



Plymouth Garden Club

February 2020

Linda O'Neill, President

Volume 49 Issue 13

Club Flower
Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	78
Associate	12
Life:	1
Honorary	2

Horticulture By Joy Sand

Start a Better Garden

As spring approaches, gardeners' thoughts turn to starting new gardens. It could be a brand new garden at a new house or a new bed in an established yard. But what are the general characteristics of a good garden?

It needs to be reasonable to maintain and generally attractive. How do you achieve this? Before you start, do your homework.

The best information comes from county extension offices, public horticulturists, and local master gardeners. Have the soil tested at the county extension service.

Then follow the soil preparation recommended for your soil type. Before you touch spade to soil learn your USDA Climate Zone. Plymouth is 6B hardiness zone. If you are checking for another area: go to

planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.

Knowing your zone will provide guidance on how plants will survive (over)

Our **February meeting** will be on Wednesday, **February 12th**. Social time will begin at 12:30 p.m., with the meeting starting promptly at 1 p.m. Our speaker will be David Gould, Plymouth's Director of Marine and Environmental Affairs. He will provide an overview of projects, the process of restoration and the science of monitoring these sites after restoration. A description of all of the town conservation areas and preserves including hiking information can be found on the town website under Marine and Environmental Affairs: www.plymouth-ma.gov/marine-and-environmental-affairs

Garden Therapy: Nothing scheduled for February. The January session at the **Plymouth Rehabilitation Center** was well appreciated. Thanks to all the members who were able to help out.

Ways and Means: The Ways and Means table has a very special Valentine gift for February's chance opportunity and new items for sale will be available over the next few months including pruners, kneeling pads and summer flowering seeds and bulbs. Be sure to stop by and support the club.

2020 PGC Fall Flower Show: The dates have been changed for the Flower Show. Thursday **Oct 8th** will be the set-up date, with **Oct 9th** drop-off, judging, and evening reception. The exhibits will be displayed to the public on **Oct. 10th and 11th**. Breakdown will have to be the afternoon of the 11th as the Library is closed on the 12th for the Columbus Day Holiday. Be sure to mark the change in your calendar and think about how you can contribute. More details will be available from Geri Williams at the April meeting.

Chiltonville Church Contract: We are awaiting the final signature from the Church trustees on the negotiated contract. The cost for renting the hall has been fixed for the next 4 years at \$125 /month for regular meetings and \$75 for the plant sale (a reduction since we don't use the kitchen). The Chiltonville Church sexton/custodial fee will remain at \$75 each month. This will give the club price stability and plenty of time if there is any consideration of moving locations.

Junior Gardeners: The Junior Gardeners Environmental program will start visiting the third grade classrooms on **March 4** and continue through March and April. If you are a volunteer and cannot fulfill your day please arrange your own substitute from the list of volunteers.

(continued)

heat, cold and drought in your garden. Better quality catalogues will tell you the proper range for the items on sale. To see what plants thrive in your area visit nearby display gardens.

If a plant fails to thrive, it's not a personal failure. The plant may have been at the edge of its range, or you may have a micro climate in your garden that is not suitable. Did it up and make room for another.

But plant thoughtfully. Don't plant trees or shrubs that will block the view of the garden. As shrubs grow, prune for shape appeal. Pruning can be learned from books that you study during the winter. In the earliest spring months start annuals and veggies from seed. The same principles of light moisture, soil composition apply to seeds started indoors, or if you are really lucky in your own greenhouse.

Lastly walk your garden regularly. I like to tour early morning and late afternoon. Note positions of sun and shade. Are there corners where the sprinkler doesn't reach? What plants should be thinned or moved?

Gardening is hard work and great exercise. But the soaring sense of accomplishment that comes from an explosion of colorful blooms is pure gold.

Conservation Program: A free program "Mysteries of the Great Shearwater" will take place **Feb. 22nd** from 1:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. at the Wildlands Trust Community Conservation Barn 675 Long Pond Rd. Peter Trull from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary will profile the amazing ocean wanderer, the Great Shearwater, and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary satellite tagging program. In an engaging, family friendly presentation he will explain the satellite tagging process as well as the ecology and natural history of this fascinating pelagic species. While registration is not required, it is appreciated.

www.wildlandstrust.org/events/2020/2/22/mysteries-of-the-great-shearwater

Floral Workshop: Natalie Caramello will lead the next floral workshop **March 11 at 9:30 a.m.** at the Chiltonville Church before our March meeting. There are 3 available spaces. Call Jane Bishop if you would like to attend. The cost is \$25.

Books and Blossoms: There is still room for participants for March's Books and Blossoms, (which we are calling "B & B 3") Set up is Friday, **March 20th** between 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Fehlow room at the main library with a reception at 6 p.m. The event will be open to the public from Friday at 2 p.m. through Sunday **Mar. 22nd** at 3 p.m. Select a book and make a table setting by yourself or with another member. Remember this is a judgement-free zone! Speak to Linda O'Neill if you have any questions.

Native Plants: If you are wondering what native plants to purchase this year: Better Homes and Gardens magazine has a list of the top 15 native plants for the Northeast: Wild Anemone, Yellow Lady's-Slipper, Carolina Lupine, Merrybells, Virgin's Bower, Foamflower, Maidenhair Fern, Jacob's Ladder, Trillium, Woodland Iris, American Coral Bells, Eastern Bluestar, Wild Ginger, Swamp Milkweed, and Culver's Root. More details on these plants are available at www.bhg.com/gardening/gardening-by-region/northeast/top-native-plants-of-the-northeast.

Cards and Notes: Cards would be appreciated by our ailing members: Joy Sand, recovering from rotator cuff surgery; Joanne Nikitas recovering from a broken foot, June Aronson has a cracked rib and many bruises from a fall. Coletta Candini appreciated receiving many cards and is glad to be home the hospital after treatment for heart problems.