



Plymouth Garden Club

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Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower
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Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	77
Associate	11
Life:	1
Honorary	2

Horticulture By Joy Sand

Beetles - Nay, Nay Nay

Oh, summer vacations, beach days, fireworks... and Japanese beetles. When I was a child seeing Japanese beetles stacked up on the old fashioned roses meant summer was here. Now you see the beetles on everything, even weeds!

During the 70's and 80's every garden was festooned with pheromone traps. You couldn't sit outside in the evening without hearing the constant snap and sizzle of the bug zapper.

Now we know better: pheromone traps attract every Japanese beetle to enter the air space of your garden. Your trap couldn't hope to keep up with the hordes of bug sit drew. And the zapper is truly a killing machine. It eliminated some Japanese beetles, but there was whole sale slaughter of beneficial insects seduced by the glowing light.

Today's gardeners are making the effort to be more 'green'.

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Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, **SEPTEMBER 11th** at 1pm in the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be presented by Gail Conner, an active member of The Plymouth Garden Club, a bee keeper, and pollinator advocate. She has been raising and teaching about Monarch butterflies for over 18 years now. Gail will show us the life cycle of the Monarchs and teach us how we can help to increase their population here in the northeast. This will be a great meeting to bring a guest. The tea committee co-hostesses for this meeting are Colleen Costa and Coletta Candini.

Club Yearbooks for 2019-2020 will be distributed at our September meeting. If you will not be attending, please ask a friend to pick up and bring you your book. They will not be mailed because of the cost. We will have enough for 1 copy/member, please keep track of your copy.

GARDEN THERAPY: The first nursing home visit of the year will be on Thursday, **September 19 at 10:30 am at Laurelwood** in the Pinehills, 10 Golf Dr. This is a good program for new members to participate in, no experience in flower arranging is needed. It only takes about one and a half hours. If you have any questions you can contact Meghan Rinker at Meghan.rinker@outlook.com or 774-404-7539. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Sept. 11 meeting.

LIRARY FLOWER BEDS – The library beds were renovated this summer with old tired shrubs pulled out, new soil and fertilizer added, new dwarf boxwoods planted in the corners of each bed and new golden arborvitae in the center of some beds. Finally the beds were topped with mulch. Lots of work by many volunteers, especially Coletta Candini, but they look great. They were well maintained this summer and all the new plants survived. We will need to add fertilizer this fall. To volunteer to help, call Coletta Candini at 774-454-0392.

WAYS and MEANS – Thanks to all who participated in the chance opportunities and purchased items on the Ways and Means table. This past year Ways and Means brought in \$1750 to help defray costs of our programs. Paula Butterfield and Cynthia Sykes have purchased some ergonomic trowels, which will sell for \$13, just what you need to make gardening easier, it would also make a nice gift. The great garden gloves will be there, too. They are looking for input for other things to supply the Ways and Means table. If you have any extra vegetables, you can bring them for sale on the table.

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A natural control for Japanese beetles is the predatory wasp. These stingless insects feed on Japanese beetles and other pests. To target beetles selectively, hand pick or knock the beetles into a container of soapy water. One of my early garden chores, at about age 7, was to knock the beetles into a Campbell's soup can of soapy water. My father read Organic Gardening before it was 'cool'. He found the recipe there: 1tsp liquid soap per quart of water. The best time to 'harvest' the beetles is in the AM when they are slower moving. But any time of day works.

Japanese beetles are social, preferring to dine with others. The fewer beetles on your plants, the fewer beetles who will 'drop in'. Now what do you do with the drowned beetles? Dump the can out on the lawn. Insect eating birds enjoy the beetles. They were drowned, not poisoned. Interesting note: If you have Japanese beetles on your bushes and plants, then you have beetle grubs in the lawn creating brown spots of dead grass. Grub killing products to spread on the lawn kill earthworms and beneficial microbes. NO!

Instead pour the soapy water and dead beetles along the edge between dead and live grass. The grubs will be drawn to the surface where birds can eat them.

Cardinals consider beetles and grubs the perfect snack.

Companion plantings of chives and garlic among besieged bushes and plants repel beetles. And the herbs are yummy in salads and cooking.

JR. GARDENER ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM – The Plymouth School District has changed their elementary school science curriculum, and we have been asked to present our Environmental Program to third graders next March and April as it integrates with their science curriculum best. Geri Williams needs help to adapt our Power Point program for third graders. If you are willing to help, please call her at 508-833-4355, especially if you have some experience with lower elementary students. We will need at least 5 or 6 presenters and also that many helpers next Spring. Please sign up at the meeting or call Geri with any questions or to volunteer. This is a fun program where we make an impact helping students learn about Plymouth's unique environment.

Our May **PLANT SALE** was very successful, thanks to all who volunteered, dug plants, baked, brought in attic treasures, etc. Special thanks to Joy Sand, who chaired the plants, Kevinette, the baked goods, and Meghan Rinker, attic treasures. We were able to raise \$2552 in profits and we transferred \$1500 to our scholarship fund, this will help us continue to award two \$1500 scholarships to graduates of Plymouth HS.

Brewster Gardens – Jean Dobachesky reports that the gardens our club takes care of need some TLC. She pruned the gas and Maltese cross plants, but the amsonia needs pruning and we need to plant some low growing plants for the stones. Jean could use some help getting this very visible area in good shape. Call Jean at 508-747-0142 if you can help.

A **FLORAL WORKSHOP** will be held at 10am before the October meeting. Geri Williams will help you make a Creative Line Design, one of the design classes in our Fall 2020 flower show. Cost will be \$25. You need to sign up on the sheet at the September meeting.

Art in Bloom will take place October 4,5, & 6. You must select your art work Sun. 9/22 – 9/29, the Center is open Sun noon-4pm, Mon-Sat 10-4

Note on emails: The Club has been communicating regularly by email to help our members stay current. Often emails are sent to all members, but individuals need to reply to only one member, please be considerate and only reply to the specific member and **do not** 'reply to all'.

We are growing together