



Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

# Plymouth Garden Club

January 2016

Judy Ingram, President

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## Membership

Active:	79
Life:	1
Associate:	10
Honorary:	2

## Horticulture

*by Joy Sand*

Critter Management—or How to Live with Chip'n'Dale, Thumper, and Their Pals.

There's a new controversy in gardening: To clean or not to clean in the fall/early winter as opposed to the early spring. If you have the energy in the fall, go for it! Your garden will look picture perfect all winter. With the camouflage gone, we can more readily spot and dig out weeds, and remove and destroy diseased foliage.

But wait! Birds and wildlife love a mess! Seed heads are loaded with food. And there is cover for critters "in the bleak mid-winter." So if you didn't do a complete clean-up this fall, just explain that you're a wildlife supporter...

Some cleaning, however, is recommended. Cut out foliage containing weed seeds and remove diseased foliage from mildew-prone phlox, peonies, monardas. Haul the cuttings to the brushpile to draw rodents and other pests away from your garden. Mow fallen leaves and scatter the pieces over lawns and gardens. Left whole, leaves

(over)...

*Plant carrots in January and you'll never have to eat carrots.  
~Author Unknown*

**January Program**—Our year begins with a program change. Tom Strangfeld will present "The Entry Courtyard Garden," which will interest all of us who want their home to make a great first impression.

**Great Greens!**—The Greens Sale at the Plymouth Public Library was a resounding success. The Fehlow Room provided an ideal workshop for wreath production on Friday, then converted seamlessly into a beautiful (and fragrant) holiday boutique on Saturday. Thanks to all the members, friends and partners who devoted time and energy to creating wreaths, table arrangements and craft items, setting the scene, and overseeing the brisk sales. Your efforts netted \$2,207.22 in support of club projects. In addition, creative ideas for next year's event started popping up immediately. You're all invited to offer suggestions for making this event even better next year.

**The Plymouth Public Library**—No review of our sale would be complete without thanks to the library staff for their enthusiastic support. We were invited to provide Christmas arrangements for their holiday celebration the following week. June Aronson marshalled a crew of volunteers and their combined creative efforts earned an additional \$400 for our treasury. Plans for next year's sale, and for our traditional decorations at the library building, are already being developed. Stay tuned for details.

**Nominating Committee**—Serving on the Nominating Committee are Gail Conner, chairman; Stacy Connor; Jean Dobachesky and Judy Ingram. If you have suggestions for, or interest in, any of the officer positions (see page 8 of your handbook), please contact a committee member.

**By-laws Review Committee**—It's time to review your club's by-laws, looking for changes that reflect changes in our objectives, community and member needs. The committee includes June Aronson, Parliamentarian; Natalie Caramello; Donna Olsson and Judy Ingram. Please take a minute over the next month or two and re-read the by-laws looking for areas that need clarification or revision. Then share your thoughts with the committee.

smother; chopped, they nourish plants and soil. Rake pine needles around rhododendrons, hollies and other acid lovers.

The booming coyote population has decreed cats to be indoor dwellers, resulting in chipmunks galore. In areas with bumper acorn crops, “felonious ‘munks” have ignored our bulbs, but drought in Plymouth County curtailed production of this primary food source for animals from bears to squirrels. Try planting bulbs labeled “critter proof.” Or sprinkle rodent repellent over bulbs and under feeders. Critters don’t like it and birds don’t seem to care.

Trees and shrubs with thin bark are vulnerable to gnawing by rabbits, mice and voles. Wire mesh wrapped around trunks and low branches offers some protection (barring 108 inches of snow) or, again, repellent.

January’s dark days are brightened by the arrival of seed and plant catalogs. When darkness falls at 4:30, they combine with a cup of cocoa and a furry friend purring on your lap to remind us spring will soon be here.

Happy New Year!!

**Conservation Notes**—People in Plymouth—individually, in conservation organizations and in town government--are working in many ways to protect our environment. Garden Club members included! A new group is working at reduce plastic bags. Other towns have cut out plastic bags entirely, as have whole states and countries. The new committee has written a Plastic Bag By-law, which they hope to bring to Town Meeting this spring. The group meets this Wednesday, January 13, at 7:30 pm in First Parish Church downtown. You’re welcome to attend.

**April 21 Spring Luncheon**—It’s never too early to plan for the GCFM Southeast District Luncheon on April 21. District Director Fluffy Winner has chosen the Plymouth Country Club as our location; floral designer Thelma Shoneman will provide an entertaining program. Having this wonderful event in our own backyard is a great opportunity for us to shine as host club. So put the date on your calendar and watch this space for more information.

**Summer Flower Show**—Plans are coming together for this year’s Summer Flower Show, formerly held in conjunction with The Barnstable Fair. That venue is no longer available to us, but alternative locations and dates are under consideration. Stand by for details on design and horticulture competition opportunities.

**GCFM Learning Opportunities**—Check your *Fall Mayflower Quarterly* for details and enrollment forms for upcoming educational events.

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Civic Development Workshop (Page 13)**

Thursday, March 24, 2016 10:30 am to 2:00 pm  
“Lessons From New England’s Public Gardens”

**GCFM Ruth A. Wallack Fund (page 23)**

Thursday, April 26, 2016 10:00 am  
“Fun With Flowers” with Jay Schwanke

**Gardening Study School (page 25)**

Thursday, April 7 & Friday, April 8, 2016  
Course II Series 10

**Horticultural Mornings (page 30)**

Monday, April 25, 2016, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon  
“Naturescape Your Yard” with Karen Bussolini

The Mayflower Quarterly is an absolute treasure trove of wonderful opportunities for gardeners of every level. Your club makes it available to each of you and hopes you’ll spend some time exploring its pages.