



Club Flower
Plymouth Gentian

Plymouth Garden Club

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Judy Ingram, President

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Membership

Active:	79
Life:	1
Associate:	10
Honorary:	2

Horticulture

by Joy Sand

“I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree...”
Kilmer

But planting under a tree: that’s a whole separate problem. Grass generally doesn’t thrive there. And having an annual bed under a tree takes special planning. Adding soil around the tree to build a bed can suffocate the tree’s roots. Soil or mulch mounded against the trunk (volcanoes) encourage disease. Cutting tree roots to create planting pockets stimulates the tree to put out more roots. And cutting large roots destabilizes the tree—TIMBER-R-R-R! The area beneath a tree is a battle zone for water and nourishment for any plants installed there. The tree, being bigger, will win, and the plants will shrivel.

So what are the alternatives? The simplest is to lay bags of potting soil at the drip line around the tree. Cut a large slice along the top of the bags, then poke holes through the soil and the bottom of the bag for drainage. Plant shade-loving annuals in the bags and put mulch around and over the bags as
(over...)

Life begins the day you start a garden.”
~Chinese Proverb

February Program—Jen Kettele will present a program on winter pruning and tool tips. The Artistic Design portion of the meeting will be an all-foliage arrangement by *Linda O’Neill*.

March Workshop & Program—The Floral Design Workshop before our March meeting will be led by *Judy MacDonald*, who will share her expertise in small mass arrangements. A few openings remain; you can sign up at Wednesday’s meeting. The \$25 fee is all-inclusive.

Also in March, *June Aronson* will present the Artistic Design segment on “Small and Miniature Arrangements,” illustrated with her own award-winning efforts.

April 13 Is Presidents’ Day—It’s our turn to host the District Presidents and GCFM Officers. This year’s program features many of our past presidents in roles ranging from first-hand floral design demonstrations to indoor and outdoor horticulture and many related skills in-between. Everyone is asked to help make the day enjoyable for our guests; details will be forthcoming.

SE District Annual Luncheon—The Annual Luncheon is Thursday, April 21, at Plymouth Country Club. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of our own members and get to know women from other clubs in the district. Thelma Shoneman, an amazingly talented designer and entertaining speaker will have us all laughing. Awards will be presented and luncheon served.

The fee is \$40; a registration form was emailed to each of you on Feb. 4; if we send our forms and checks to Donna Olsson she can place a group reservation for a table—maybe two!!

Heirloom Plants—Check the winter edition of *Mayflower Quarterly* for details of GCFM’s “Save an Heirloom Plant Contest.” Eight of these historic links to our horticultural past are described and illustrated; imagine the fun of sharing your garden with a plant your grandmother might have treasured. But they can be hard to find; so start looking now! *Joy Sand* has them all in her yard and will gladly field your questions.

(...trees, continued)

camouflage. In the fall, add the soil and mulch to the compost pile.

Another simple solution is to ring a tree with a container garden. Tall containers hide a bare trunk, mid-size and short containers give depth and interest to the garden. Shade will help to keep the containers from drying out. Plant part-sun (New Guinea impatiens) to shade-loving Coleus plants in similar or identically colored containers to give the under-tree garden a “planned” look.

A third option is to plant shallow-rooted ground covers under the tree. Ground covers tend to bloom early and can be invasive. So be prepared to have the ground cover “invade” the lawn. Also, expect the ground cover to need frequent watering.

Special Note: *February is Bird Feeder Month. Consider adding a new tube or suet feeder outside a window for maximum delight!*

Summer Flower Show—The annual Summer Flower Show, formerly held at The Barnstable Fairgrounds, will be July 19-21 at the Cahoon Museum in Cotuit. The one entry day will be July 18. We already know there will be a Horticultural Challenge Class based on growing two different varieties of nasturtiums from seed—bush or vining. Stay tuned for more details.

Garden Therapy—The season’s first Garden Therapy session will be at Newfield House on Wednesday, February 17, at 10 am. *Natalie Caramello* says there are a few openings for members who want to volunteer for this popular service program. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting.

Coming Events—The Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, “Spring Fling,” will be February 18-21, at the RI Convention Center. For information, visit flowershow.com.

“Fun With Flowers,” with Jay Schwanke, will be presented by GCFM’s Ruth A. Wallack Fund on Tuesday, April 26, at Regis College Fine Arts Center, Weston. See page 23 of the “Mayflower Quarterly.”

MFA’s Art in Bloom is April 30-May 2. *Johanna Longo* and *Jean Dobachesky* will be representing us. Can’t wait for February 29, when they’ll be introduced to their subject! Group reservations (10 or more) open on February 25. (Call 617-369-3169, or email aibgroups@mfa.org) Carpool, anyone?

Cancellation Notice

**Due to the extended winter storm forecast,
Our February 10, 2016 meeting has been cancelled.
Better safe than sorry...**