



Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	65
Associate	13
Life:	3

Bits and Pieces for Gardeners From Joy Sand

Happy New Year!

As if Pollinators aren't under enough pressure already, plant hybridizers are producing sunflowers, the late summer stalwarts of the pollinators, without pollen. Some consumers complain that the yellow pollen grains stain their white tablecloths or polished table tops! Burpee, the seed company, still sells pollen-bearing varieties. When questioned, big box stores had no idea about the variety they sold. I recommend placing sunflower arrangements on plates or platters to contain the pollen. Hopefully this trend can be blunted.

This summer, Quincy author Thomas Mickey released a new book all about flowers. It traces the trend for gardeners to grow in gardens and pots familiar and recognizable plants. Including some 50 illustrations, Mickey's book is available on Amazon and through the Ohio State Press. Summer 2021 has been a bumper year for ticks carrying bacteria causing Lyme, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis. Continue spraying
(over)

Plymouth Garden Club

September 2021

Pat Parker, President

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SEPTEMBER MEETING: We will gather this month on **Wednesday, September 8th at the Chiltonville Congregational Church**. The meeting will start promptly at **1pm** but members can start to gather at 12:30pm to meet and greet. Our speaker will be Cathie Healy, a Master Flower Show Judge who will show us what the judges are looking for when they evaluate your horticulture specimen in a flower show. She is a great gardener and delightful speaker. Our Flower show was postponed, but hopefully we will be able to put on our own flower show next year, and you will be glad for the tips from Cathie. Bring in a horticulture specimen (stem) from your garden, please label it with the botanical name as well as the common name. Please wear a mask.

BOOKS AND BLOSSOMS CHAPTER 3: A dozen of our members will interpret books with a floral arrangement and table setting on a card table in the Fehlow room of the Plymouth Public Library on South St. This event will be free and open to the public on **Thursday, September 16** from 10am – 6pm, **and Friday and Saturday September 17 & 18** from 10am - 5:30pm. Come to enjoy the lovely designs and guess the book titles from the floral designs and table setting clues. Tell your friends about it.

BULB SALE: Members responded well to the bulb sale and preordered \$770 worth of tulips and daffodils. These bulbs will be packaged for distribution at the Club meeting in October. There will be a small number of bulb packages that were not preordered also available that day. Also ordered at the same time were some tulips and daffodils that we will plant at the American Legion at a date to be determined later this fall. The proceeds of the bulb sale will cover the cost of the bulbs to be planted and make a profit for the Club. Thank you Joy Sand and Cynthia Sykes and Ways and Means for organizing this.

LIBRARY BEDS: The perennial veronica plants were planted in 9 of the beds, unfortunately with the hot dry weather not all the plants thrived. Kate Angley and Crystal Payne did a great job converting bed 5 into a demonstration 'Pollinator Garden' with many native plants, which did their job attracting various bees, butterflies and moths. Coletta has asked members to come to the library on **Thursday, September 30th at 10am** to deadhead and cleanup the beds in preparation for the mulching. Members of the Plymouth Rotary have volunteered to come spread the bulk mulch on the beds after we have prepped them.

PENNY PINES PROJECT: We will be collecting spare change donations at the meeting this month to help support the replanting of trees in National Forests damaged by fire or natural disasters. When we collect \$68 it is sent through the National Garden Club program.

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clothing with picaridin and DEET repellent especially from the knees down. Continue the precautions anytime the air temperature rises above 32 degrees, even during the winter. Research continues on producing a vaccine for humans. Birding organizations in the Mid Atlantic region are reporting an epidemic of a new eye disease among larger birds. It is believed to be fungus carried by cicadas which the birds eat. The disease encrusts the eyes and is believed to cause blindness and spread by close contact. There have been in NE.

It is recommended that birdbaths be cleaned daily. Bird feeders should be washed with mild bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly twice a week. Humming bird feeders should be washed whenever refilled. Speaking of hummers, if you supplement late summer blooms with a sugar solution, change the ratio of white sugar to boiled water to 3 to 1. The hummers are 'bulking up' for their migration. Remember is the second spring – garden on!

Building Community through Gardening Together

Treasury report as of 5/1/21:

Checkbook: \$18631

Scholarship fund: \$10,080

ART IN BLOOM: The Plymouth Center for the Arts will host Art in Bloom on October 8 to 11, a feature of their Annual Juried Art Show.

For those who want to participate, there will be a sign up sheet and instructions at our meeting on Wednesday, September 8. If you do not attend the meeting please e-mail or call Nancy Markley to sign up.

Nmarkley@comcast.net, 508-746-0519. Instructions will be sent to you. This is a fun time to express your creativity and practice your arranging skills.

The Plymouth Garden Club was asked by the Massachusetts Mayflower Society to do an arrangement for the General Board of Assistants Meeting on Thursday, September 9th. The meeting is of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants for approximately 350 people from all over the world at the 1620 Hotel grand ballroom. Judy MacDonald, our Club's designer of wonderful mass arrangements will create this work of art and be assisted by Pat Parker. It will be done in a large urn in shades of pink, as that is their signature color.

CONSERVATION TIPS: Taking care of the environment begins in your own backyard.

- Avoid synthetic chemicals, apply organic fertilizer or compost especially in the fall, the best time to fertilize lawn.
- Keep the grass at least 3 inches high to strengthen roots and shade out weeds. Leave grass clippings on the lawn, they provide nutrients.
- Replace areas of grass with native plants, they are adapted to our ecosystem and they attract beneficial insects, such as dragonflies and ladybugs.
- Fall is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. Consider replacing invasive burning bush with high bush blueberries or a Norway maple with a red maple.

GREEN SALE: It's not too early to start thinking about our Annual Green Sale which will be held at the Plymouth Public Library on **Saturday, December 4**. We are not sure if we will be able to purchase the wooden boxes that we fill with greens for porches and gravesites, so if you have one from a previous year or any other basket or suitable container and would like to donate them, please bring to the fall meetings, give them to Geri Williams. Save dried flower heads, seedpods, and pinecones, spray them with silver, gold or red paint. We could use other Christmas decorations suitable for wreaths. If you are going through your old holiday decorations, call Geri (508-833-4355) to arrange to donate ornaments or old wreaths that could be redecorated. Pick up and donate any small sprays, snowflakes, fake fruit, glittery flowers or ornaments that we could use on wreaths or in arrangements and baskets.



It was a great year for hydrangeas. Some of mine bloomed profusely for the first. In foreground a 'popcorn' hydrangea with blooms 9 inches across and a lavender vitex or chaste tree. *Geri*