



Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

# Plymouth Garden Club

March 2017

Linda O'Neill, President

Volume 48 Issue 6

## Membership

Active	79
Life:	1
Associate	12
Honorary	2

## Horticulture

By Joy Sand

### Phenology: Nature's Timetable

Phenology is one of the oldest of environment sciences. It has been used for millennia to track the lifestages---sprouting, flowering, seed production--of plants.

Indicator plants have served as guides for gardeners and farmers to plant. Phenology also offers guidance in applying fertilizer, pest control and pruning. For instance:

- when forsythia blooms, treat for crabgrass;
- when crocus bloom, prune roses;
- when crabapple are at budbreak, eastern tent caterpillars are hatching. Bring in pollinator-friendly pest control;
- when daffodils begin to bloom, plant peas;
- when apple trees shed petals, plant corn;
- when dogwood and lily-of-the-valley bloom, plant eggplant, peppers, tomatoes;

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*"Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men."*

*--Chinese Proverb*

**INVASIVE WEEDS AND PLANTS** is the topic of our March meeting. Russ Norton from Cape Cod Cooperative Extension will show us how to identify and control these undesirables in our gardens.

**THE FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP** on March 8 is fully subscribed. **Nancy Carafoli** will lead the group. We're looking forward to enjoying their creative output!

**ESCAPE TO THE CAPE** is April 25-27 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth. Choose one night or two; oceanfront or sundeck locations. Double occupancy sundeck prices start at \$115.61 per person per night; \$231.22 per person for two nights. And breakfast is included in our package! So call your friends and plan your escape. Call **Rose Howard** for more details and to confirm that you're going to join us.

**THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS** contributions, we gave \$90 to the Boston Marathon Daffodil fund. This effort continues to plant daffys along the race route, providing hope and encouragement to runners and watchers alike.

**SPRING IS HERE** with a flurry of garden activities. Grab your calendars and make notes...

**March 30**—GCFM Civic Development Workshop "Tough Roadside Gardens." How to create and maintain beautiful spaces in the worst environments. At the Espousal Center, Waltham; \$15 includes a light lunch. Call **Linda O'Neil** or **Susan Denehy** for carpool information.

**April 20**--Southeast District Luncheon "The Language of Flowers." Live floral demonstration by members of District clubs. At Coonemessett Inn, Falmouth; \$40 includes continental breakfast and luncheon. Send your check, payable to GCFM, to **Donna Olsson**; she will have registration forms at the next meeting. Deadline is March 31, but sign up ASAP to be seated at a club table. Call **Linda O'Neill** or **Susan Denehy** if you want to carpool.

**May 20**—Annual PGC Plant and Bake Sale  
It's time to prowl your gardens (and your friends') for choice plants.

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(...continued)

--when maple leaves begin to open, plant perennials;  
--once lilacs fade, plant squash and cucumbers;  
--when mock orange blooms, plant cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower for a second harvest.

**REMEMBER:** Ticks are already active, and they're everywhere. As you begin spring clean-up and gardening, protect your ankles (the favorite point of entry). Tuck pants into socks and seal with elastics. Then spray clothes and shoes—not skin—with permethrin. It remains effective on clothes through six wash/dry cycles. After showering, check again for ticks. Use a mirror to view your back and scalp.

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### GOT NEWS???

Feel free to phone or email your news items and garden discoveries to Judy Ingram, who's working on improving her deadlines. Thanks.

### JUNE 14—PGC Annual Meeting

Heads up! The meeting will again be at the Plymouth Golf Club. Details will be forthcoming but now's the time to start assembling your VSC (Very Special Chapeau.) This year there will be a PRIZE!

**NEW MEMBERS**—We welcome two new members and encourage you to make a special effort to say hello if you haven't yet met them. Please add to your yearbook:

**Linda Berthold**, 4[0 Bay Shore Drive, cell: 339-236-5828

Email: LB4336@cloud.com

**Rebecca Conroy**, 21 Rollingwood Lane, cell: 508-209-3051

Home phone: 508-746-3906; email: Capecodfrag@comcast.net

**LIBRARY GARDENS** will now be under the care of **Susan Denehy**. (Special thanks to Noreen Casey, who coordinated the site work with a cheerfulness that belied her aching ankle.) Susan has been in touch with current keepers and would like to invite other members to join the effort. Two pairs of hands will make it easy to keep the beds looking good. (A well-respected garden pro called them the best-looking public gardens in town! Bravo!!).

**LIBRARY CLEAN-UP** will be scheduled for late April. New England weather being what it is, we'll make the call later. Probably when the oak leaves are the size of a mouse's ear. Watch your e-mail.

**MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY** publication will be in your mailbox again this season. It's full of meeting and workshop notices and interesting gardening tips and tales. Because the Club purchases subscriptions for all members, the rate is \$8; the individual rate would be \$12.

**MOVING DAY** at Stevens the Florist will be in the next few weeks. **Nancy Carafoli** needs to clean out her attic storage area and get on with her life. So thank you to her for providing a safe haven for our items, most of which have found other homes. Now we need some sturdy moving helpers—grand children, anyone?

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB** welcomed a new president for 2017-2019. **Nancy L. Hargroves** has chosen the theme "Plant America;" projects will include Plant America Community Project Grants and "The Saved Seed," a new youth book to teach a young child where seeds come from (not from a seed package at the store). And thanks to Betty Sanders for filling her term with energy and creativity.

**WELLNESS CONCERNS**—We have just learned of the death of former member **Beth Nixon**, who has been ill for several years. No details are available at this time. **Katherine Douglass** has broken her leg. When we have more information, we'll let you know.