



Club Flower
Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Plymouth Garden Club

May 2019

Linda O'Neill, President

Volume 49 Issue 8

Membership

| | |
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| Active | 82 |
| Associate | 11 |
| Life: | 2 |
| Honorary | 2 |

Horticulture By Joy Sands

Another Use for Herbs

Herbs are some of the most useful plants in Nature. For humans, herbs add flavor to food, help to ease a variety of ills, scent and soften the skin. In the garden, herbs lure bees, butterflies, and humming birds. Fresh herbs fill many culinary purposes. But equally important, herbs support pollinators.

Herbs appeal to a wide variety of bee species. The abundant nectar of thyme, comfrey, borage, oregano, lemon balm, sage, rosemary, hyssop, chives and lavender are bee magnets.

Culinary herbs such as basil and cilantro lose their culinary effectiveness once they bloom and set seeds. So use the leaves early in the season in cooking. Then allow the herbs to blossom and support pollinators.

Annual herbs tend to be especially important for butterflies, especially swallow-tails. Herbs like cilantro, fennel,
(over)

Our **MAY MEETING** this Wednesday, **May 8th** will be a celebration of the Plymouth Garden Club's founding in May 90 years ago. Come to our party with games, prizes, a slide show of activities over the years created by Coletta Candini, and a surprise entertainment guest, and lots of cupcakes, of course. We will elect our officers for next year. Please wear your nametag as we have many newer members. There will not be any horticulture specimens this month. **Club dues** for next year are to be paid at this meeting: Regular members - \$40; Associates - \$60.

Parking: the church has seeded and roped off the land next door where we park. It cannot be used until the grass gets established. So parking for Wednesday will be at Bramhalls, our parking along the cemetery road and at the Plantation parking lot. Sorry for the inconvenience.

JUNE ANNUAL LUNCHEON: Our June luncheon will be at The Plymouth Country Club at 11:30 am. The entrée choices are \$27 for Baked Stuffed Chicken or \$37 for Lobster Caesar Salad. Please bring your check already made out to save time. You can write one check for dues and the luncheon. If you are not at the meeting you can mail your check to our Treasurer: Elaine Finneral, 18 River Rd. Plymouth, MA

GARDEN THERAPY: Meghan and Coletta would like to thank all the ladies that assisted us with our floral arrangement events at the Plymouth Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Memory Care facilities. We increased our number of garden therapy visits from 4 to 8. We do one a month. Our new schedule begins in September. We look forward to new members as well as old members volunteering starting in September.

LIBRARY FLOWER BEDS – Time to ready the library beds for the new plantings, which have arrived. We will need to pull the old thin roots out that were left from pulling the pines out. Also will need to loosen the soil more. Coletta will be at the Library **Saturday, May 25th at 10 am.** Bring shovel, gloves etc. You may also go on your own on another day. The actual planting will occur early June. More volunteers are needed to weed and dead head a bed during the summer. Call Coletta with any questions 774-454-0392.

WELCOME our NEW MEMBER: Dianne Thomas, 62 Kensington Way, 508-224-2527, cell 954-395-7890, dthomas62k@gmail.com

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and dill produce very small flowers, attractive to very small bees. Fennel and dill host black swallowtail caterpillars.

Herbs primarily are derived from European origins, imported by early U.S. settlers. The European honeybee is a critical species for pollination, especially for food crops. Bees need to collect syrupy nectar as nourishment.

They gather pollen from a variety of blossoms from spring to fall.

Including herbs among flowering plants assures a variety of nectars and pollens for a long season.

Lavender and members of the catmint family are especially attractive to bees.

In addition to a variety of blossoms, pollinators also need fresh, clean water sources. For bees this could be a shallow pan or small birdbath with pebbles or marbles spread over the bottom and covered by fresh water.

Change the water daily to deter mosquitoes.

Butterflies “sip” from mineral puddles. Fill a shallow pan with regular garden soil. Moisten the soil every morning. There needn't be standing water. Locate the “bee baths” and butterfly puddles among flowers and herbs.

To do in the garden:

Now is the time to apply organic fertilizer to established perennials and shrubs. Lilacs appreciate a light application of lime. Azaleas, blueberries and rhododendrons prefer acidic fertilizer.

Trim forsythias by June. Any branches that touch the soil can ‘tip root’ and form a dense tangle. ‘Volunteers’ can be separated from the parent bush and dug for donation to the Plant Sale.

WAYS and MEANS –Thanks to all who participated in the chance opportunities and purchased items on the Ways and Means table, so far this Club year Ways and Means has brought in \$1549 to our general treasury. Due to our “Birthday Celebration” festivities and set up, Ways and Means this month will only have aprons for sale for \$14, which is our cost. Consider buying one to wear at our Plant Sale while helping.

JR. GARDENER ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM – Another successful year of helping students learn about our unique environment. Nearly 600 seedling spruce trees (purchased with funds from an Entergy Grant) were given out to 5th graders and a native Rutgers Dogwood tree was planted at Indian Brook Elementary School. Thanks to the many club members who helped with this program.

PLANT SALE – - Our annual **Spring Plant Sale is May 18** from 9am - noon. All club members are expected to participate. **Please bring your baked goods, plants and attic treasures to the Chiltonville Church on Friday May 17 from 2-5pm or Saturday morning between 8-8:30am**, so we can be set up and organized before the doors open at 9am. As you clean up your garden, notice the perennials that are crowded, dig and pot the plants for the sale. Plants look much healthier and sell better if potted up at least a week before the sale. Include a label with name, sun or shade requirement, height, color etc. If you aren't able to pot plants ahead of the sale, you can dig them the day before, wrap them in damp newspaper and put in a plastic bag. Don't forget to bring in your ‘porch ready basket’, baked goods and any attic treasures. Many volunteers are needed to price and set up Friday afternoon, and on Saturday to staff the Bake and Attic Treasure tables and to help with and answer questions about the plants. More volunteers are needed to clean up at noon.

This is our last fund-raiser of the year, which supports our Scholarship Fund, Civic Projects and Programs. To make this sale a success, we need YOU to help set up and price on Friday, help the day of the sale or clean up afterward. If you are not able to help, please make a donation of \$10.

Our **FLORIBUNDA AWARDEE** at the SE District meeting was Rebecca (Becky) Freer Freedman. A thank you for all she has done in the past and present.

*We are
growing
together*