



Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

# Plymouth Garden Club

March 2016

Judy Ingram, President

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## Membership

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

## Horticulture

by Joy Sand

### *Oldies but Goodies, Garden Style*

The Garden Club Federation of Mass is launching an effort to “Save an Heirloom Plant.” As explained on pages 10 and 11 of the winter **Mayflower**, heirloom plants have been part of family gardens for generations., Today, sadly, as old homes are razed and their landscaping bulldozed, heirloom plants are in danger of fading away. GCFM encourages its clubs to use selected heirlooms in civic plantings. *Jean Dobachesky* is investigating this option for our Brewster Garden project.

But how does an individual gardener participate? The recommended perennials and shrubs readily adapt to our gardens here in Zone 6B. Heirloom plants are available at specialized nurseries, including Morrison’s and Weston. Hybrids of these plants are offered in many gardening catalogues, but use caution. These hybrids are not true heirlooms. Check the scientific names with the **Mayflower** list.

Heirloom perennials include Blue False Indigo. Site indigo carefully, it doesn’t like to be transplanted. Gas Plant is another  
(over...)

*Anybody who wants to rule the world  
should try to rule a garden first.*

*Gardening Saying*

**PRESIDENTS’ DAY** is April 13. Our theme is “The Designer’s Eye,” and we thank *Catherine Walton* for her creative help on the logo. The program features all our active past presidents. Four will be part of a friendly demonstration of design skills using identical flowers and containers. Others will assume different roles in the program. Every member is asked to help out in the role of hostess to our visiting presidents and their guests.

**DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING** is April 21 at 9 am at the Plymouth Country Club. The program will include many awards, and recognize the Floribunda Award winners chosen by each club for their valuable services. (If you have a member to nominate for this award, please contact any Board member.)

The speaker will be the delightful Thelma Schoneman, Floral Designer, describing “floral designs inspired by spring gardens of US gardens visited across the country.”

The price for the luncheon is \$40; send your check to *Donna Olsson*, along with your luncheon selection: Lobster/Lump Crab Salad; Caprese Salad with Grilled Chicken and Balsamic Glaze; Vegetarian Option. The deadline is April 1 (no foolin’).

**ART IN BLOOM**—*Johanna Longo* and *Jean Dobachesky* visited the MFA and met the subject of their interpretive efforts for this year’s competition. It’s a portrait of Major Thomas Savage, painted in 1679 by Thomas Smith (c. 1650-1692). The portrait is a study in golds, browns and elaborate lace embellishment fit for a war hero and pre-colonial man of status. AIB dates are April 30-May 1. A good time for a field trip!

**PLANT SALE, MAY 21**—It’s never too soon to be thinking about our Spring Plant Sale. As the days grow longer and warmer (yes, they will!) please take note of the early greening that reminds us of candidates for dividing and sharing. Drop-off day is May 20. *Joy Sand* will be looking for volunteers to help with everything from pick up/delivery, identification and pricing. And don’t forget the very popular baked goods, attic treasures and boutique offerings. Spring is here!!

(...oldies, continued)

perennial that wants to stay put. (It produces small amounts of methane that can be ignited.) Peony “Festiva Maxima” is the huge, lush white peony with slashes of red at its throat. Plant the “eyes” no more than two inches below the soil top. Discard foliage at season’s end to destroy fungus. Maltese cross, introduced to the US by Thomas Jefferson, is an excellent cut flower. These perennials provide three-season interest: flowers, foliage and seedheads or pods.

Shrubs include fragrant mock orange which can grow to 12 feet but accepts pruning after blooming. Sweet pepper bush also produces intensely fragrant white flowers and prunes well. Moss rose is a mid-sized shrub also known as Chapeau de Napoleon that produces fragrant blossom clusters and resinous foliage. It may die to the ground in winter. There is a succulent annual named moss rose; it is not heirloom. Snowberry is a native ground cover shrub adept at stabilizing hillsides; white blossoms are followed by large white berries.

All the heirlooms tolerate our soils, and are not sought by plant predators.

If you have “volunteers” or seeds from any of these heirloom plants, please consider sharing them at our Spring Plant Sale. It would be helpful to label your donations “Heirloom: False Indigo”, etc. If you don’t have heirlooms, survey your garden for plants to pot or prepare bare-root in newspaper cones for the May 21 sale.

**THE EVENING GARDEN CLUB**--will sell framed floral arrangements, “Flowers on a Shelf,” on March 26, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Plymouth Public Library. You’ll be receiving an illustrated email shortly. They are handmade and absolutely charming!

**SEPTEMBER SUNSET SOIREE**—Kicking off our new season in September is a new event. *Linda O’Neill* and *Stacy Connor* are working with the staff at *Mirbeau Inn & Spa* at The Pinehills to plan an early evening social gathering for members of the club, their spouses, partners and friends, associated community organizations and other garden clubs.

The spa is conveniently located off Long Pond Road, with plenty of parking and complete accessibility. We will occupy the private Henri-Marie Room and its west-facing patio, enjoying a cheese and fruit display and a selection of delicious passed hors d’oeuvres. And there’s a grand piano!

The date is Monday, September 26, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The price will be \$40 for a single ticket; \$75 for two. Is there a business associate or good friend you would like to treat to an elegant evening soiree? This could be your opportunity!

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON**—By popular demand, the Annual Meeting and Luncheon will return to the Plymouth Country Club on June 8. *Donna Olsson*, *Jane Bishop* and *Marie Dunlap* have been making the arrangements and report the menu will include your choice of lobster Caesar salad, chicken Francaise, or a vegetarian option. Details will be forthcoming for this season-ending celebration. Watch for the notice.

**MONARCHS BOUNCE BACK**—National Garden Clubs has been promoting efforts to support Monarch butterfly migration—encouraging the insects’ favorite plantings like milkweed along migratory flyways. Well, it may be working. The World Wildlife Federation reports substantial increases in the Mexican butterfly population this winter. Many factors may be contributing, including governmental and individual conservation and planting efforts and weather patterns. Only time will tell, so watch your gardens this summer for visits from these black and orange jewels.

**NUMBERS, PLEASE?**—We need a new Auditor for the coming term. Imposing as it sounds, the job just involves sitting down with the Treasurer and making sure our cash on hand matches up with our income and expense records. Can you balance your checkbook? Contact *Gail Conner*.