



Plymouth Garden Club

July 2018

Linda O'Neill, President

Volume 49 Issue 1

Club Flower
Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	77
Associate	10
Life:	2
Honorary	2

Horticulture
By Joy Sands

Firefly Nights

There was a time when you could go outside on a warm and slightly humid night, away from town and city lights, and enjoy the light show. *Photinus pyrolus* and the larger *P. pyralis* affectionately known as fireflies or lightning bugs, took to the air over a garden or a meadow bordering the woods and turned the night into velvet spangled with diamonds and sequins. The air was alive, pulsing with white, yellow or yellow-green lights. The skinny beetles work their light show magic to attract mates. The display peaks around mid July. Then the bugs go out in a blaze of glory, leaving behind larva for next year's display. Smaller than butterflies, they bounce and dance close to the ground, in a pattern similar to a heartbeat. The "big dipper fireflies" reach halfway to the tops of pine trees in a display like Christmas lights on the trees.

(over)

At our **ANNUAL LUNCHEON** on June 13 we welcomed seven new members: Pauline Gannon, Karen Baker, Colleen Costa, Carol Caliendo, Diane Dunlap, Joanne Makley and Christine Sampson, and a guest, Dawn Bartlett. The scholarship recipient from Plymouth North HS, Elgia 'Ellie' Giuliani was introduced and she graciously thanked the club members for her scholarship and spoke briefly about her background and interests. She plans to study Ocean Engineering at URI. The Plymouth South HS recipient, Bradley Collins was unable to attend. Joanne Nikitas and June Aronson inducted officers for the coming year.

PLANT SALE - Our annual **Spring Plant Sale** was very successful and raised \$2250. Many thanks to Joy Sands, Geri Williams and all who worked so hard digging, baking, organizing, helping and cleaning up. We transferred \$1000 of the proceeds to the Scholarship fund.

CENTER for ACTIVE LIVING TEA – On September 26th the Plymouth COA will be having a High Tea. This is a wonderful afternoon high tea and tickets often sell out. They would love members of our club to make arrangements in teapots for centerpieces to be offered in their chance opportunity fund raiser. Wear your hat or fascinator and bring a teapot arrangement.

The **SE DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW** will be held at Heritage Museums and Gardens on Tues. July 24 from noon-5pm, Wed. and Thurs. July 25 & 26 from 10am – 5pm. This is a terrific flower show, and a number of our club members are participating. If you have a beautiful specimen of a flowering perennial, hydrangea, glad or lily or something else you think would be good to enter in the Horticulture classes, contact Geri Williams (508-833-4355) for more information. Plan to come and be amazed by the professional designs and amazing horticulture exhibits. The Heritage gardens, especially the daylilies and Hydrangeas also are at their peak!

HELP WANTED - The Club is in need of help with several positions. We need a Conservation Chair to share with members conservation tips, and bring to our attention Conservation concerns in Plymouth. We need a couple people to help Stacy Connor with the website, training is available, you don't have to be a computer wiz. Geri Williams has been doing the newsletter, but she could use some help when she goes away and is busy with Junior Gardeners. Contact Linda O'Neill (508-759-1870) or Pat Parker (508-746-0775) if you are willing to help.

(continued)

But the silent sparks are in trouble. The worst threat is loss of habitat. Once the habitat is destroyed, the fireflies are gone. They don't relocate; they vanish. To help the fireflies, leave leaf litter and wood debris at the wood's edge for the larvae. And don't mow the lawn too short or too often in early summer. Most importantly, go easy on the pesticides. Grub killing pesticides kill larva. For mosquitoes, be certain the spray is specific to skeeters. Finally reduce light pollution. Outside lights make communication difficult for the insects. As with bees, butterflies, birds and frogs, the fate of our garden neighbors rest with us. The sentimental subject of movie scenes, published in poems and stories, the image of children chasing lightning bugs to capture their magic in a jar has long defined the picture of childhood pre-bedtime play. Adults fondly remember these views as proof of childhood's freedom. Fireflies mean summer. That's a big job for a little bug.

Open Gardens – Several members have opened their gardens for informal tours recently. Those members who visited one or more homes came away inspired and with practical tips and ideas for their own gardens and got to know other members better. If you are willing to open your garden for a few hours one day this summer, contact Geri Williams 508-833-4355. You don't have to be perfectly weeded, this is for friends.

GARDEN THERAPY - Meghan Rinker, Donna Olson and their team are planning an ambitious year of bringing joy to 8 nursing homes in Plymouth. You will help patients make small floral arrangements to take back to their rooms. The first visit will be in September. There will be a signup sheet at the September meeting or call Meghan Rinker at 774-404-7539 or email: meghan.rinker@outlook.com to join the fun. Meghan would also like donations of cards and notes to distribute.

LIBRARY FLOWER BEDS – The library beds are not looking very good. The Salvia needs to be trimmed and the Daffodils need to be cut back. There will be a clean up day **Friday, July 27 at 9 am**. You do not have to wait for the 27th to do the beds if you wish to go before then. All are welcome to come to the clean up day. Any questions call Coletta Candini @774-454-0392

WAYS and MEANS – The table of gardening and flower arranging supplies and the opportunity chances that Ways and Means manages at our monthly meetings help defray the costs of our excellent programs. Cynthia Sykes (508-732-7263) is open to suggestions for items you would like to purchase. Also consider bringing in a jar or two of jam you might make this summer for the table, or some plants you are dividing, or small dessert breads or packages of 6 cookies. These are items easy for members to bring that sell well and support the club.

“BOOKS and BLOSSOMS, Chapter 2” The first weekend in October we will again create interpretations of books in table settings in the Fehlow Room at the Library. Exhibitors chose a book to interpret with a single table setting and floral arrangement on a card table. Visitors try to match the book title to the table from a list of book titles. Members and guests are invited to attend the Opening Reception on Friday, Oct 5th at 6pm. We would appreciate donations of snacks for the event. The display will be open to the public during Library hours on Saturday and Sunday, October 5 & 6. Pick up will be Sunday afternoon. If you would like to be one of the exhibitors interpreting a book, contact Linda O'Neill (508-759-1870) by Aug. 31.

Mini ART in BLOOM - Plymouth Library will host an Art Exhibit of two artists, Carole Raymond and Tony Viscoe. They have asked if any of our members would like to do an Art in Bloom exhibit to interpret some of their artwork. The show will open on August 1 and they would like the arrangements for the reception on Friday, August 24th and to stay on exhibit for the weekend. If you would like to do an arrangement contact Nancy Markley: 508-746-0519 or email nmarkley@comcast.net

*We are
growing
together.*