



# Plymouth Garden Club

March 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>1</b>
<b>Honorary</b>	<b>2</b>

## **Horticulture** **By Joy Sands**

### **Planting Trees For the Birds and Bees**

As you survey the mortality from snow, ice and wind among the trees in your garden, consider planning native species as replacements. March is prime time for tree planting. Douglas Tellamy in his book *Bringing Nature Home* advises against planting the ubiquitous Bradford Pear. They "might as well be plastic" for all the good they do wildlife. Almost all birds, even the hummers raise their young on insects-protein- not the seeds and sugar water in feeders. A pair of chickadees needs up to 9000 insects to raise four nestlings. Pest-free non-native tree and widespread spraying make the task monumental and contribute to the accelerating decline of song birds. Native trees and shrubs, nature's birdfeeders, like oaks, support up to 500 species of butterflies and moths. Trees of the prunus family: cherries, plums and almonds, support caterpillars that include the spectacular cecropia (Robbins moth) and prometheus moths. Other natives include willows, birches, poplars, malus (crabapple and fruiting apples), maples (but not the invasive Norway) blueberries, alders and hickories. Even chokeberries that frequently grow by roadsides support the caterpillars of the

**MARCH MEETING:** this Wednesday Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. Suzanne Mahler, past president NE Daylily Society will present "A garden for Butterflies, Hummingbirds & Other Creatures (Frogs, Toads, Raccoons, Dragonflies, & Native Bees)". Join us at 12:30 for socializing, prior to the speaker.

The scheduled artistic design of container grown house plants has been postponed.

**Aluminum can pull tabs** are being collected please bring in to the March or April meetings.

**Arnold Arboretum Day Tour Reminder:** The Arnold Arboretum trip is scheduled for Thursday May 2. We currently have 37 people signed up, so there is space for guests. The trip will be opened up to members from other clubs in the district,. The cost is \$30 which includes the tour fee plus the bus and a tip for the driver. Please pay Liz Branch by April 3rd. The tour will start at 11:00 at the arboretum. We will meet the bus at the old Benny's parking lot on Court St. at 9:30 a.m. Carpooling is suggested. There will be a discussion on whether or where to stop for lunch after the tour at the March meeting.

**Southeastern District meeting:** The Coonamessett Inn in Falmouth will be the site for the Southeast District annual meeting April 25<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:45 a.m. Please write your check (\$42) to the GCFM and with your lunch selection bring the form to Elaine Finneral who will submit as a group to the district to make sure we are all at the same table(s).

**Library Bed Clean-up:** This has been delayed to Sat. Mar.30<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.

(continued)

yellow-striped Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly. So when planting trees : Go Native

#### Items of Interest

The MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources issued an alert for a plant predator . The spotted lantern fly (see picture below) may have come into the state with winter ported plants shipped from Pennsylvania

The grey one-inch insect has black speckles on the upper wings and striking red lower wings with blue bands, Native to Asia the spotted lantern fly was first detected in PA in 2014. The insect feeds on almonds, apples, grapes, hops, stonefruit and walnut trees. Examine any new potted plants, for the insect dead or alive and report the finding to

[www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources)

Include the source of the plant if possible

Alternatives to the Boston Flower and Garden Show include the Spring Bulb Show at Smith College,

Northampton.. Now through Mar. 17 open from 10a.m.m ot 4 p.m daily . info: [www.garden.smith.edu/events](http://www.garden.smith.edu/events) 413-585-2740. No charge but a \$5 donation suggested.

Berkshire Botanical Gardens

Fitzpatrick Greenhouse, Stockbridge now through Mar. 29 weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Info:

[www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)

Happy St, Patrick's Day

**Design Class:** Nancy Carafoli will lead a design class at 9:30 a.m. March 13th at the Chiltonville Church. The cost is \$25; please make your check out to PGC. Please bring a candlestick in for the design.

**Annual June Luncheon:** The June 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Garden Therapy:** The next one will be Thursday March 21st, at 10:00 a.m. at Life Care Center, 94 Obery St. Please bring greens.

**Ways and Means:** Congratulations to the committee for their great work. Last month the ways and means table brought in \$179 and members got a lot of useful items. The total this club year is \$1095. Adding to the supply of useful gardening items, there will be new aprons with a great looking copy of our club logo on the front. They will be sold just at cost as a benefit to members (\$14). It will be a great item to wear at our plant and Christmas sales in addition to your own garden.

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