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May 2022 Pat Parker, President Volume 51 Issue 9

Plymouth Garden Club

Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website[: PlymouthGardenClub.org](https://plymouthgardenclub.org)

**MAY MEETING:** Our **May Meeting** will be in person at the Chiltonville Church on **Wednesday, May 11th at 1pm,** members may start gathering at 12:30pm to socialize.Our program will be Mike and Angelina Chute, authors of the book ‘*Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening’.* We will learn everything needed to successfully grow healthy and disease resistant roses. We will be celebrating Presidents Day with invited guests including the GCFM Vice President, Marjorie Dienhart, SE District Director, Linda O’Neill and some of the Presidents of other Clubs in our District. We will also be honoring our Club’s Past Presidents. The front rows will be reserved for our guests and we will invite them first to our tea. Please do not invite guests to our May meeting due to space limits. Joy Sand will also be giving advice on gardening tools to make gardening easier.

**WAYS AND MEANS:** There will not be a W&M table setup this month, just an opportunity raffle. Since Cynthia and Debby will be assuming other responsibilities in our club, they will be stepping down from chairing the Ways and Means table. We need a member or two to chair or co-chair the responsibility. They will be glad to help you transition to the role. Email Colleen Costa ([colleenpcosta@gmail.com](mailto:colleenpcosta@gmail.com)) if you are willing to help with this important role.

**ANNUAL JUNE LUNCHEON:** The last chance to make your reservation and pay for our June Lunch is the May meeting as we must give the number of attendees to the caterer, Mama Mia’s. Lunch will start at 11:30am. The cost for lunch will be $35/member. You can pay your dues for 2022-23 at the same time with one check: $35 + $40 for active members or $60 for associate members. You can also pay online on our website (PlymouthGardenClub.org). Call Paula Butterfield (508-746-7374) if you have any food allergy concerns.

We’re encouraged to have fun and wear a fascinator or hat.

**JR. GARDENERS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM:** Alison Riordan, the Science Coordinator, sent a sincere thank you for our Club’s continued dedi-cation to educate Plymouth 3rd grade students about our unique environment. The gift of sapling trees to all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Geri Williams, Debbie Fay, Leslie Taylor, Linda Santulli, Kate Angley, Jean Dobachesky, Janet Voyer and Crystal Paine who went into each 3rd grade classroom to present the program and to the many members who helped package the 1600 trees individually in about 3 hours at Geri’s home.

**CLUB FLOWER SHOW:** In response to the discussion at the April meeting, Geri Williams is rewriting the Flower Show Schedule to reduce the number of classes so not as many exhibitors will be needed. It will be a Small Standard Flower Show with 4 Design Classes and the same horticulture classes with ribbons awarded. The new schedule will be emailed to all members in a week or two. You can call Geri (508-833-4355) or Judy Brown (508-888-3638) with any questions you might have about a design class or to register. They are very willing to help you plan your design. So sign up for one of the design classes and try something new!

**Membership**

**Active** **74**

**Associate 13**

**Life: 3**

**May Musings**

**From Joy Sand**

It is spring and the peepers, the tiny tree frogs with the big voices are calling from vernal ponds on spring nights when the temp is above freezing. The peepers are seeking mates to lay their up to 800 eggs in a long breeding season that can last to mid summer.

According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, there is encouraging news for the growing community of gardeners working to save Monarch butterflies. Nearly 250K Monarchs reached the Pacific coast during 2020-’21 winter. That is 1000% increase over the previous year. In fact, it’s the highest tally since 2016.

But that doesn’t mean we can relax. Insect populations fluctuate wildly from year to year. Hotter, drier weather and more potent storms continue to plague our pollinators. Continue efforts to protect habitats and curb the use of pesticides, especially systemic insecticides that poison pollen and nectar.

With rekindled hope, continue to plant Pollinator Gardens. Make space for milkweed plants at the edge of your groomed gardens. Add “Butterfly Puddles” to your (over)

**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 may 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](http://plymouthgardenclub.org/shop/) has PGC logo items and gardening gloves for sale.

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perennial gardens. A puddle is a large flat rock (at least hand sized) where a soft mud of soil and water is kept soft and damp. Butterflies can get moisture and minerals there. Together we can inch the Monarch off the path to extinction.

Many gardeners want to plant sunflowers to show support for Ukraine. Sunflowers do not like to be transplanted. Direct sowing is best. Unfortunately, almost everything like to eat sunflower seeds! The answer is Cow-pots, Ferti-pots or Gro-pots. These starter pots are made of pressed growing medium, filled with potting soil, holding one seed.

Fill the pot, make a hole ½ to ¾ inch deep, and drop in a seed. Firm the soil, water, and set the pots in a tray in the sun. When the seedlings has two true leaves, plant it pot and all in an east facing location. Keep the plants moist and wait for flowers.

Spring blooming trees and shrubs should get their trimming and shaping right after they bloom. Please resist the lollipop trim of weeping cherries or the drum shear of azaleas, PJM rhododendrons and forsythia. Tall stalks of Montauk daisies with a ruffle of green at the top can be cut down and rooted. Fall blooming asters, mums, and phlox may be trimmed of ¼ of their heights.

*Just when the caterpillar though all was lost, she became a butterfly. -* Unknown

Garden On!

**TEA HOSTESSES:** Karen Baker and JoAnne Makely thank everyone for signing up for a Tea Committee for next year. All Set!

**SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR:** The Nominating Committee of Diane Dunlap and Eileen Gallerani report that we still **need a Second Vice President** for next year. We will be voting to approve the slate at the May meeting and they will be installed at our June Luncheon.

**PENNY FOR PINES:** We will be circulating the donation can during our meeting to hopefully collect enough to reach $68 to support the planting of trees in devastated areas.

**CONSERVATION TIPS:** From Liz Hester, Conservation Chair

**SAVE A TREE**

The average American receives more than 41 pounds of junk mail a year.

That’s more than 100 million trees for JUNK MAIL! 42% of trees harvested becomes pulp wood for paper. 28 billion gallon of water are wasted to produce and recycle junk mail.

Creating and shipping junk mail produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 9 million cars.

You can make a change! Contact DMAChoice (dmachoice.thedma.org) to rid yourself of junk mail. There is a charge of $2.00 but well worth it!

**Upcoming Program:** **Monday, May 23rd at 6:30 PM at the Plymouth Public Library.** Sustainable Plymouth is offering a program on Backyard Gardening: Permaculture & Historical Practices.

**PLANT SALE:** Our plant sale fundraiser to support scholarships will be **May 21 from 10am-1pm** on the lawn of the Library. In addition to plants donated by members, we plant to sell ‘Attic treasures’ and baked goods. Volunteers are needed to help, a sign-up sheet will be at the meeting. Please plan to help price and organize plants and help educate our customers for a few hours Saturday anytime between 7am-1:30pm. Divide and pot up your extra plants. Please label your plants with as much information possible. If you suspect that you have ‘jumping worms’ in your soil, you can wash off all soil and use commercial potting soil to pot them or wrap the roots in moist newspaper. You can fill a planter or basket with purchased annuals. If you donate an ‘Attic Treasure’ make sure that it is something that you would purchase yourself, keep it gardening related. **Plants can be dropped off at the back of the Library on Friday, May 20th from 3-5pm, or out front on the morning of the sale from 7:00-9:30am on the front lawn.** Attic Treasures and baked goods should be dropped off Sat. morning between 8am-10am. We need sup-port from every member. Download and print the flyer to share with friends. If you can’t donate plants, you should make a donation of $10 to the club.

**HEDGE HOUSE TOUR AND LECTURE:** Kate Angley has arranged a tour of the house and gardens with a lecture by Bob Hoxie on **Wed. June 22 from 9-10:30am** at the historic Hedge House ($5 donation collected on the day). After up to 34 members can enjoy Tea with a scone and clotted cream, sandwiches and a pot of tea at Shelly’s tea room, 1 Court St. Kate will be taking reservations and checks or cash of $21 for the tea including tax and tip.

**TEAPOT ARRANGEMENTS:** The Center for Active Living will be holding a fund raiser High Tea on June 24th. They have requested our members create 8-10 centerpiece arrangements in teapots they will provide. Meghan Rinker will coordinate this effort. Let her know if you can fill one of the teapots. (774-404-7539 or [Meghan.rinker@outlook.com](mailto:Meghan.rinker@outlook.com))

***Building Community through***

***Gardening Together***