



Club Flower
Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Plymouth Garden Club

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Linda O'Neill, President

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Membership

Active	75
Life:	2
Associate	13

Horticulture By Joy Sands

Spring Awakening

After an endless winter of Arctic cold, heavy precipitation, and winds strong enough to blow your grandson's freckles away, the first warm spell lures us outside to assess the damage and greet the garden survivors. But this year we must approach our garden beds with caution. The clematis that climbed the lamp post and bloomed profusely now looks like an unraveled sweater at the base of the pole. Or the pair of clematis that climbed the split rail fence are a tangled mess on the ground. Resist the temptation to cut everything to the roots. For some types of clematis, that is the cruelest cut of all. Wait. Avert your eyes when you walk by the mess, but don't touch! Wait until May when you may see strong new shoots coming from the roots. Or look for new buds along the old vines. Then painstakingly cut any vines or parts of vines that are dead and dry when you bend them. (over)

Our **APRIL 11 MEETING PROGRAM** will 'Welcome Spring' with accomplished floral designers and Nationally Accredited Master Flower Show Judges Elaine DiGiovanni and Linda Ladd. They will share arranging tips and create six floral arrangements to inspire us with Spring beauty. These designs will be part of our Ways and Means chance opportunity. Our own Judy Brown will lead a flower arranging workshop starting at 9:45am that morning. She will help participants create a Monochromatic design. There is at least one opening, call Susan Denehy 508-747-1825 if you would like to participate, cost \$25.

PLANT SALE - Our annual **Spring Plant Sale is May 19**. All club members are expected to participate. Members must bake, bring plants and attic treasures, and volunteer at the sale from 9am -1pm, or make a \$10 donation, which will be used to purchase annuals for planters and baskets. This is our last fund-raiser of the year. We're trying not to raise our dues, so we need to raise enough funds to meet our goals and support our Scholarship Fund.

As you clean up your garden, note the perennials that are crowded and dig and pot plants for the sale. Trees, shrubs and bushes can be dug and potted while still dormant. Store the pots in a spot that receives morning sun and partial afternoon shade. Plants look much healthier and sell better if potted up at least a week before the sale. Include a name label. If you aren't able to pot plants ahead of the sale, you can dig them the day before, wrap then in damp newspaper and put in a plastic bag. If digging is not your 'thing', create container or basket gardens. Line baskets with plastic food containers and cut slits for drainage. Fill with potting soil and annuals.

Plants, baked goods and other sale donations should be brought to the Church on Friday, May 18 between 2-5 pm.

To make this sale a success, we need YOU to help set up and price on Friday, help the day of the sale or clean up afterward.

JR. GARDENER ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM -The school presentations have been going well although we have had to reschedule several due to all the bad weather. Liz Hester has volunteered to host the packaging of the seedling trees for the 5th graders on **April 25 at 10am**. (28 Latham Wood, Pine Hills) There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting for those interested in helping. There will be an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at South Elementary School, 178 Bourne Rd. on Friday April 27. All are welcome to attend.

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Steer the vines toward their supports. Feed with a general purpose liquid fertilizer and mulch the roots to keep them cool.

Hydrangeas are another species that can suffer from winter. Nikko Blue, the blue hydrangea of Nantucket blooms on old wood. The buds were set in the late summer on that year's woody stems. The winters on Nantucket are generally mild enough, so the buds survive. If you look closely at the buds on your Nikkos, you'll probably see that your buds are dry and brown or black thanks to the Arctic blasts of December and January. Endless Summer and other newer colorful varieties are a different matter. They produce their buds on new green wood beginning in the spring. Remember to avoid high nitrogen (middle number) lawn fertilizer on your hydrangeas. It just feeds leaves. Plant the bushes where they get at least six hours of sunlight and a weekly watering. Only prune stalks that are completely dry and brittle.

Join a citizen science project this spring!

The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is a bark beetle that infests pine trees. While it is native to the southeastern U.S., it has been expanding up the Eastern Seaboard, likely due to warmer winter temperatures. The SPB creates tunnels just beneath the bark of trees, disrupting nutrient flow and killing the tree in just 2-4 months. SEMBA is asking volunteers to monitor Myles Standish State Forest to look for signs of the beetle. For more information, join us for a volunteer meeting on Wednesday, April 25th at 6:30 PM at Wildlands Trust.

GARDEN THERAPY - The next Garden Therapy program will be on April 18 at 9:30 am at **Laurel Wood** in Pine Hills. You will help patients make small floral arrangements to take back to their rooms. There will be a signup sheet at the meeting or call Meghan Rinker at 774-4047539 or email: meghan.rinker@outlook.com to join the fun.

LIBRARY FLOWER BEDS – The clean up of the Library beds for spring is set for **Saturday May 5th at 9:45am**. Even if you are not responsible for a bed, your help on Saturday will be appreciated. We still need more help maintaining the beds through the growing months. Please contact Susan Denehy 508-747-1825 or sdenehy@icloud.com to help assist with the maintenance of a bed.

The **SE DISTRICT MEETING** will be on **April 19** at the **Coonamessett Inn**. Our club volunteered to bring 3 center pieces, and Pat Parker has purchased a lovely hand blown Humming bird feeder with iron hanger and nectar packets for our chance opportunity donation. Judy MacDonald and Jean Dobachesky will be part of the program creating an 'Art in Boom' display. Kevinette Considine has been asked to give the invocation. A dozen of our members will attend.

WAYS and MEANS – We welcome anything that you might like to contribute to the Ways & Means table. We'll have several hand blown glass orbs with flowers, and great garden gloves for your spring projects. We will have lots of arrangements for our chance opportunity! Be sure to CHECK IT OUT!

PULL TABS – Linda will have a box at the April meeting to collect the pull tabs you have collected. If not turned in then, you can bring them to the District meeting or hold on to them until September.

Our **June Luncheon** will be at the **Plymouth Yacht Club** on June 13th at 11:30. The lunch will be Lobster Salad or Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast, (there will also be a Vegetarian option), Clam Chowder and dessert. Cost for all options will be \$35 per person. Jane Bishop can take your check and entrée choice at the April or May meetings.

“BOOKS and BLOSSOMS, Chapter 2” Next October we will again create interpretations of books in table settings in the Fehlow Room at the Library. Opening Reception will be on Friday, Oct 5th at 6pm. It will be open to the public during Library hours on Saturday and Sunday of Columbus weekend.. If you would like to interpret a book in a table setting, contact Linda O'Neill.



Welcome Spring!