



Plymouth Garden Club

June 2021

Pat Parker, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	72
Associate	14
Life:	2

That's a Pollinator? From Joy Sand

In recent years, butterflies and bees received the lion's share of attention as pollinators. But other smaller, less dramatic insects do their share of pollination as well. In addition to wanting to share our picnics, the social black ant is a lover of nectar and therefore a pollinator of pumpkins. And ants are well known on peonies. Ants don't actually pollinate peonies, but they make pollination possible.

Peonies secrete nectar on the outside of the buds. As ants climb the buds to eat the nectar, they repel insects such as armored scale, mites, and thrips that would eat the blossoms, thus protecting the blooms for pollination. Ants prefer plants whose blossoms are close to the stem. Ants don't fly; they must crawl for their supper.

The flower fly mimics a bee with yellow or black stripes on smooth bodies. Bee bodies are fuzzy. Bees have 4 wings; flies have 2. Flower fly grubs feed on aphids. Flower flies prefer to live on roses, sunflowers, and milkweed.

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JUNE MEETING: We will gather this month on **Wednesday, June 9 at 11:30am at the Plymouth Yacht Club, 34 Union St.** for our **Annual Luncheon**. The Club treasury will cover the cost of 'Bag Lunches' with your choice of sandwiches prepared by Lavishly Dunn. Beverages can be purchased from the Yacht Club bar. 67 members and guests have reserved their sandwich choice and place for lunch to enjoy each other's company. We will install our Club officers for next year, recognize achievements and congratulate our scholarship awardees. Thanks to Susan Denehy, Paula Butterfield, Karen Baker, Marie Dunlap, Colleen Costa, Liz Hester and Gail Conner for all their efforts to make this luncheon special under difficult circumstances.

CLUB DUES for next year are due this month and can be paid at the luncheon, on our website or mailed to Rose Cain: Members-\$40, Associate members- \$60.

MAY PLANT SALE: Our annual **Plant Sale** held on the lawn at the Library was a great success. **\$2876** was brought in and after deducting the expense of signs **\$2596** was the net proceeds. Thanks to all who helped by contributing plants and items for the Attic Treasures, and who worked at the sale. Special thanks to Meghan Rinker for organizing the Attic Treasures and Geri Williams for the many plants she donated and for organizing the Plant Sale. If you placed an advertising sign for our plant sale, bring it to Pat at the lunch so she can save them for next year.

HOSTESSES FOR NEXT YEAR: As we had very few in person meetings this past year, it was decided to keep the members the same for each month next year as are in our current Yearbook. If you would like to change the month that you were assigned tell Karen Baker at the lunch or contact her at 508-209-0306 or Karen_Baker@msn.com

NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION: Please check your address, phone # and email in the current Yearbook and contact Janet Voyer with any changes that need to be made. Janet will be at the check-in table at the luncheon or email her at jvoyer822@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: Our Club donated four Scholarships this year: **Emily Murphy** of PNHS - \$1500
Emma Blakeman of PSHS - \$1500
For the first time we also donated scholarships to students of the Charter Schools in Plymouth:
Sky Nickerson graduating from Rising Tide Charter School - \$250
Emma Boyden of Map Academy Charter School - \$250
It is hoped that these young women will be able to attend our luncheon so you can meet and personally congratulate them.

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Golden rod soldier beetles have long slender bodies covered by hard opaque wings in the colors of yellow and brown. These beetles are harmless to humans, they neither bite nor sting. Their larvae eat only pollen, nectar, and tiny insects. Golden rod soldier beetles prefer sunflowers and golden rod. The bright lady beetle is called the gardeners' friend. She eats mites, thrips, white flies, and aphids – all pests. As the beetles feed, they move pollen from flower to flower. And she won't lay eggs unless aphids are present. Lady beetles prefer plants with flat flowers like coreopsis, cosmos, and sunflower.

The mud wasp dauber, like all wasps, is capable of stinging. But they are solitary, so they have no hive to defend. Adults feed on nectar and pollen and transport pollen on their 'wasp-waisted' bodies. They also consume honeydew, a sugar rich, sticky liquid which can attract fungus. Wasps are especially valuable to berry crops. They also prefer yellow flowers like Rudbeckia and Echinacea.

Eliminating or at least drastically reducing the application of pesticides will support these under appreciated pollinators. Grow the various host plants to support the pollinators throughout the growing season.

Building Community through Gardening Together

SEPTEMBER FLOWER SHOW: Our Club Flower Show, 'Celebrating Plymouth - 400 Years', is planned for **September 17 -19th**, however few members have registered to participate in the design classes. If we do not have more people willing to enter we will have to cancel the show or postpone it until next year. This show is our Club's effort and you do not have to be an expert designer or be intimidated to try your hand. This can be a fun learning experience. The Flower Show Schedule is on our website under Events along with notes for the Design classes. You can sign up for a design class you would like to enter at the luncheon or email Judy Brown at judyatthepond2@gmail.com or Gail Connors gcandpc@comcast.net for Botanical Arts. Geri (508-833-4355) is happy to answer any questions regarding the flower show. All classes need 4 exhibitors to be judged. We will make a decision about holding the show by June 20th.

TIDMARSH TOUR: We will have a guided tour of the Audubon Tidmarsh Reserve on **June 23rd at 10am**, rain date the 24th. We will meet in the Tidmarsh parking lot on Beaver Dam Rd. at 9:50am. The tour will last about 2 hours. We are limited to 25 participants, and the tour is full. Paula has collected \$6 per person to cover the \$150 cost of the tour and the Board decided to add another \$100 donation to the Audubon. Anyone who would like, can join us for lunch 'Dutch treat' at 42 Degrees North on State Rd. at 12:30pm after the tour.

GARDEN TOURS: Colleen Costa will organize tours of member's gardens this summer as a courtesy for our members and friends. If you are willing to open your yard for limited visitors, please call Colleen at 781-585-5353.

CONSERVATION TIP: From Liz Hester and former member Lois Post: The county is planning aerial and ground spraying for mosquitoes starting June 1. While I understand the reasoning I urge all of you to fill out the form on the website <https://www.mass.gov/forms/request-for-exclusion-from-wide-area-application-of-pesticides> and opt out of any spraying. Not only does the spray kill mosquitoes but bees and other pollinators and interrupts the food chain for various birds (hummingbirds, etc.) that eat the insects. Eventually it will interrupt our food chain when we lose the pollinators. It will only take a few minutes to complete the form.

LIBRARY BEDS: The perennial veronica plants were planted in 9 of the beds. The beds look lovely and tidy. Bed tenders should check their beds for weeds and deadheading frequently throughout the summer to maintain them. Kate Angley and Crystal Payne are turning bed 5 into a demonstration 'Pollinator Garden'.

ALUMINUM PULL TABS: You should bring the pull tabs you have collected to the Luncheon as the GCFM President, Jill Malcolm will attend and can bring all our tabs to the office.

ART IN BLOOM: Art in Bloom will be held at Plymouth Center for the Arts on October 8 - 11 (Columbus Day weekend) Please mark your calendars. Try your hand at floral design with no rules or judging, just for fun. The dates to go to the center to choose your artwork will be announced later.

CATHERINE WALTON: Our Club is saddened by the sudden passing of Catherine. She will be missed, so full of life and generous. Our club will need volunteers to replace her as Website Co-administrator. Donations can be made in Catherine's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Elfort Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32256