



Sproutings

Chatham Garden Club

chathamgardenclub.org | facebook.com/chathamgardenclub

April 2023

"Easter is the only time of year you can put all your eggs in one basket"- author unknown

What's Happening in April?

All links are underlined in blue

April 1st: Lower Cape Home & Garden Show CC Regional Tech, Harwich 10-4

April 1st: Chatham Recycles Books & Media Swap - Town Hall Annex/Lower Level

April 5th: Passover Begins Ends: April 13th

April 8th, 15th & 30th: Free events & webinars on these dates (you need to register) from [Chatham Conservation Foundation](#) Scroll down on their website to see other free webinars in April, including a new Book Club forming on April 3rd see above link

April 9th: Easter Greek Easter: April 16th

April 11th: CGC Board Meeting: 1:00 Community Center - small conference room

April 11th Gardening Ergonomics Link: [Eldredge Library Programs](#) (Pre-registration required) Other virtual presentations - see link above

April 18th: CGC General Meeting: 12:30/1:00 Program: Shady Characters by Lorraine Ballato - for more information on Lorraine's program, go to our handbook under the April 18th meeting or visit our [website](#), Look under the Program & Sproutings tab and scroll down to April

April 22nd: Earth Day

April 27th: 10:00 am Movie at Orpheum Note: The date/movie is tentative. Stay tuned!

April 28th: Arbor Day

PARIS SPRING SOIRÉE: May 5th at Madonna Hitchcock's. \$25.00 pp including food and beverages. Members & guests invited. Please email Marilyn if you can help with this fun event! More info to follow. Email link: [Marilyn Sink](#). Watch your emails for an invitation!

Please be sure to scroll to the bottom of Sproutings for the contact person for committees who can use your help, and support Chatham Garden Club!

Some Exciting news from our Publicity Committee! Next time you go to the movies at our Orpheum theater, watch for the ads they run prior to the movie - you will see this one below soon! The ads will vary with our events. Thanks to Catherine Gryska for making this happen!



From Linda Halvorsen & Harriet Prout, our co-First Vice Presidents:

"We wish to thank our members who participated on the Program Committee to decide the Garden Club's programs for 2023-2024. Our brainstorming produced lots of ideas for the present and into the future. We appreciate you taking time out of your day to make this coming year both interesting and informative."

Congratulations to our newest Master Gardeners!!!
Class of 2023



Photo by Beth Taylor

Catherine Purcell Gryska & Nancy Boughton

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS *by Barb Cotnam*

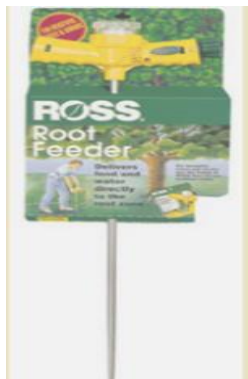
Late last fall when cleaning up garden tools an old container of *Soil Moist* turned up. The label said that it lowers watering of plants by one half and lasts between three to five years in the soil. Conserving water is good since periods of drought and watering restrictions in Chatham are becoming the norm. In the March *Sproutings* Article we were reminded that Cape Cod has a Sole Source Aquifer. Chatham draws water from the Monomoy Lens, the second largest of six lenses across the Cape. The aquifer is replenished by rain & snow only and six towns draw from the Monomoy Lens; Chatham, Harwich, Dennis, Orleans, Brewster and a section of Yarmouth. As gardeners we are guardians of our soil and aquifer. Before using a product we first ask, would this product harm the soil or aquifer in any way? Research showed that *Soil Moist* is made by the JRM Chemical Company. A representative told me that *Soil Moist* contains dry granules of a polymer gel and when water is added to the dry granules they absorb it and expand like a sponge. The mixture becomes a slurry and when a measured amount is poured into the bottom of a planting hole where the plant's roots will grow, moisture is released over an extended period of time (3 to 5 years) keeping the root area moist and helping the plant form a healthy root system. This sounds good but the product is made up of a cross linked synthetic acrylic polyacrylamide with a potassium salt base. A slurry breaks down in 3 to 5 years to water, ammonia, and carbon dioxide. The JRM Chemical Corporation's Safety Data Sheet under Ecological Information states: "Not readily biodegradable." The jury is still out about its use on Cape Cod where we are especially careful about introducing anything that could be harmful in the soil that eventually will reach the aquifer.

I recommend using ample amounts of compost that will decompose and enrich the soil. An easy free compost 'recipe' is to collect leaves using a mulching mower, pile them up in a shady part of your yard. Turn them over after a rain occasionally, and in several years the composted leaves can be added to the soil when planting or used to mulch garden beds. Store bought mulch with a fine grain organic (non-colored) pine bark & spruce combination around trees and shrubs is a big help conserving water. Do not place mulch up to the trunk of a tree, leave at least three to six inches open. Another tip, take advantage of downspouts and plant a pollinator garden near the runoff. Or install a rain barrel to collect the water.

Consider the use of a Ross Root Feeder, it waters roots only. See picture below. A hose is attached to the yellow top right side of the tool and the green up/down toggle control allows the on/off amount of water flow. I do not recommend fertilizer pellets placed in the clear center top area, unless a new tree or shrub is just getting its roots in the first three years. Using the tool in early spring, when the plant is using energy stored in its roots to grow new leaves, is good unless there has been an inch of rainfall during the week. Use also during periods of drought late summer and fall. The Ross tool is good for watering small perennials and annuals. Early morning or late afternoon is the best

time to water. The water pressure or start/stop toggle on the tool is handy to control timing the water.

Downsizing the size of your lawn is highly recommended. In place of lawn, plant native trees, shrubs and perennials. They require no watering or fertilizer once established. Hit this link: [Grow Native Massachusetts](#) and you will find a wealth of information on how to save on water, while maintaining your native plants. Scroll down to *Native Landscape Plans* or *Natives for Communities*. Think Spring and Happy Gardening, Barbara Cotnam



Raised Bed Gardening Tip from CL Fornari: Now is a good time to add compost or composted manure to top off your raised bed and then more loam on top (she actually recommended March - but April is fine too!).



[Chatham Recycles](#) Visit this link (to the left) to see what you can recycle and learn more about the recycling efforts here in Chatham.



CONSERVATION NEWS

From Liz Scheld

You've heard of
Frederick Law Olmsted's
"Emerald Necklace"
in Boston...

But do you know about
Boston's

Emerald Tutu?

Learn more on these sites!

[Northeastern Professor helps develop Emerald Tutu](#)

[One idea to reduce coastal flooding in Boston: create an artificial wetland](#)

[The "Emerald Tutu" wins MIT ESI grant](#)

April 26th will mark the 201st birthday of a famous landscape architect,
Frederick Law Olmsted: We have certainly all heard his name when certain parks are mentioned!

"Frederick Law Olmsted was an innovator, author, public official, city planner and 'Father of Landscape Architecture' whose remarkable designs have literally transformed the American landscape".

It is said that the very first full-time landscape architecture firm was Mr. Olmsted's in Brookline Mass. He played a role in designing over 1200 gardens in Massachusetts alone!

Can you name at least 3 of Olmsted's famous gardens?

[Answer to some famous parks by Olmsted](#)

Update on our Small Business Grant Recipient: Devon Wolfendon and her company [Devon Rose Design](#). Part of the grant she was awarded by our Club went towards the development of her website (see link above) and in her ability to invest in herself and promote her business, and more specifically in addition to helping Devon launch her website, she put some of our funds towards essential gardening tools.

Devon feels “the best way to support my work is to spread the word about her company in garden design and installation, conventional flower farming and floral subscriptions and to keep gardens and flowers relevant in our everyday lives.” Devon will also be growing and selling flowers wholesale and to the general public through a season subscription out of Harwichport. *Update from Marilyn Sink*

We hope you agree that our first Small Business Grant went to a deserving recipient!

Do You Know of a Small Business Eligible for our Business Grant?

Help us extend our good will! As you may know, our club is accepting applications for our Small Business Grant, now through May 15th. This grant is for \$2,000.00 and will be awarded to a small Cape Cod business whose purpose is consistent with the Chatham Garden Club’s mission statement -- "to foster the love of gardening and floral design, to actively advance environmental responsibility, to oversee the beautification and preservation of Chatham’s designated town gardens, and to provide for the educational and entrepreneurial pursuits by those committed to the environment.”

To qualify for the grant, each business needs to be in existence for six years or less and have ten employees or less. For more information and the application, go to our website:

<https://www.chathamgardenclub.org/small-business-grant-1/>



Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod (BFBL)

Many of you may receive the monthly newsletter from BFBL - if not, see what our local people are offering by hitting their link below! BFBL is also on Instagram and Facebook.

[Buy Fresh - Buy Local Cape Cod](#) (link will open to gmail - hit it again)

[Sign up for BFBL newsletters via CCC Extension](#)

To honor Arbor Day below are **Six Gifts of Trees** from the December 2022 issue of *Nature Conservancy Magazine* and Beth Taylor:

“Trees have tremendous gifts to share, including the ability to make all our lives better and healthier.

What gifts do trees provide and how does our planet benefit?”

1. **Climate resilience.** Trees’ food-making process involves absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it. This helps remove greenhouse gasses that cause climate change.
2. **Clean air.** Trees are good for our health. They produce oxygen for us to breathe, and remove harmful pollution/pollutants from the air.
3. **A boost to your health.** Time in nature - like a walk among the trees in a city park - correlates with a drop in anxiety and depression. Trees help both our mental and physical well-being.
4. **Clean water.** Trees filter water, making your drinking supply cleaner and more reliable. Trees store and filter more than half of the U.S. water supply.
5. **A home for wildlife we love.** Forests create habitat at ground level, the top of their canopies, and everywhere in between. All these habitats in a single area allow many diverse species to thrive.
6. **Cooler temperatures.** Temps are rising and heat waves are getting longer. A neighborhood tree’s shade acts like a natural AC and can even help keep down the energy costs of our actual AC systems.



Think Spring! Pansies are one of the first plants we see in our local nurseries this time of year. Learn more about their care on the link below. You can put them in salads too! [Violas \(aka Violets\)](#) from *The National Gardening Association's Learning Library*

To celebrate both **Earth Day** and **Arbor Day**, both happening this month:
Plant some trees and shrubs!

[Great Evergreen shrubs](#) *from Garden Design*

Note: these are just pictures & info from Garden Design magazine - please ignore "Buy Now"

[13 Trees Native to Massachusetts](#) **OR** [Native trees of Massachusetts](#)

[Enchanted Gardens blog](#) - *Featuring the Japanese Umbrella Pine Tree*

SOMETHIN' TO TALK ABOUT

Occasionally we will post gardening/environmental articles of interest appearing from local news sources or publications. No opinions given or requested - just "Somethin' to talk about".

Dicamba - A herbicide used to mostly kill broadleaf weeds and woody plants. Read on.....
I recently read an article from National Audubon Society and the 'lead-in" on their email promoting a webinar on March 8th was "[Why the weed killer Dicamba is a Problem for Wildlife](#)". So that piqued my interest (!), and I put on my Master Gardener hat and did some more research.(see link below for full article). Apparently dicamba is found in over 1100 products sold in the US (this from NPIC). I also did some research on our own UMassag website, and although they do have articles on dicamba, from what I read, unlike products that contain neonicotinoids, it doesn't seem to be mentioned as an issue yet in Massachusetts and I couldn't find anything on the Mass EPA website. I have read conflicting reports that the EPA is still undergoing review to re-evaluate the use of dicamba, and then another article from AgWeb states its use was approved by the EPA in 2022! If I find out more information on dicamba, I will share it with all of you. I could not find a list of specific home use products that contain dicamba, but In the meantime,try to go organic for any herbicide or insecticide.

[Weedkiller Dicamba](#) *from audubon.org*

[General Fact Sheet on Dicamba from NPIC](#) *npic.orst.edu is the website for National Pesticide Information Center*

[From USRTK on Dicamba](#) *usrtk.org is the website for United States Right To Know*

*PS: I did find an "organic" product from Bonide called "Deadweed Brew" from Captain Jack's - and I really like Captain Jack's Deadbug (with spinosad), so I may try their Deadweed Brew for my weeds this year! [Active ingredients in Capt. Jack's Deadweed Brew](#). **Note:** Although organic, neither of these products should be used around foraging or active bees - early morning or evenings are recommended when applying.*

Look for a future article from Beth Taylor - probably in a fall Sproutings edition on PFA's - the "forever chemicals".

Pictures from our March 21, 2023 General Meeting

From Mary Ellen's Horticulture Table:



Plant of the month: Hellebore - Bette & Mary Ellen at the Hort table - Linda Smith admiring the Hort table



One of Becky Crocker's containers



This charming centerpiece was artfully created by Amanda Davis

Contact person of Committees: *Email links are underlined in blue*

None of our events are possible without member support. Please email any of the following if you can help with their needs! Fun is included in any of these events!

Spring Soiree: May 5th - To sign up to attend or help out: [Marilyn Sink](#)

Fourth of July Parade: To help make flowers, walk in the parade: [Katherine Touafek](#)

Hydrangea Festival: July 14th: Docents needed Email: [Cece Motz](#)

Beautification Awards: Help choose a local homeowner's garden for "curb appeal"
[Madonna Hitchcock](#)

Festival of Trees: December 2nd - Atwood House Email: [Lynne Payne](#) , [Ellen Healy](#)
or [Bette Hahner](#)

Mentors: To help welcome our new members: [Mary Ellen Sobol](#) or [Kit Curtis](#)

Horticulture Table: Help with horticulture-related displays at one of our general meetings: [Mary Ellen Sobol](#)

Membership Renewal: We need to update our files, so please go to this link: [Membership Renewal Form](#), complete and return with your check for \$35.00.
Due: June 1st. Send to Chatham Garden Club, PO Box 392, Chatham, MA 02633 or bring to the next meeting. Please note: Changes to the Renewal application are pending and will be posted soon - Renewal dues are due on June 1st (not June 30th).
Thank you!