



Plymouth Garden Club

March 2022

Pat Parker, President

Volume 51 Issue 7

Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	74
Associate	13
Life:	3

Seeds of Change From Joy Sand

In light of the increasingly grim and traumatic state of the world, home growing of vegetables is increasing in importance. The term Victory Garden is being revived. Raising your own veg has a significant positive impact on stress levels, increasing the availability of healthy food, and easing the carbon impact of feeding oneself or family, at least in the short term.

With the erratic growing season here in zone 6B, growing veg can benefit from a 'jump start' indoors. Seeds started indoors have three requirements: heat, light, and moisture. Heat and light are especially controllable indoors. The ambient temperature in the room you use should never go below 50 degrees.

Not all veg can be launched indoors. Think sweet corn! The warm weather veg are the ones we can start early. Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant should be started 6-10 weeks before the last frost. The last frost generally happens around Memorial Day.

There is equipment available to help with seed starting. Our parents and grandparents probably

(over)

MARCH MEETING: Our **March Meeting** will be in person at the Chiltonville Church on **Wednesday, March 9th at 1pm**, members may start gathering at 12:30pm to socialize. Our speakers Richard Vacca and Patrick Farah will be speaking about an exciting new initiative called Civic Agriculture (Civic Ag). Civic Ag is a Town Program that develops and maintains a local food system infrastructure, with the goal of fostering food oriented economic development, innovative, regenerative and sustainable farming practices, processing, distribution and food waste management through the investment of public and private resources, resulting in a long term, dependable and resilient local agricultural economy.

WAYS AND MEANS: Cynthia Sykes and Debby Clark-Lally will have a St. Patrick's Day themed basket for the raffle. Members whose birthdays occur in January and February as well as March will receive a free opportunity chance.

ANNUAL JUNE LUNCHEON: We will have a buffet lunch prepared and served by Mama Mia's at the Plymouth Yacht Club. The cost for lunch will be \$35/member. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April and the May meetings for those who plan to attend. You can pay your dues for 2022-23 at that time with the same check: \$35 + \$40 for active members or \$60 for associate members.

JR. GARDENERS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM: Several volunteers are still needed to go into 3rd grade classrooms in March and April. **If you are interested in helping with this program or would like more information, contact Geri at 508-833-4355 or geri3williams@comcast.net.** Geri will train volunteers for the 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. The Board voted to give each student in grades 3, 4, and 5 a seedling tree for Arbor Day as we did not give trees to any of these students due to schools being closed for Covid19. This means that we will have to wrap and bag 1600 bare root seedling trees, a big undertaking. **We need 12-15 volunteers to go to Geri's home on April 26th at 10am** to prepare the individual trees for distribution to the classrooms. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

NEW MEMBER: Please introduce yourself and welcome: **Jo-Ann Lee** 11 Wellington Ave. Plymouth, MA 02360, 781-424-6548, jellcc@me.com

CLUB FLOWER SHOW: we plan to have our postponed Flower Show at the Library September 29, 30 and Oct. 1. Look for the schedule soon in your email and start thinking about how you can help and what design class or horticulture to enter.

(continued)

sprouted tomatoes, peppers and eggplants on top of the refrigerator (bottom heat), and then moved the young plants to the window sills. But refrigerators are better insulated now, and contemporary houses have narrow window sills, if any.

At the back of seed catalogues are displays of heat mats, humidity domes, and growlights, both regular and LED. Heat mats come in sizes to accommodate 1,2, or 5 flats. The heat mats are controlled by on/off switches that use normal wall outlets. The growlights consist of light tubes suspended from frames. The lights begin resting on the flats, and then are raised as plants grow. Lights are lit during normal daylight hours; you can even get one with a timer. Humidity domes maintain consistent moisture during germination.

Costs for the mats and lights are generally consistent. LED light fixtures are more expensive. Ordering from catalogues, comes with the stress of long wait times for the mail. Buying locally is a better option. Nurseries such as Morrison's stock heat mats, growlights, seeding flats and pots, and seed starting medium. Seeding flats and pots are available in 'green' options – compostable flats and pots. Seed starting medium from renewable sources, rather than peat or sphagnum moss, are preferable.

“She who plants a seed believes in the future.” Garden On!

Building Community through Gardening Together

TEA HOSTESSES: Karen Baker and her assistant Joanne Makely will have sign-up sheets for next year's Tea Table Committees. They need to have a Hostess and Co-Hostess for each month along with Committee members. All active members, except officers must serve on one month's committee. To have your choice of which month you would like to serve, sign up early.

PRESIDENTS DAY: the GCFM President and Vice President as well as all the Presidents of the other clubs in our Southeast District will be invited to our **May meeting**. It is customary to invite the other Presidents and a guest to a club meeting every 2 years to foster cooperation and learn more about what the various clubs do. This requires additional efforts to create name tags, favors, and a fancier tea. If you are willing to help with preparations for May, please contact Pat Parker: rockyhill3@verizon.net or 508-746-0775.

STORAGE SPACE NEEDED: The club has a number of properties that are currently in various members' homes that will be sold – pedestals, flower show paraphernalia, Club records, Green sale supplies, etc., So we need to find a space for this. If you have space in a barn, garage or other suitable place, please contact Pat Parker. If we have to rent a storage unit, it will be a substantial, additional expense for the club.

CONSERVATION TIPS: There is a serious threat to our local environment, particularly our Plymouth Bay from the decommissioning of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant. Holtec, the company responsible, has 1 million gallons of radioactive water to dispose of as part of the decommissioning. Their original plan was to release it in batches into Plymouth Bay. However, in response to much public outcry, they have stated that they will not release any irradiated water into the bay this year while they study other options for disposing of the water. Studies have indicated that due to the nature of Plymouth Bay, the released irradiated water would not flow out into the Atlantic Ocean, but much of it would settle to the bottom of the bay. This would affect our fish and shellfish, possibly harming our local aquaculture and recreation industries. We garden club members who are concerned with the environment, must raise our voices in protest of the dumping of any contaminated water. **There will be a petition to sign at the meeting.** Please let our legislators know your concerns.

PLANT SALE: Our plant sale fundraiser will be 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 seeds for annuals, plant some extras to donate. We need support from every member. If a member doesn't donate plants or otherwise work, they should make a donation of \$10 to the club.

LIBRARY BEDS: Coletta Candini (Coletta.g.Candini@verizon.com) needs an assistant to help plan and organize the maintenance of the Library beds. If you have volunteered to care for a bed in the past and are willing to continue, or would like to help this season, let Coletta know.

MARIE DUNLAP, one of our oldest members, just passed away. Marie will be remembered as a devoted, hardworking, kind and generous member. Though quiet and self-deprecating, she was always there to help out. She organized our Tea Tables for so many years, came early to open the church, volunteered for most activities and was a remarkable floral designer, winning blue ribbons in Club flower shows. Marie, we will all miss your smiling face!