



# Plymouth Garden Club

February 2019

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

Website: [PlymouthGardenClub.org](http://PlymouthGardenClub.org)

## Membership

<b>Active</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Life:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Honorary</b>	<b>2</b>

## **Horticulture By Joy Sands**

### **February For the Birds**

The unusual birds we see at our winter feeders are driven there by spring conditions in the northern boreal forests. Cold, wet springs like the last two, cause pine and spruce trees to produce fewer cones, the principal food for most northern songbirds. Normally these birds migrate only short distances. But food shortages force birds to head south out of their normal range, an irruptive migration. Birds such as Bohemian waxwings, pine siskins, red-breasted nuthatches, crossbills, redpolls pine and evening grosbeaks show up at Mass. feeders.

These northern visitors and our normal winter birds such as chickadees, goldfinches, house and white-throated sparrows, some robins and eastern bluebirds, jays, juncos and of course, cardinals employ a range of techniques to survive cold. These include food caches and roosting in groups. Birds grow more feathers and fluff them to create air spaces close to the skin. They also add weight during fall's bounty of food.

Birds such as chickadees and nut

**FEBRUARY MEETING:** this Wednesday **Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>**, Joan Butler and Jana Milbocker, will speak on the "Magic of the Winter Garden". They will share suggestions and show images on how to brighten your garden in the winter. We return to our usual meeting time of **1:00 p.m.** You may bring a guest to this program. Come at 12:15 p.m. to socialize and catch up with fellow members, as the program will start promptly.

Nancy Markley will speak about this year's Art in Bloom at the renovated Center for the Arts scheduled for Oct.

**Arnold Arboretum Day Tour Reminder:** The Arnold Arboretum trip is scheduled for Thursday May ; members must sign-up by Mar 13 and pay Liz Branch by April 3. At the February meeting we will select which tour we will take.

For those who might have difficulty walking the tour it is suggested you bring whatever you need, i.e. wheelchair, walkers, cane, to assist. Arnold Arboretum only provides one or two wheelchairs and those are first come first serve. Break in new sneakers so that you'll be all set

**Southeastern District meeting:** The Coonamessett Inn in Falmouth will be the site for the district meeting April 25. Put it on your calendar.

**Evening Garden Club** is having a painting party as a fundraiser on Feb. 20 at 6:45 p.m. at the Center for the Active Living. The cost is \$20. Jean Dobachevsky will provide more information at the Feb. meeting.

(continued)

hatches switch from a carnivorous diet of insects by becoming omnivorous. They can be supported by feedings of suet and insect cakes, sunflower seeds and finding insects hidden in nooks and crannies of tree bark.

Ground feeders such as robins, jays and cardinals can be attracted by filling an old birdbath or a disposable roaster with sunflower seeds and crumbled suet cakes and setting it on the ground. Fill up all feeders late in the afternoon, before dusk to assure energy for the long cold nights. Leave nest boxes and see grass shelters up for night shelter and group roosting to conserve body heat.

When landscaping or adding to your plant inventory include plants and trees bearing late season fruits such as holly, crab apple and beauty berry. They hold fruit late into winter.

Avoid cutting seed bearing plant heads, such as Monarda, Echinacea, Queen Anne's lace which birds clean up. Every bit of nourishment will be eaten by the birds.

Hang suet feeder in places easily accessible for filling but near small trees and bushes for protection from small predators. Don't forget to put our your Christmas tree, wreath or cut branches. They make excellent cover for flower beds and shelter for birds. A temporary tree can be made by fastening evergreen branches to a tall tomato cage and adding snacks to the branches.

Happy Valentine's Day!

**Design Class:** Nancy Carafoli will lead a design class at 9:30 a.m. March 13 at the Chiltonville Church. The cost is \$25. There will be a sign-up sheet for a waiting list at the Feb. meeting.

**Speaker for next year:** A speaker for Jan. 2020 is needed. If anyone has a suggestion please let Pat Parker or Linda O'Neill know.

**Annual June Luncheon:** The June 12 annual luncheon will be held at the Plymouth Country Club. Guests will be welcome. Starting time will be 11:30 a.m. More details will be available soon.

**Member News:** Linda Souza had her other knee replacement Monday and is recuperating at home. A card would brighten her day.

**Garden Therapy:** The next one will be Thursday Feb 21, at 10:00 a.m. at Stafford Hill, 60 Stafford St.

**Advance notice:** Our club will hold a Standard Flower Show the Plymouth Public Library Fehlow room **Sept 24-27, 2020** as one of the coordinated activities of the Plymouth 400 celebration.

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

