



Plymouth Garden Club

February 2022

Pat Parker, President

Volume 51 Issue 6

Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	73
Associate	13
Life:	3

Be a Better Orchid Parent From Joy Sand

Orchids have become a popular gift plant. They are readily available at florist shops and nurseries, as well as big box retail stores. However, orchids are better suited for gift giving at Easter and Mother's Day than Christmas and Valentine's Day. Orchids are tropical plants. They hate cold!

Orchids don't like ice cubes either. The one or two ice cubes a week is a marketing ploy to convince buyers that orchids are simple to care for. Being a good orchid parent means learning an orchid's environmental requirements.

The most popular Phalaenopsis orchid hales from Southeast Asia and Northern Australia and are genetically adverse to cold. They need bright, indirect sunlight but not direct searing sun. Orchids prefer to live on a pellet tray. The small colorful pebbles for the bottom of fish tanks are ideal. Keep the water level even with the top of the pebbles. The pebbles are small so the pot stays stable.

Orchids want a real shower every 10 days or so. Use a sink sprayer to shower the leaves and external roots gently. (over)

FEBRUARY MEETING: Our February Meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 9th at 1pm due to the prevalence of the highly contagious Omicron variant of Covid19. Our speaker, Blake Dinius, the Plymouth County Extension Entomologist, will be speaking on identifying the various ticks in our area, the diseases they can carry, and how to prevent tick bites. This is very relevant information as we return to working in our gardens and spending more time outside. Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82598262394?pwd=OW9tNVdXUnhiR29CODdEelpGaHNddz09>

We hope to be able to meet in person in March at the Church.

WAYS AND MEANS: Cynthia Sykes and Debby Clark-Lally have planned a guessing game for those who attend the zoom meeting. You will be asked to guess the number of foil wrapped hearts in a cylinder and type your answer in the Chat function. At the end of the program the member with the correct answer will win the prize of a heather plant and basket of cookies. Members whose birthdays occur in January and February will receive a free opportunity chance at the March meeting.

ANNUAL JUNE LUNCHEON: Karen Baker and Paula Butterfield have been working on plans for our June Luncheon. We will have a buffet prepared and served by Mama Mia's at the Plymouth Yacht Club. More details will follow.

JR. GARDENERS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM: Volunteers are needed to go into 3rd grade classrooms in March and April. We will need 10-15 volunteers to go into the classrooms starting March 29th. The presentation in each classroom will last one hour. Most days we will deliver the program to 2 classrooms. **If you are interested in helping with this program or would like more information, contact Geri by phone or at geri3williams@comcast.net.** Our Powerpoint presentation has been reworked to make it more appropriate for 3rd grade learning style and be more interactive. The amount of information has been simplified and reduced. Geri will train volunteers with this new presentation on Wed. March 23 and Thur. March 24 from 1-3pm in the Library Board Room. You need only attend one of the training days. This is a great opportunity to help the young students of Plymouth become interested in and aware of our unique environment.

Linda O'Neill, our SE District Director, has announced that the Southeast District will not be having their Annual Luncheon this April.

NEW MEMBER: Welcome to our newest member – Linda Santulli. Her contact information will be sent our via e-mail.

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Orchids receive moisture and nutrients through the leaves, stems, and external roots that festoon the pots. Let the pot dry out for 10 days. The ice cube trick doesn't hydrate an orchid adequately.

A gentle fan to increase airflow benefits orchids. A small battery operated fan run an hour or so morning and afternoon is ideal. Liquid orchid food (Logees.com) rounds out the orchid's needs. Feed during watering bimonthly.

Once the petals drop, the orchid is not dead. The plant needs to recoup the energy from blooming. Plan one of the feedings for post blooming. It can take 6 months to a year for new buds to form. Do not cut back the blossom stem until it is completely dry. The next buds will appear on the same stem. Continue your regular orchid care.

The hours of daylight are increasing. As we leave behind 'the bleak mid winter' we can begin to think of starting tomato seeds for summers bounty. Tomatoes need bright light and bottom heat. A sunroom or enclosed porch is wonderful for seed starting, as long as nightly temps do not drop below 50 degrees. Heat mats and grow lights are readily available. Garden on!

Building Community through Gardening Together

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Our current club officers will be completing their 2 year terms this June, we will be electing new officers this May. The Nominating Committee composed of Dee Dee Dunlap and Eileen Gallerani are seeking members who are willing to take on the responsibilities of the offices of 1st and 2nd Vice President. The role of each officer is described in the Bylaws Section in our Yearbook. Also needed are the chair or co-chair some of our committees, the functions of which are described on our website (PlymouthGardenClub.org) under Board of Directors. Please contact **Dee Dee or Eileen** if you are interested in supporting the Club in any role or need more information.

CONSERVATION TIPS: As you dream about spring and renewing your gardens, think about pollinators who are so essential and whose populations are declining. Consider planting more native flowers, shrubs and trees to provide food and shelter. Choose species with different flowering times so pollinators have blooms from spring into fall. Stop or minimize the use of pesticides and other manufactured chemicals including synthetic fertilizers. Reduce lawn grass that offers little food or shelter for pollinators and often requires chemicals to maintain. Some great guides and information can be found at www.pollinator.org/guides.

PLANT SALE: Our plant sale fundraiser is planned for May 21 on the lawn of the Library. In addition to plants donated by members, we plan to sell 'Attic treasures' and baked goods. As you check out your gardens after the snow melts and green starts to appear, think about what plants you can dig and divide for the sale. If you are starting some seeds for annuals, plant some extras to donate. We need support from every member to make this successful. If a member doesn't donate plants or otherwise work on the sale, they should make a donation of \$10 to the club.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE: Our brochure needs updating, if you can help Coletta Candini review and improve our membership brochure contact Pat Parker: rockyhill3@verizon.net or by phone in your directory.

If you change your email or phone number please let Pat Parker know so you will continue to get information. If you have a problem or concern with a Club event or policy please contact Pat Parker or the appropriate Committee Chair or attend a Board Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, rather than interrupting a General Member Meeting to a **Happy Anniversary!**

Our Club received this certificate from Jill Malcolm, the GCFM President, congratulating our club on 50 years of belonging to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts and National Garden Club Federation. The Plymouth Garden Club was founded in 1929 and joined the Federation in 1971. Many years of gardening, friendship and spreading knowledge!

