



Club Flower
Plymouth Gentian

Plymouth Garden Club

May 2016

Judy Ingram, President

Volume 47 Issue 16

Membership

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

Horticulture

by Joy Sand

Are Your Yard and Garden Wildlife Friendly?

Many people must drive for miles to see wildlife. But with a little planning, all of us can live surrounded by wildlife. Almost everyone recognizes birds, bees, butterflies, squirrels and chipmunks and toads. But there are also frogs, fireflies, dragonflies, turtles and snakes. Potentially, all of these creatures can share our gardens.

Three basic elements make your garden wildlife friendly:

Water: A really fortunate gardener is located near a pond or river. Moving water increases the number of birds attracted to your garden. No natural water source, you say? Kits are available to create a pond. Adding a mister or fountain to a birdbath entices birds and discourages mosquitoes. ‘Skeeters are not welcome wildlife.

Food: Nectar plants, trees and shrubs feed pollinators and birds. When local soil re-froze in March, the returning robins dined on the last of the crab apples as well as platform feeder protein. Flat,

(over)...

Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts.

--Author Unknown

Our final program for this season will be the noted floral designer Marisa McCoy, whose “Dining With Flowers” presentation will fill your head with great ideas for the dinner table at your next party.

Presidents’ Day on April 13 was a resounding success, thanks to the talents of our available Past Presidents and the expertise of the hospitality committee. We welcomed 75, including 19 guests and 56 members (54 active and 4 associate). Thanks to each of you for providing a warm welcome to our visitors.

The Southeast District Annual Meeting was well-attended on April 21. Thelma Shoneman gave an outstanding presentation, “Spring Floral Designs Inspired by Famous U.S. Gardens,” but the highlight of the day for our members was the presentation of the Floribunda Award to *Jane Bishop*. The annual award recognizes a member from each club for outstanding service to the group. Congratulations, Jane!

Coming In May, is the election of your club officers for the term beginning in 2017. They will be installed at the Annual Luncheon on June 8 (see your April newsletter). We will also vote to approve changes to our constitution and by-laws, copies of which you received last month. May is also the month for payment of dues (\$40 active; \$60 associate). You can combine your dues with your check for the Annual Luncheon (lobster Caesar salad, \$33; chicken Francaise, \$27).

Dig Those Plants! May 21 is our Annual Plant Sale at the Chiltonville Congregational Church. As usual, we’ll also offer home-made kitchen treats, attic treasures and boutique items. *Joy Sand* (horticulture) will provide suggestions for helping your plant material look its best; *Natalie Caramello* (kitchen treats) declares “everybody bakes!,” *Meghan Rinker* (attic treasures) urges us to take this opportunity to find loving homes for nice things we don’t use, and *Stacy Connor* (boutique) is looking for fanciful crafty items. Drop off your contributions Friday, May 20, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm. If you need a helping hand, call Joy for “plant taxi” suggestions.

(over...)

(...wildlife friendly?)

cupped and tubular flowers provide something for everyone.

Cover: Birds, pollinators and small mammals need a variety of cover for nesting, sheltering from predators, and protection from nasty New England weather. Loose, short vegetation provide places for toads, salamanders and turtles to hide and hunt. Birds use hemlocks and other evergreens for nesting and winter shelter. Deciduous trees and shrubs close to feeders provide year-around shelter. Careful pruning can keep your garden groomed and the wildlife comfy. Everyone wins!

Conservation Notes—*Joan Bartlett* and *Charlotte Russell* will be retiring this year as our conservation advisors and we're looking for someone to fill their shoes. Since the club's inception in 1929, conservation has been a major concern. Long before the many conservation organizations formed in town, our members were keeping a watchful eye on forests, ponds, open spaces and the waterfront. Today, our conservation role is as advisor, a link between the town's conservation efforts and the non-profit organizations based here. Joan and Charlotte will remain engaged in our efforts. If you're interested, please talk with them.

Civic Beautification-- Any doubts about the arrival of Spring have vanished, at last! Still in doubt? Look at our club projects:

The daffodils at **Brewster Garden** and the waterfront sites have burst into bloom in a traffic-stopping display. *Jean Dobachesky* and her team have the go-ahead to plant the balance of the amsonia along the portico and our suggestion to add heirloom plants is under consideration.

The garden beds at the **Plymouth Public Library** are looking elegant after visits from *Norene Casey* and her band of volunteers who weeded, pruned and pampered the ten beds to perfection. Norene is looking for a new captain for this area, which requires coordinating activities and schedules. If you're interested, she'd love to hear from you.

Hospitality Alert—*Marie Dunlap* and *Marsha Sykes* are preparing the tea committee assignments for next year. Each month, a chairman and co-chairman are responsible for organizing the refreshment preparation and presentation; other members are assigned to prepare sweet and savory tea foods. Every member is **REQUIRED** to serve on a committee once a year. You will be notified of your assignment before the summer break; if you know you'll be away for a particular time period, please let Marie or Marsha know. Sign-up sheets are available at the May meeting.

Ways & Means-- Just in time for summer, a new supply of gardening gloves has arrived. All sizes and colors are available, and the price is still just \$6! *Monica Mooney* arranged for a new supply of garden aprons with the club logo, and we're delighted to report the cost was underwritten by the supplier, W.B.Mason, for which we are very grateful. If you ordered you apron in advance, you can pick it up at the May meeting. An additional dozen are available on a first-come basis. The price is still \$13. Assorted garden and floral arranging supplies are available, too. With *Sue Denehy* assuming the responsibilities of 1st vice president, *Denise Faherty* will be joining Monica on Ways & Means.

September Sunset Soiree-- Suddenly, September seems much closer than it did in February! Order forms for tickets for this season-opening gala will be available at our May and June meetings. Why not gather your friends together and plan to have a great time at *Mirbeau Inn & Spa* in the Pinehills?

SE District Flower Show has been rescheduled to September 12-15. The location is still the Cahoon Museum in Cotuit, and there's plenty of time remaining to get your nasturtium seeds from *Joy Sand* and enter the Horticultural Challenge!