting**: 12:30/1:00 Speaker: Cheri Bryan, Master Gardener [Use Less Water](#). See more information in our handbook for October 18th program or on our website: [Chatham Garden Club - Home](#)

Oct. 22nd: **Oktoberfest in Chatham**: Kate Gould Park: [Oktoberfest in Chatham](#)

Oct 24th- 31st **Pumpkin People in the Park** - Kate Gould Park - [Hit link above](#)

[October First Celebration](#) - Social Event: Saturday, October 1st, 5-7 o'clock at Mason's Lodge, 52 Old Harbor Road. Cost \$25.00 per person with all members and member friends invited. German beer & wine, bratwurst, pork loin, cabbage salads, german desserts. Accordion player to get you into the German celebration mode, raffles. Send your check for \$25 per person payable to Chatham Garden Club & mail to our PO Box 392, Chatham 02633.

[We encourage you all to go to our website often](#) - Catherine Gryska has now taken it over from Beth Taylor. All of our programs, applications, Sproutings, resources, etc. are contained in it! Sproutings takes time to upload. **Link:** [Chatham Garden Club - Home](#) AND Katherine Touafek is always posting pictures on our facebook and instagram accounts! Check our social media often! Thanks to Beth & our new Publicity co-chairs!

## Sears Park Renovation - Two Years in the making

By Amanda Davis

But first, a little history.



In the mid 1800's, the land, which is now Sears Park Garden, located in the triangle at the intersection of Main and Seaview Street, was given to the town by Richard Sears. Taken from the minutes of the town meeting in 1867: "[the town] Voted to erect a monument in the memory of our soldiers who fell in the late Rebellion for \$1,500." The town erected a Civil War monument "in front of the high school house" and was later relocated to Sears Park. The marble obelisk is inscribed with "in memory of those that fell in the Rebellion of 1861 to 1865". One side lists seven names of war heroes, and another side lists the names, ages and details about the wounding and death of six local veterans who died during the Civil War. One such loss was Nathaniel Eldredge who was the Great-Great-Great Uncle by seven generations to Jennifer Eldredge Stello. By 1942 a garden was created to better define the park perimeter. Presumably, the garden was overseen by the Town.

Enter the Chatham Garden Club.

It is unclear when our Club took responsibility for maintaining town gardens. Perhaps it was from the beginning of our inception in 1968. Never-the-less, our volunteers have spent countless hours and bad backs tending lovingly to all the gardens in our care. Over the years, some properties have been removed from our roster and the 9 that remain are: Atwood House; Chase Park; Coast Guard Lighthouse; Chatham Fish Pier; Oyster Pond and Memorial Gardens; Queen Anne Triangle; Ryder's Cove; Town Hall Window Boxes; and Sears Park.

And now to the renovation.

Those of us who worked in Sears Garden became frustrated with our losing battle with invasives and grasses that had established themselves and would not go quietly. “Wouldn’t it be great if we could rip it all out and start again?” Why not try. In January of 2020, we contacted the then head of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Dan Tobin, to find out if it was at all possible to make it happen. He was on board immediately. Club member, Barbara Cotnam, designed the garden focusing on environmentally sustainable, pollinator friendly and native plants. With plan in hand, next came formal paperwork requesting permission to P&R, appearances before 3 town committees for their approval and finally, the finance committee. All committees enthusiastically endorsed the project and financing of \$24,000 was allocated. We did it! The funding was added to the town warrant but then that pesky Covid threw a wrench in the works – our part of the warrant was delayed a year. Finally, in the spring of 2022 the work began. The Department of Parks and Recreation together with the DPW tore out all the plant material, removed soil and invasives, upgraded the electrical conduit and added a new well and irrigation system.





Taxus was installed first around the perimeter followed by the planting of trees, shrubs, and perennials. A huge shout out to the volunteers who came to help create this new garden that is the centerpiece of our town. The last addition will be two teak benches that will flank the entrance to the park. One was donated by the Garden Club and the other donated by a resident as a memorial.

It took a lot of work and a lot of time, but the result is a magnificent garden we should all be very proud of.

Amanda Davis, Town Garden Coordinator  
Photos by Jen Stello

**Additional photos of Sears Park with our new bench! Go 'rest a while' and see it!**



Installation of bench 9-15-22



Inscription on bench: Chatham Garden Club Summer 2022



First to happily enjoy our new bench:: Jen Stello, Ellen Healy & Donna Walen “Thumbs up” is right Jen!

**Free Soil testing (pH only):** Soil testing is important to aid in diagnosing plant nutritional problems, to save money by applying only nutrients needed, and to provide optimal fertility for plant growth. Soils on Cape Cod tend to be acidic. Most plants thrive when the soil pH is closer to neutral. If you would like a Master Gardener (perhaps one of our own members) to test your soil for pH, please print the two forms from links below and follow instructions. Bring the form with your soil samples to our October meeting. If your soil test results as needing to increase your pH (adding lime), it will take about six months to raise the pH, so your soil would be improved by next Spring when you are ready to plant.

[Soil sample instructions](#)

[Soil Test](#)

**What is soil pH?** pH is the measurement of acidity and alkalinity in soil. pH levels range from 0-14 with 7 being neutral, below 7 is acidic and above 7 alkaline. The optimum pH range for most plants is between 5.5 and 7.0

What does pH stand for? “power of Hydrogen” or sometimes “potential of Hydrogen” (H is capitalized because it is the hydrogen element symbol)

From UMass hit these links: [Adjusting Soil pH](#)

[Fall Soil Amendments](#)

## A BOUNTIFUL harvest at the home of Eileen Yeates!

Below are some pictures from Eileen's raised garden beds. Talk about inspiring!



Please share pictures from any of YOUR gardens - our members would all enjoy seeing them!

**Mentor Program:** We are looking for more Mentors to assign to our new members. If you would like more information or can offer your time to help our new members feel welcome, please contact either [Mary Ellen Sobol](#) or [Kit Curtis](#).

**Conservation: The Power of Darkness for Wildlife** by Liz Scheld

We've heard about the Dark Sky. In May, I visited Saguaro National Park and joined a small group led by a Ranger who guided us on a night tour of the desert, complete with bats and scorpions. The Dark Sky is so important for the daily rhythms of animals, especially for nocturnal creatures. Yet the Earth's Dark Sky is diminishing, mainly because of the artificial lighting used by humans. And Light pollution has a huge impact.

Science writer Ed Yong authored "Our Blinding, Blaring World" in *The Atlantic*, along with *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us*. Yong reports how human behavior confuses the animals' senses and harms their wellbeing. Artificial Light at Night (**ALAN**) can affect the very survival of many animals. Many creatures thrive in Darkness, depending on specific sensory cues: the bat guided by echolocation; mosquitos attracted by the smell of CO<sub>2</sub> from human breath; or an owl that finds prey by its 'radar-dish' facial hair, focusing sound to its ears. But man-made light fools and exhausts insects, such as moths that swarm around street lights. ALAN confounds birds' flights and migration patterns. Take the annual *Tribute of Light* on September 11<sup>th</sup> in NYC. Though a tradition of honor and solace, this event attracts and confuses large groups of songbirds migrating in autumn. Once made aware, authorities manage this harm, intermittently turning off the blue lights from dusk to dawn. An ongoing large-scale problem is light pollution from cars, airports, and residential and commercial areas. Today society sees Light as both convenient and necessary. Two-thirds of the world's human population now live in Light-polluted areas. [Read this.](#)

To further complicate the problem, humans are likely unaware of the sensory needs of other organisms. Mankind depends on 5 main senses and tends to apply this narrow viewpoint to all creatures, with no perspective taking. Scientist Baltic German zoologist Jakob Johann von Uexkull recognized more; he coined the term **Umwelt**, defined as the "the world as it is experienced by a particular organism." **Umwelten** (plural form) are the ways animals 'see,' understand, and react to sensory cues within their environment. Every animal has a unique "sensory bubble," and this enables its health and survival.

Fortunately, there's become an increase in awareness and actions. Sensory scientists are researching the impact of Light pollution and applying innovations to help sustain wildlife. Biologists use radio tags to track bats' movements and better understand their sensory needs. At Teton National Park, experts experiment with different light colors, e.g. substituting white lights with red lights which are less attractive and less disruptive to animals' behavior. Most people recognize the living earth's interconnectedness. Our responsibility is to grasp the Umwelten of the animals in our ecosystem and take action to reverse our shrinking Dark Sky & expanding Light Pollution. [Read more.](#)

*"To perceive the world through others' senses is to find splendor in familiarity and the sacred in the mundane."* -Ed Yong

Can you guess who these members are in their “younger” years?



Email me your guesses. Answers will appear in November Sproutings or ask me at the October meeting!

**Do you have any pictures to share from when you were younger? Email me!**

**Some of our new Town Garden Signs!**



Annie Holton at Queen Anne & Training Field Triangle (photo by Linda Halvorsen)



Fish Pier crew: Gay Murdoch, Sara Waters, Pat O'Reilly with Ollie, Deb Tepper (new crew member), Midge Nash, Barb Cotnam & George Cooper - a few days later, our sign installed

Hit this link for more info on: [Transplanting Hydrangeas](#)  
The author, Lorraine Ballato is our April 2023 speaker!

It's Garlic Planting month! October is best month on Cape Cod. Hit links below:  
[Which Garlic to Choose? \(botanicalinterests.com\)](#)  
[WHEN TO PLANT GARLIC - PLANTING GUIDE 2022 - Northern Nester](#)

From Garden Gate Magazine, [open link below](#):

### [Six Fall Perennials Butterflies Love](#)



Tip: Help pollinators by planting "daisy-shaped" mums this fall.

Leave your Coneflowers (Echinacea) and black-eyed susans (Rudbeckia) seed heads through the winter to help feed birds, especially finches, and to promote re-seeding. Cut back in early spring.



Echinacea and Rudbeckia fall under the Asteraceae family-both native to US



### [Holiday Luncheon Invitation](#)

A flyer will also be emailed to you sometime in October

**If you have changed your email, address or phone number**, please email Jacquie with any of these changes: [jacquie.crimins@gmail.com](mailto:jacquie.crimins@gmail.com). These will be posted in an upcoming Sproutings so everyone can update their handbooks.

**Rain Barrels with partial proceeds to go to APCC - go to link below**  
[Association to Preserve Cape Cod - Upcycle Products Inc. \(upcycle-products.com\)](http://Association to Preserve Cape Cod - Upcycle Products Inc. (upcycle-products.com))



How lucky are we all to live in a place with a view like this?  
Fish Pier Sept 2022 - Photo by Jen Stello