



Plymouth Garden Club

March 2021

Pat Parker, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	73
Associate	14
Life:	2

Gardening for Bees From Joy Sand

There are estimated to be approximately 20,000 different species of bees in the world. The vital honeybee is only one of these species. These industrious insects are primarily attracted to plants that produce blue, purple, violet, white, or yellow flowers. Bees prefer blues of flatter habit, rather than deeply petaled blooms like peonies.

The main factors hastening the phenomenal decline of honeybees include agricultural dependence on pesticides, mites, and viruses. One of the causes of decline that we can address is the lack of native plants in landscaping. As human population encroached on "wild habitats" that once supported acres of wild flowers, shrubs and trees, native plant food sources vanished. But we can help to ease this loss by planting bee friendly flowers, trees and shrubs. If the winter winds took down a shade tree in your yard, consider replacing it with a cherry or apple tree. These trees grow best in USDA zones #2 – 8, (we are 6b) in all but the densest clay or rocky soil.

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MARCH MEETING: We will meet again via zoom this month on **Wednesday, March 10 at 1pm.** Our scheduled speaker is Jon Way of Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research. He has been actively studying these animals and will share his research to help us better appreciate and understand our native coyotes. Join the [Zoom Meeting here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88985795672?pwd=STViZVIwZ1FCRnB4M0dCUDU0YWZHQOT09) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88985795672?pwd=STViZVIwZ1FCRnB4M0dCUDU0YWZHQOT09> There will be a brief business meeting and Ways & Means will have a contest to guess the number of gold coins with prizes. We are welcoming potential new members, so if you have a friend who might be interested in joining our club invite them to this zoom meeting, share the link above and let Crystal Payne crystalannpayne@gmail.com know so she will admit them to the meeting.

MAY PLANT SALE: We will be having our annual **Plant Sale** on Saturday **May 22 on the Plymouth Library front lawn.** The rain date will be Sunday, May 23. We will need many volunteers to set up from 8-10am and then to work the sale from 10am-1pm. You should start dividing and potting your perennials early. The longer they are growing in their pots the better they will look and sell. You may drop off your plants on Fri. May 21 from 3-5 pm behind the library or Sat. morning by 10am. We will not be selling baked goods this year.

JUNE LUNCHEON: We will be having our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on **June 9** at 11:30am on the lawn of the **Plymouth Yacht Club.** Lavishly Dunn Caterers will provide boxed lunches with your sandwich choice of: Grilled Chicken & Pesto, Italian Roast Beef & Cheddar, or Roasted Vegetable Wrap. Members should choose their preference by emailing, calling or texting Susan Denehy, 508-317-4130. The club will cover the cost of the food this year.

SEPTEMBER FLOWER SHOW: The library will host our Club Flower Show, 'Celebrating Plymouth - 400 Years', on **September 17 - 19th** in the Fehlow room, providing the pandemic precautions allow. Geri Williams will be sending out the schedule soon. Start looking it over to select the design class(es) you would like to enter. Geri (508-833-4355) is happy to answer any questions regarding the flower show.

WAYS and MEANS: The winner of Valentine's basket was Karen Baker, all she had to do was sign into the meeting! This month - How many coins???? Closest guess wins beautiful basket, two runner-up prizes, thanks to Debby Lally. The Board vote to purchase a SSL certificate which insures that our website is safe and secure. The shop on our website has PGC logo items and gardening gloves for sale.

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If you choose fruit bearing trees, they will produce food for you as well as wildlife and pollen for the bees.

Bee-loved annuals like borage, pot marigolds, violets, zinnias grow just as well in pots on decks and patios. Hardy asters need more space and may grow to 30 inches tall at the back of the garden they attract both bees and butterflies.

Beebalm (Monarda) with their one or two layered blooms, a NA native, thrive in full sun, but do not like wet feet. Monarda leaves supply the mint like flavor to Earl Grey tea.

But the queen of the pollinator favorites is milkweed. Bees and butterflies will line up for a sip of the blossoms. Of course, monarch butterflies need milkweeds for caterpillar food. Milkweed is native to NA and generally thrives in average soil with average moisture and full sun.

For your pollinator garden choose flowers of different shapes, sizes, colors and bloom times. Plant flowers in clusters of similar types. But be certain the plants are not sterile hybrids which do not produce much nectar. Nursery stock often comes labeled bee and pollinator friendly.

If you are on Facebook, be sure to join our page - The Plymouth Garden Club.

Building Community through Gardening Together

TIDMARSH TOUR: We will have a guided tour of the Audubon Tidmarsh Reserve on **June 23rd at 10am**. The cost will be \$5 per person. After for those who would like, we will go to lunch at your own cost at a nearby restaurant.

CONSERVATION TIPS from Joan Bartlett:

We Garden Club members, as well as enjoying each other's company, regularly discuss and disperse information on good garden practices and beautiful designs. In Plymouth our club is particularly fortunate to have top notch organizations who care about good conservation practices around town including The Wildlands Trust, and the Audubon Society. The Town of Plymouth has its own committees as well: The Conservation Commission, The Open Space Committee, The Network of Open Space Friends, and Sustainable Plymouth, to name a few.

The **Community Preservation Committee** is special and, since some of us may not know quite how it works, I will briefly explain. It was established by Mass General Law, chapter 44B. Plymouth voted to accept this law in 2002, putting a 1.5% surcharge on our property taxes (just one half the amount allowed by the law.) This amount is matched by the state. A committee (The CPC) is appointed to receive applications for funding and determine which ones to take to town meeting for approval. A minimum of 10% must be allocated to each of the following: affordable housing, land conservation and historic preservation. The remaining 70% may be allocated to one or more of these three purposes according to local priorities. Plymouth was one of the first towns to sign on and has benefitted enormously. Even with the smaller taxpayer surcharge, through partnering with applicants to seek federal and state grants more than \$40 million total have been raised. A few of the land conservation preservation projects that have come about thanks to the Community Preservation Act include: the County Farm, Center Hill Preserve, Eel River Preserve, Hedges Pond Recreational Area, the Alper Preserve at Little Herring Pond, North Plymouth Rail Trail, Stephens Field, Town Brook Restoration, Veterans Memorial Field, Wildlands Trust Headquarters. (plus at least this many Affordable Housing and Historic preservation projects) The Town has been enriched by so many acres of land preserved for all of us to enjoy and pass on for the enjoyment of future generations, we should support future initiatives of the CPC.

LIBRARY BEDS: We need 5 more volunteer bed tenders for the coming growing year. Call or email Coletta 774-454-0392 to volunteer. She asks that bed tenders please check your beds and do a general clean up of debris and weeds so they will look nice and be ready for planting additional perennial plants at a later date to be announced.

GCFM: Check out the website: GCFM.org. Find the MAYFLOWER magazine, our club is in the Spring issue, other information and videos. You can register for a free zoom lecture: *Gardentopia: Design Basics for Creating Beautiful Outdoor Spaces* by Jan Johnson on March 24 at 10:30am

GARDENING GREEN EXPO: March 22-28 is a series of free virtual lectures sponsored by NSRWA and Kennedy Country Gardens. To register go to: <https://www.nsrwa.org/get-watersmart/gardening-green-expo-2021/>

Glorianna Davenport of Tidmarsh Farm will present a zoom program on **The Ecological Benefits of Wetlands Restoration on Cranberry bogs**. This Program is sponsored by the Herring Ponds Watershed Association. **Thurs. March 25** at 7:00 PM. To register: <https://www.theherringpondswatershed.org>