



# *Garden Club of Buzzards Bay*

## *From the Ground Up*

November 2022

### **Presidents Message**

Dear All,

Hello November!

We have carved our pumpkins, cleaned up our gardens (hopefully), planted our spring bulbs, pulled out our cozy socks and sweaters, and finished up the last of the Halloween candy! It is a holiday month but instead of the rush of Christmas, we get to spend time with family and friends to celebrate our Thanksgiving traditions.

Are you planning to trim your evergreens and Holly bushes this Fall? Please consider saving your clippings and delivering them to the greenhouse (outside the Coach House door), so that our dedicated team of volunteers can sort and price them for our Winter greens sale. It will be held on December 2nd and 3rd this year. More information will follow on this event, but please consider helping our Elves, Linda Cornell, Tina Read and Sue Daylor work their magic!

The greenhouse opened on October 18th. We are off and running for another great year of beautiful plants! Thank you to Anna and her team. A special thank you to Fran Levin and her hostesses for hosting our October meeting. It was wonderful to see everyone. The November meeting will be held at the Mattapoisett Library at 10:30 AM on Thursday the 17th. The speaker will be Heather McCargo and she will discuss the wild seed project.

The RJD will be doing some masonry work which will require us to only use certain doors to the greenhouse during the weeks of 10/31-11/11 and 11/14-11/23. Please refer to my "Information!" email sent on 10/24 for more details.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. Take a moment to reflect on all that makes you grateful. I am grateful for all of you and all the good work you do which makes my job easier. Enjoy this month to the fullest!

All the best,

*Sandy*

Photo: Nan Sinton

Close up of "oranges" -- Growing in Nan's sheltered courtyard garden is the hardy orange tree *Poncirus trifoliata* 'Flying Dragon'. The oranges are not edible - they are packed with seeds



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### Layers of color in Nan's Garden



Photo: Nan Sinton

### October Full Moon in Westport



Photo: Sue Daylor

## Committee News

### **Greenhouse**

Submitted by Anna Surma

The Greenhouse is open, and the committee has started the propagation project by cuttings. So far, we have fuchsia, rosemary, scented geraniums, coleus, and few unusual species including the hairy ball plant also known as *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*. The bench is not yet full, so we encourage everyone to contribute more cuttings. Also, we need the volunteers to sign up on the calendar for the daily check in on our cuttings.



The cutting bench with room for more cuttings!

Hairy ball plant  
(*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*)



## **Winter Greens Market**

Submitted by Tina Read, Sue Daylor and Linda Cornell

The holidays are in the air...can't you just smell those fragrant greens?? See the faint flicker of candles in the windows and hear music in the air? All signs that, *like it or not*, they are fast approaching.



The Greens Market co-chairs met and have come up with a plan to share with all our members. Since we already have a captive audience each Tuesday for “Greenhouse duty” we are asking volunteers to stay after for an hour or so to begin working on the offerings. This work started last week, on October 25th, but will continue November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Doing so gets all the non-perishables out of the way. Bagging and tagging, gluing, and pricing...the easy stuff!

If you are not on greenhouse duty and want to help, we are using 10:00 as our target time to start.

We are asking for lots of donated **greens** this year so please get out into your yards the week of Thanksgiving and start clipping and pruning. If you need help, please contact one of the co-chairs or enlist a friend. Please bring your trimmings to the Coach House on November 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. Leave them bagged outside of the Coach House door (but within the RJD gates). On Monday the 28th we start creating with fresh greens. Wreaths, swags, table arrangements, boxwood and mixed-green trees, candle rings, kissing balls as well as whatever else you decide is sale worthy. The last week before the sale (Monday through Thursday) is *all hands on deck*. We hope this announcement is early enough for you to clear your schedules... We need YOU to make this successful!

Please note the updated date for the Winter Greens Market: **Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 - 2:00 (not Friday and Saturday as previously announced).** Setup will be Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need to enlist volunteers to help with set up on Friday and help with the sale on Saturday. More information to follow.

Get those creative juices flowing and we will see you on Tuesdays after greenhouse. A ring-a-ding-ding...

Excellent ‘How To’ from Fine Gardening Magazine: [How to Prune Hollies](#)

## **Grants Committee**

Submitted by Gig Lang

On Monday, October 24, 2022, the committee sent out the notice of the GCBB 2023 Grant cycle. The recipients of last year's grants are:

**Buttonwood Park Zoo** - Planting and expanding patio.

**Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary at Great Neck**, Wareham, MA - Ongoing project to re-wild the footprint on campus.

**Our Sisters' School** - Key plantings, maintenance and harvesting tools.

**YMCA SouthCoast Sharing the Harvest Community Farm** - Support ongoing transition to no till and regenerative farming practices.

**Y.O.U. Youth Opportunities Unlimited** - Tools and supplies for 2022 growing season

Grant money:

The total amount for 2022 was **\$2,000** and the total amount for 2023 is **\$3,000** (a nice increase from 2022 to 2023!)

The current list of organizations to notify is 11. An email is sent to each of the following organizations: Our Sisters' School, New Bedford Historical Society, Buttonwood Park Zoological Society, Mass Audubon Society, Sharing The Harvest Community Farm YMCA, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Lloyd Center for the Environment, Global Learning Charter School, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and the Garden Club of New Bedford.

If any Club Member has a name of an additional organization, please contact Gig Lang.

The Committee will meet when all the applications have been returned. Applications are due November 30, 2022.



**Request for used garden tools:** Some of our regular grantees have expressed a need for garden tools. If any GCBB members would like to donate used garden tools, please clean the tools you would like to donate and drop them off at the following places: Greenhouse, GCBB monthly meetings, or Gig Lang will pick up.

Grant Season is always an interesting and fun time. Supporting new initiatives and continuing support for existing grantees is very rewarding. Thank you all.

## Features

### Why We Should All Be Chasing Acorns

N.Y. Times Oct. 17, 2022

By Margaret Renkl



Photo: Kristine Potter for The New York Times

NASHVILLE — Here is the sound in our family room on a windy day in October: *BAM-bam-bam-bam-bam-bam-bam-bam*. All the windy day long, it's *BAM-bam-bam-bam-bam-bam-bam-bam*. When the barrage began a couple of weeks ago, our dog thought we were under attack. He ran between the storm door and the window, back and forth, back and forth, looking for intruders and barking his head off.

What he's hearing are acorns dropping from the white oak tree on the other side of our house. The acorns hit the roof, bounce down the slope, crash into the metal gutter and then drop to the deck. I race outside as soon as I hear one hit, trying to beat the squirrels and the chipmunks to the oak tree's bounty. It's unseemly for a grown woman to be racing chipmunks for chipmunk food, but I'm collecting acorns for a good reason.

As Douglas W. Tallamy explains in his splendid 2021 book, [“The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees,”](#) oaks are keystone plants, the central life form upon which so many other species in the ecosystem depend. Hundreds of insects and caterpillars feed on oak leaves, and those insects in turn feed birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and even other insects. In fall and winter, acorns feed many of them all over again. Because so many predators eat the creatures that eat the

acorns, a good year for oaks is a good year for everybody. “No other tree genus supports so much life,” Dr. Tallamy notes.

It probably goes without saying that oaks are commercially valuable, too, used in making everything from furniture and flooring to cabinets and whiskey barrels. Those utilitarian purposes go a long way toward explaining why the vast oak forests once found in the United States have been destroyed in many places and are too often fragmented where they remain.

We understand the ecological benefits of oak trees, both in sustaining biodiversity and in storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change. We understand how many commercial industries rely on the wood from oaks. But even though we know those things, “older white oak trees are not being replaced by younger white oak trees at a pace that will support long-term sustainability,” [according to the White Oak Initiative](#). The state of white oaks is just one example, but you know things are bad for a species when neither environmental nor business interests are being served by current attitudes and practices.

## A changing climate, a changing world

**Climate change around the world:** In [“Postcards From a World on Fire,”](#) 193 stories from individual countries show how climate change is reshaping reality everywhere, from dying coral reefs in Fiji to disappearing oases in Morocco and far, far beyond.

**The worst climate risks, mapped:** In this feature, [select a country](#), and we'll break down the climate hazards it faces. In [the case of America](#), our maps, developed with experts, show where extreme heat is causing the most deaths.

In my neighborhood, [giant old trees are being lost to development](#) at a prodigious rate. Some of them are cut down to make room for ever-bigger houses. Some are killed inadvertently during the construction of those new homes. Still others are removed out of nothing more than fashion — to “improve” the curb appeal of the house or to be replaced by a less “messy” tree, among other foolish reasons. Oaks, which grow so large and scatter the yard with acorns, are often the first to go when a developer buys a house to tear down.

I took note when the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee’s Institute of Agriculture [asked for help in collecting viable white oak acorns](#) to use in reforestation. But with all the trees lost in my neighborhood during these years of rapid growth, I have a different plan for my acorns.

It's possible to buy young trees from a nursery, of course, but oaks do better when planted from acorns, according to Dr. Tallamy, and now is the time to collect them. Unlike acorns in the red oak group, which germinate in springtime, acorns in the white oak group send out a taproot soon after falling, which makes autumn the ideal time to plant the ones I'm gathering from my tree.



Last fall I tried to start some acorns from a friend's chestnut oak, which also belongs to the white oak group, but the squirrels dug them all up and carried them off. This year I'll plant my acorns in flowerpots and protect them with bricks and hardware cloth. Come spring, I'll hand the seedlings out like Easter eggs. If I can talk my new human neighbors into planting these seedlings in their yards, they'll have shade again someday, and our wild neighbors will have food and shelter, too.

Maybe it seems pointless, all this hope based on nothing more than a couple dozen acorns. Even if they all germinate, even if they survive rabbits and drought long enough to reach acorn-bearing age, how much difference will it make? In the context of rampant deforestation and [massive biodiversity loss](#), will it matter if one small neighborhood in one growing city becomes a safe place for oak trees and the creatures they shelter and feed?

My answer lies in the acorn itself: As the old English proverb goes, mighty oaks from little acorns grow.

But a lot, I admit, depends on what happens next. "We hope that society as a whole can rethink its attitudes. Simple, everyday acts can go a long way," João Vítor Gomes de Oliveira of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil [told the Times Opinion editor Isvett Verde](#). If planting an oak tree is the first small step in rethinking everyday life, it could matter a lot.

We don't even necessarily need to plant the acorns ourselves; a policy of benign neglect toward the yard might be enough. [A single blue jay can collect 3,000 to 5,000 acorns a year](#), gathering them from up to a mile away. The birds often store their prizes by pressing them into disturbed soil. There's a lot of disturbed soil in our little half acre of suburbia, partly owing to [my old friend the mole](#) and partly owing to the holes I leave behind when I pry up the bush honeysuckle and privet and other invasive seedlings that take root here every year. Fortunately for the rest of the backyard creatures, blue jays don't always remember where they stored their acorns.

Already our white oak is no longer alone. One unexpected benefit of [turning our yard into a meadow](#) is that I've discovered a willow oak seedling and three baby shingle oaks growing where my husband once mowed. Both species belong to the red oak group, and we don't have any red oaks at our place.

Someday, if the weather and the rabbits cooperate, I will be collecting red oak acorns, too, to save for spring planting.

In the meantime, don't feel bad that I've swiped a few acorns from my wild neighbors. [There's plenty of natural food in this yard](#): cedar and dogwood drupes; berries like pokeweed, arrowwood and beautyberry; the seeds of redbud and maple and hackberry trees; and zinnias and coneflowers and black-eyed Susans gone to seed. No one here is going hungry. If I have anything to do with it, no one ever will.

*Ms. Renkl is a contributing Opinion writer who covers flora, fauna, politics and culture in the American South.*

## Winter planter ideas to get your creative juices flowing....

<https://www.apieceofrainbow.com/outdoor-planters-christmas-decorations/> and <https://www.houseofhawthornes.com/winter-planter-ideas/>



## Horticultural Highlights

### **Amazing Asters**

Submitted by Nan Sinton



Tall blue flowering *Aster tataricus* is backed with the red stems of *Cornus alba* 'Baton Rouge' and the fall color of *Rhus copallina latifolia* 'Morton' (Prairie Flame shining sumac in Nan's garden.)

### **Beautiful Begonias**

Submitted by Sue Daylor

Begonias going strong out on the deck



### **Cool Cuke**

Submitted by Sandy Hall



Look what I found while cleaning out the tired plants!! A well deserving cucumber that gave me the slip!! I'll have to turn him into something wonderful!!!

### **End of the Season Beauty**

Submitted by Christel Phipps



Dipladenia still enjoying the sunshine

The last bouquet from the garden (Christel Phipps):



**Marvelous Monkshood**  
Submitted by Linda Cornell



## Garden Club of America



Upcoming Virtual Conference:



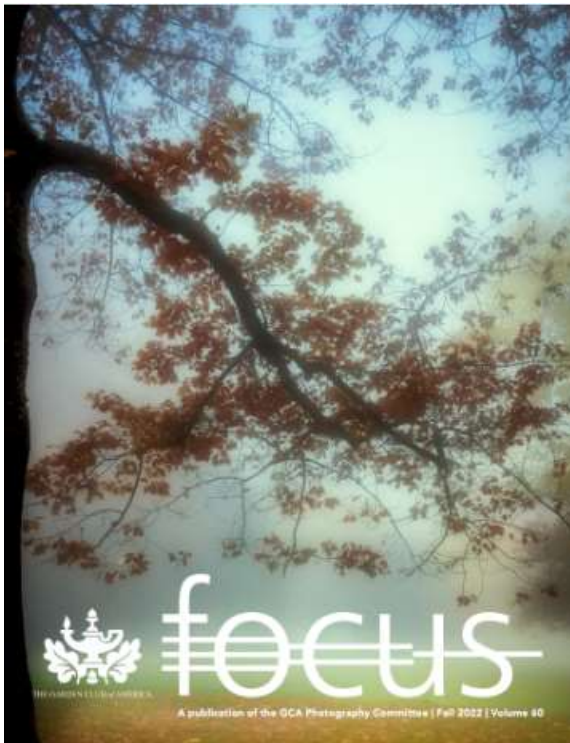
Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 3:00 and 4:00 – 6:00 EST

[Registration](#) is free to all GCA club members.

Note: The last day to register is Sunday, November 6th

“The Garden Club of America invites you to a Conservation Study Conference that will unveil the remarkable bio-cultural management practices used to sustainably support over a million pre-contact native Hawaiians for a thousand years. Join us to learn about conservation practices that are enjoying a renaissance that is being shared globally to improve ecosystem health and increase nature’s abundance not just in Hawaii, but around the world -- our Island Earth.”

Be sure to check out the latest GCA publications online:



## Fall 2022 issue of *Focus*

*Floratopia, Wonders In The Garden, Ways to Inspire Your Club Photographers, Architectural Photography, Editing Tips, Fall Photography, & more!*

Focal POINT(ers): **Tips and Resources** for GCA Photographers on **pages 22-23** offers 7 suggestions on how to capture remarkable photographs, as well as 3 Tips and Tricks.

## Fall 2022 Issue of *By Design*

Flower Show Awards, Ikebana, *Inspirations* Floral Design Conference, Uniting My Two Passions: Ikenobo Ikebana and Photography, Anatomy of a Design, Floral Design Workshop: Wreaths, & More!

**Page 20** shows step by step instructions on how to create a basic upright Sogetsu Ikebana arrangement.

**Page 24** describes the efforts of Smithers-Oasis (the company that invented floral foam) to develop a bio-based foam **NatureBase** as part of their commitment to sustainability.



## **Notebook updates**

Anne has moved but would love to hear from club members. Please consider sending her an email and adding her to your holiday card list:

Anne Almy  
1 Parklands Drive  
Apartment 102  
Darien, CT 06820  
[almyat@aol.com](mailto:almyat@aol.com)

## **Welcome new Provisional Members!**

### **Carla Morey**

I live in Falmouth with my husband, John, dog, Sadie the Berner, and Desi the rescue cat. We have two children, Allie and Jack, both in their late twenties. We are animal lovers, active in our community and looking forward to spending some time adding to our landscaping. Oyster Pond is in our backyard, and we have a front row seat to many types of wildlife, the ospreys eat their fish on a pole in front of our house.

I am a culinary graduate from The Culinary Institute of America. I have worked in restaurants, hotels, and a country club. I have represented wine brands for many years and then stopped working to be more available for my middle school children. I was very involved in all of their school years running fundraisers, leading the parent organizations and cheering from the sidelines.



An invitation to join the Milton Garden Club jump started a passion for floral design. I am a Floral Judge and working toward Horticulture. I was President of Milton Garden Club among other committee leadership positions. I have been the Zone I Director (ZCC), Zone I Program and Communications Rep and currently serve as the Zone I Awards Representative. I am a Floral Associate at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and currently serve as the Floral Design Chair.

Now that my husband has retired, 485 Elm Road in Falmouth is our permanent address. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to become a member of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, I am looking forward to getting to know a new group of friends.

**Photo and more information to follow for:**

**Nancy Kurtz**

70 High Street

South Dartmouth

Home: 508-993-8932

Cell: 774-810-0179

Email: [nwk62@comcast.net](mailto:nwk62@comcast.net)

## **Miles Away**

Photos taken by Nan Sinton on her recent trip to the Italian Lakes and Venice:



On the tour Nan led in September Roses flower in a private garden  
on the Grand Canal in Venice



A view from our private launch to Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore.



Gardens visited on Lake Como and Maggiore included the 17th century garden of Palazzo Borromeo

**Margaret Forbush shares pictures and interesting facts from her recent trip:**

Our trip to Egypt and Jordan in September was notable for the desert environment and the extreme heat – well above 100 degrees on many days. The lack of natural water, and the efforts to manage and conserve it are major concerns of both countries. 99% of Egypt’s 102 million people live in the Nile delta (Cairo and Alexandria); to put it another way, 99% of Egypt’s population lives on 3% of the land. The country is allocating a vast amount of funding toward desert reclamation.



Green spaces, like the gardens in our hotel at Aswan, use precious resources



This is what the gardens of “real people” look like



This dahabeya, took us down the Nile. The dramatic divide between the lush green border of the Nile and the landscape directly behind it is evident here.



Docking for the night consisted of tying a rope to a stake and driving it to the ground.

Jordan faces similar a similar situation with water, although the country is much less densely populated than Egypt. An “Aha” moment occurred when we were overlooking a Crusader era castle



. The serene countryside showed no evidence of life, until we looked right down at our feet.



A tiny little flower was sticking up out of the ground. At first, we thought it was stuck there by someone. However, we found others in the vicinity. I believe it is a crocus colchicum. How it exists there is beyond me, and it was blooming at the end of summer, the dry season.



Elsewhere in the hills of Jordan, conifers and olive trees are found together.

It never ceases to amaze me that regardless of how inhospitable environments may seem to be, there is always some form of plant life that finds a niche and thrives.

Ruth Jolliffe shared these photos from her trip to Jordan:



The Floral Arrangement in the Lobby at Dead Sea Resort:



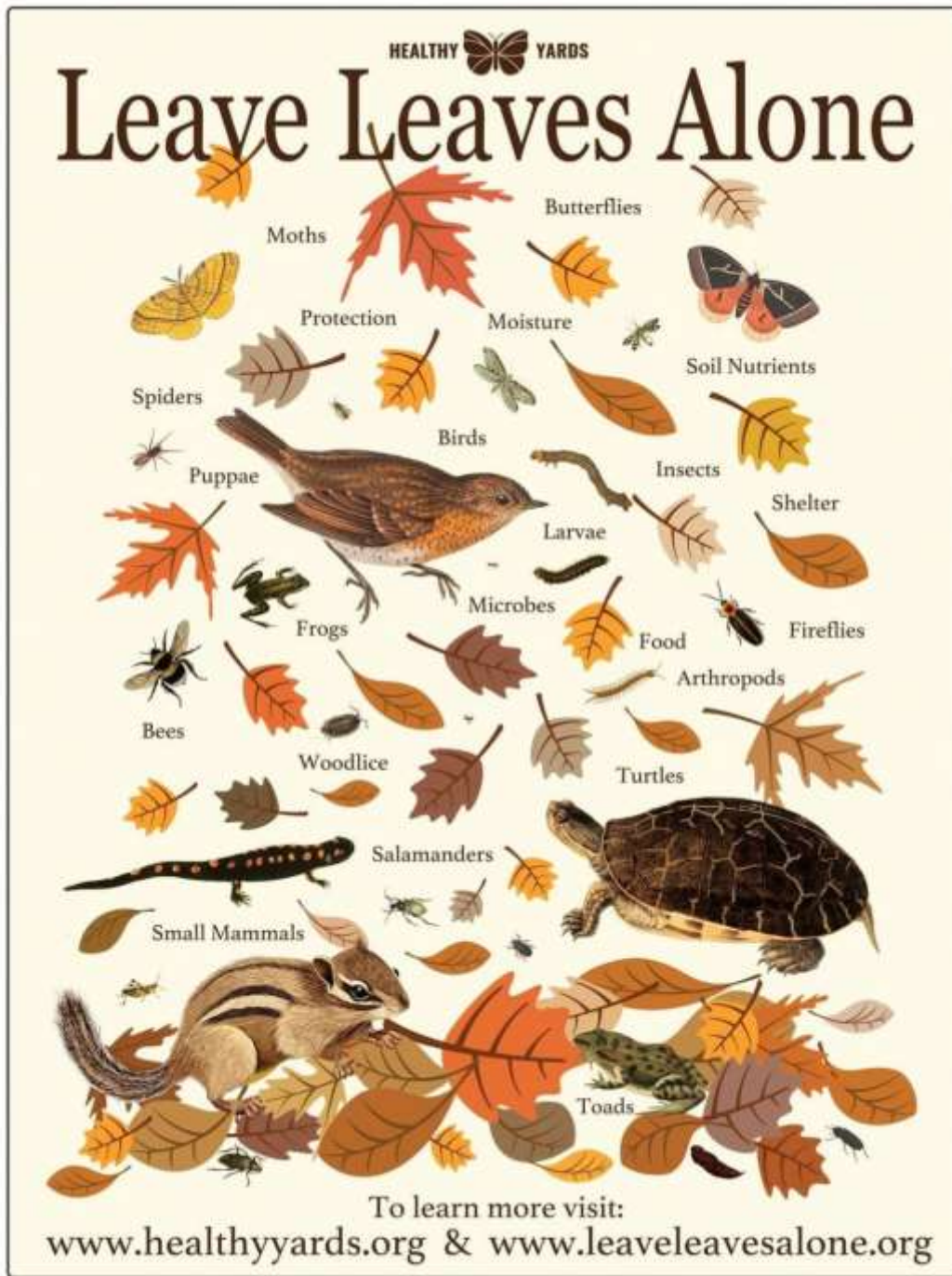
## November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Winter Greens prep 10:30 Archives	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Sandwich Day 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends - Turn your clocks back	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Election Day</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Winter Greens prep 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 Executive Committee Meeting	<b>11 Veterans Day</b> 	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Winter Greens prep	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Monthly Meeting 10:30* Heather McCargo, <a href="#">Wild Seed Project</a>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Winter Greens prep	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Happy Thanksgiving! 	<b>25</b> Clip and prune for Greens donations	<b>26</b> Drop off Greens donations at RJD
<b>27</b> Drop off Greens donations at RJD	<b>28</b> 9:00 Greens Market Workshop	<b>29</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 9:00 Greens Market Workshop	<b>30</b> 9:00 Greens Market Workshop	<b>1</b> 9:00 Greens Market Workshop	<b>2</b> 9:00 Set Up for Winter Greens Market	<b>3</b> 9-2:00 Winter Greens Market

\*Monthly Meeting location: Mattapoissett Public Library  
 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoissett

**11/1 – 11/22 - Tuesdays after Greenhouse - Winter Greens workshop prep**

*Until next time...*



<https://www.healthyyards.org/>  
<https://www.leaveleavesalone.org/>