i

Plymouth Garden Club

October 2020 Rebecca Freedman & Pat Parker, Co-Presidents Volume 50 Issue 2

The **October Garden Club meeting will be on** **October 14th** **at 1pm** **at the American Legion Community Room on 199 Federal Furnace Rd.** Plymouth. The speaker will be Mary Benea O’Brien, who developed the actual colonial kitchen garden at the historic Bradford House and maintained it for many years. She is a wealth of knowledge.

Only 35 people are allowed in the room according to the Governor’s Covid regulations. You must have made a reservation with Janet Voyer or Pat Parker to attend. Janet will have a list at the door of those who reserved places. Without a reservation you will only be allowed in the room if someone does not show up. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

**LIBRARY BEDS:** Thanks to Coletta Candini and the hardworking crew who tidied up the library beds and planted 60 mums. The area looks beautiful and the library staff are delighted.

**GARDEN THERAPY:** Due to the Corona virus pandemic no visitors are allowed in the assisted living and long-term care facilities. However last month Meghan Rinker and a small group created 30 small arrangements in Linda Berthold’s very clean garage, which were taken to and greatly appreciated by the residents of Newfield House. On Thursday, November 5th at 10am, they plan to create more small arrangements for another facility in Plymouth. Contact Meghan (774-404-7539) for more information

**WAYS and MEANS:** At the October meeting, W&M will have several Chance Opportunity baskets. Our treasurer has set up to allow credit card purchases, so you can support our club activities and participate by donating for chances even without attending. Contact Cynthia Sykes (508)732-7263 by 6pm Tuesday, October 13, 2020 to be part of the prize festivities. You need not be present to win. Last month W&M added $246 to our treasury. Thanks to Cynthia and Debbie Clark-Lalley for their creativity and hard work.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Our Board decided to add a scholarship for $250 to be awarded to a graduating Plymouth charter school senior in addition to our usual 2 scholarships for Plymouth North and South High School.

**ART in BLOOM:** The Plymouth Art Center ‘Art in Bloom’ is scheduled for October 22, 23, 24, & 25. Quite a few of our members are participating by creating floral designs to interpret the art works. The Art Center will be open from noon-4pm, Wednesday through Sunday for viewing.

 Club Flower

 Plymouth Gentian

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

**Membership**

**Active** **71**

**Associate 13**

**Life: 3**

**Conservation Tips**

**From Joan Bartlett**

**The Case for a Messier Cleanup**

 An overly aggressive approach to cleaning up in autumn can damage the environment.

When we mow over, shred or vacuum up leaves, or rake them away from the tree they fell from, we diminish the potential good that the leaves and their various inhabitants can do. Within or below the leaf litter that accumulates in the autumn, so much unseen life exists. It offers pupation sites for caterpillars of many moth species that birds rely on to feed their young. Detritivores - like millipedes that recycle plant debris - shelter beneath leaves for the duration, as do some spiders that contribute extensive pest control. Litter is critical habitat for various insects and bumblebees that provide pollination services.

Faded plants left standing all winter can play a critical role, too. They may contain seed or fruit, or offer hiding places for the off-season or reproducing.

 (over)

(continued)

Identify where things can (and can’t) remain looser. Letting everything lie where it falls, or where the wind blows it, is the inspiration, but may not prove feasible for every square foot of the garden. While many gardeners have reduced mowed turf in the name of biodiversity, most of us still have some lawn. Allowing leaves to mat it down all winter risks damaging the grass. Either mow over the leaves, returning their organic matter to the soil, or rake and move them to the garden’s perimeter or to vegetable beds where they can serve as mulch.

In beds where early blooming minor bulbs like crocus or snowdrops might not be able to push up through heavy leaves, rake those spots now; in the spring, you won’t be able to do any raking until after the bulbs flower. Leave little pockets of open soil beneath the spots where you hope biennials and self-sowing annuals will grow.

In the vegetable garden, use a firm hand. Sanitation is the organic gardener’s best tool for insect pest reduction. Thoroughly cleanup, pulling plants and removing them to a distance can reduce over- wintering opportunities for common opponents such as squash bugs; cabbageworm species; and cucumber and bean beetles. Keep the vegetable garden mulched year-round. Use grass clippings or leaves that you’ve moved off the lawn. Bring inside tender plants and herbs that won’t survive outside. Weed until the ground freezes.

Think of fall garden cleanup as an editing job, not a wall to wall regimen like vacuuming the living room.

**GREENS SALE:** Our annualfundraiser is scheduled for **Friday December 4th & Saturday the 5th** in the Fehlow room of the Plymouth Public Library. We will decorate live green wreaths, and create holiday arrangements on Thursday, December 3rd and Friday morning, also in the Fehlow room. Since there are strict limits on the number of people allowed in the library at one time due to Covid, we will have to have sign-up sheets for volunteers and ask you to please stick to the schedule. We will all wear masks and socially distance, no more than 12 people are allowed in the Fehlow room at one time.

We will have some artificial wreaths at the club meeting that you can take home and decorate to help out. These should be brought to the library Thursday afternoon or Friday morning before the sale.

As usual we will need lots of evergreen branches and holly with berries. Please wait to trim your shrubs and trees until late November or early December and bring the branches to the back of the library on December 3rd or 4th. You do not need to come in, if you are worried about the virus, but your greens will be appreciated. If you have any pieces of artificial greens, please bring them to the meeting for Cynthia.

Tell your friends that we are still planning on hosting our sale of fabulous wreaths and arrangements. We’ll have the filled wooden outdoor baskets, too. But customers will have to make a reservation through the Plymouth Public Library website to be able to come into the library on Friday afternoon and Saturday. We hope weather permitting to have some wreaths and outdoor baskets for sale on the portico at the front of the library for those who may not have made a reservation.

As with everything now, our plans are subject to changes, but we will keep you well informed and hope that you will come help and support your club.

***Building Community through***

***Gardening Together***