



Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

## Membership

<b>Total Active</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Honorary</b>	<b>2</b>

## Horticulture By Joy Sand

### **Winter is for the Birds**

There are persistent myths about feeding birds in winter. Providing a water source is almost more important than seed feeders. Lack of water will endanger their lives, water is vital. Birds will drink from a heated water source. They won't dive in for a bath. When I was a child, I used to worry about ducks and seagulls freezing their feet paddling in frigid waters. Birds hopping on snow or clinging to metal feeders caused the same worries. Zoology teaches that feet are protected by special skin cells that form a leather-like surface on webs and feet. Veins and arteries help keep feet warm.

Many people and some dogs have experienced a wad of peanut butter stuck to the roof of the mouth. Birds needn't worry about peanut butter. In fact, peanut butter is an extremely valuable source of nourishment for birds. (*over*)

# Plymouth Garden Club

January/February 2017    Linda O'Neill, President    Volume 48 Issue 5

*"There's no such thing as bad weather,  
only unsuitable clothing. – Alfred Wainwright*

**A JOURNEY** through the world of tea, exploring the cultivation and harvest of tea, tasting several varieties and learning how to make a "proper" cup, was the subject of **Lisa Tavakoli's** presentation for January's meeting. You certainly have a new perspective for your choice of tea.

Now we look forward to **Bill Fornaciari's** presentation of lost and disguised buildings and horticulture in Plymouth.

**ESCAPE TO THE CAPE!** Spring feels like wishful thinking right now, but **Rose Howard** has the solution. She has negotiated with the sales manager at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth who created a great package just for our club. The dates are Tuesday April 25 and Wednesday 26, 2017; you can stay one night, two nights, or just come for the day. Choose from double or single occupancy; pick an oceanfront or sundeck location; all packages include breakfast each morning! And you'll be pleasantly surprised by the pre-season rates!!

Some thoughts for activities... Tuesday around hotel, beach, local shopping... Wednesday can be Brewster Museum of Natural History (if it rains), Spohr Gardens in Falmouth (daffodils in full bloom), Armstrong-Kelley Park (unusual horticulture specimens) and, of course, shopping!

If you're interested, Rose is ready to answer your questions, provide a price list, and take your reservation. Call her today!

Fat is vital for energy and survival. Low cost feeders can be made by smearing bacon fat or peanut butter on a stale donut and then hanging the food on branches, fences, or shepherd's crook. They will nourish the birds.

Putting up feeders generally does not endanger bird safety. There usually is not enough space to encourage raptors. If you have been feeding the birds and then flee south for a month or so, the birds won't starve. On average birds collect about a quarter of a day's nutrition from feeders. The rest comes from uncut seed heads. If your feeder is empty the birds will just move on. They come back for periodic checks and will return to feed.

Try keeping a bird journal. Record the bird, a description, even a sketch, time of day and any special traits. Make your notations throughout the year. How nice to read about the Baltimore oriole visiting your jelly feeder in May when you're stuck inside on a dull February day.

**HOW'S YOUR IMAGE?** If your best friends wonder who sat for your photo in the club yearbook, now's your chance to put your best face forward. Anyone who would like a new photo taken for 2017-18 can sign up at February and March, too. We'll start the process in February. Everybody will receive advance notice of when they'll be "shot."

**FLORAL WORK SHOP** is presently scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 9:30 AM in the Chiltonville Church. **Meredith Chase** will not be able to instruct due to recent rotator cuff surgery. The fee is \$25. Call **Susan Denehy** or sign-up at February's meeting. If necessary, we may have to postpone until April.

**PLEASE SIGN IN!** Remember to sign in with **Pat Parker** or **Stacy Connor** at the start of each meeting. GCFM likes to know how active we are. And it's the only way you'll get your free birthday raffle ticket for the appropriate month.

**GARDEN THERAPY** has reached the midpoint in its year of service. **Natalie Caramello** reports members enjoyed warm receptions at Newfield House and Plymouth Rehabilitation. Their next visit is Golden Living on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am. If you would like to join in...there will a signup sheet at February's meeting. Life Care is in the near future. Thanks to all those members who donate their time to work with these senior residents.

**SAVE THE DATE** for the **S.E. District Luncheon** at the Coonamessett Inn, Falmouth on Thursday, April 20th. The cost is \$42. The menu, program and time will follow soon.