



# Plymouth Garden Club

March 2020

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

Website: [PlymouthGardenClub.org](http://PlymouthGardenClub.org)

## Membership

<b>Active</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Life:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Honorary</b>	<b>2</b>

## **Horticulture By Joy Sand**

### **Spring B-R-R-R** (part one)

Here in New England, every gardener recognizes the scenario: you've had several days of warm sun and gentle breezes. Then a meteorologist predicts the dreaded word: FROST. Are the tender buds, new shoots or recently germinated peas, lettuce and spinach doomed?

The answer depends on how low the temp drops. A Light Freeze (29-32 F) will kill tender annuals and vegetables, but may only cause cosmetic damage to hardy perennials. A Moderate Freeze (25-28 F) can kill half-hardy annuals and vegetables: perennials and deciduous shrubs will suffer wet, mushy or blackened leaves that will eventually fall off. A Hard Freeze (24 and below) will kill all annuals and vegetables; there will be extensive damage to perennials and exposed foliage and flowers of trees and shrubs. In the fall this is the killing frost that ends the growing season.

Our **March meeting** will be on Wednesday, **March 11th**. Social time will begin at 12:30 p.m., with the meeting starting promptly at 1 p.m. Our speaker will be Warren Leach, owner of the Tranquil Lake Nursery, located on River St. in Rehoboth which specializes in Daylilies, Siberian and Japanese Iris. His website has lovely photos of available plants: <http://www.tranquil-lake.com>. His topic will be the intricacies of growing perennials and woody plants.

**Garden Therapy:** The next session will be 10 a.m. **March 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Stafford Hill Assisted Living Center, 60 Stafford St. The session lasts about 90 minutes. If you can get out into your garden and bring cut greens, please do so. Garden Therapy has expanded its efforts and is providing this uplifting occupational therapy at 8 centers in Plymouth. If you have not volunteered for this community activity, try it; no prior arranging experience is needed. You will enjoy it as much as the residents.

**Ways and Means:** February's table earned \$287 for the club. March's special will be an herb basket. Tee shirts and hats have been received. If you ordered, please pay by cash, or check made out to the club. Be sure to stop by and see what new gardening items are available.

**Southeast District Luncheon:** **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** at The Coonamessett Inn 311 Gifford Street, Falmouth, starting at 9:00 a.m. The speaker is Kathi Gariepy, "Bugs and Native Plants". A sign-up sheet was emailed for your lunch selection. A reminder that the \$42 fee must be by check made out to the GCFM. You can mail for yourself or bring in to Elaine Finneral who will send in for us as a group. Car-pooling will be arranged later.

**Floral Workshop:** Natalie Caramello will lead the next floral workshop **March 11 at 9:30 a.m.** Please come a few minutes early to help set up at the Chiltonville Church before our March meeting. Please bring your own shears. Check or cash \$25.

(continued)

There are steps to take when a frost is predicted. Water the garden thoroughly in the morning. Damp soil heats during the day and holds up to 5 degrees more warmth through the night. That temp could make enough difference in a light freeze. Cover large plants with garden fabric or row covers. Use stakes to hold the fabric in place and when the temp has risen above freezing, remove the fabric and store for the next freeze.

Capture the sun's heat during the day in water-filled gallon jugs. The jugs are even more effective when painted black. Place jugs near, not touching, delicate plants. Jugs are especially effective for tomatoes, peppers and eggplants planted after Memorial Day weekend. New England likes to send a sneak frost in late May or early June. Mulch can help to protect shrubs and perennials, keeping soil temperatures stable so plants don't break dormancy too early. If you do pull mulch away early leave it close enough to pull back over the crown when frost is predicted. Mulch helps to trap warm air near the heart of a plant. Avoid spring clean-up too early. Previous year's growth helps to insulate the crowns of perennials. Avoid too early pruning, except for damaged growth. Pruning encourages new growth on a plant already stressed by winter, and a frost could kill the entire plant. Also some shrubs like hydrangeas and roses should not be pruned until the first leaves unfurl. The above protective steps can be taken in early fall to extend the growing season.

**Conservation Program:** Joan Bartlett passes on this helpful list from Stop and Shop on the items accepted at their barrel at the entrance (Materials are used by Trex to make wood/plastic decking):

### **Post-Consumer Polyethylene Film Recycling Stream**

Stretch film and pallet wrap	Furniture foam wrap	
Bubble wrap	Case overwrap	
Bread bags	Dry cleaning bags	Newspaper sleeves
Produce bags	Paper towel / toilet paper overwrap	
Ziploc or food storage bags	Ice bags (DRY – without metal clips)	
Mattress bags	Wood pellet bags (Cut off top completely, turn inside out, shake empty)	

All other film clearly marked as #2 or #4

All items must be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY and NO Oxo-Biodegradable or Compostable Bags

***Note that these items are not recyclable in the normal town recycle program.***

**Books and Blossoms:** There is still room for participants for March's Books and Blossoms. 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 Fri. through Sun. **Mar. 22nd** at 3 p.m. Hostesses are needed for all three days. There will be a sign-up list at our Mar. meeting. Speak to Linda O'Neill if you have any questions.

**Southeast District Flower Show:** Yes, it's definitely getting to be summer! The Flower Show will be held again at the Heritage Gardens in Sandwich, July 28-30. The title is "Cape Legends", recognizing famous people from the Cape. The club competition is a vignette recognizing two Cape artists Martha and Ralph Cahoon. There will be horticulture exhibits; the botanical arts exhibits include a wreath, topiary and a collage. More information will be available in coming months.

**Library Gardens:** For anyone interested in choosing plants for Library beds, there will be a meeting at Coletta Candini's home, 40 Pearl St. **Mar. 26**, at 10 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Mar. meeting. Coletta was able to get a good look at the beds this week and is up-to-date with how they look.

**Reminder:** Please check the yearbook and let Janet Voyer know if any changes to your address, email, or phone (landline or cell) are needed.

Welcome to new member Debbie Fay.