



Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: [PlymouthGardenClub.org](http://PlymouthGardenClub.org)

# Plymouth Garden Club

January 2023

Colleen Costa, President

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## Membership

Active 81

Associate 13

Life: 3

## Seed Balls Create New Mini Gardens

Roadsides, deserted construction sites, or vacant lots are often uncared for and over run by weeds. Homemade “seed balls” can be tossed on these unlovely places for beautifications.

Ping-pong ball sized seed balls are made of material clay enriched with compost or potting soil add rolled in flower seeds. They are thrown on the ground where rain, dissolves the ball so the seeds may germinate.

To make the balls mix natural clay (available at art supply stores or on line) with compost or potting soil and water. Shape them into balls by rolling the combination between your palms to smooth the shape.



**January meeting will be held on January 10th.** Social begins at 12:15 PM and the meeting will be at 1PM at the Chiltonville Church. The program will be ‘Mindfulness and the Aging Gardener’ by Michael Frank Schucke. This introduction to healthful practices is designed to center on the gardener’s wellbeing in a chaotic world. Learn practical wellness skills and come to understand the fundamentals of mindfulness that can be applied to daily life. We’ll also discuss ways to adjust your gardening to our changing bodies as we age.

**From our President:** I would like to thank all the well wishes for my recent surgery. My dish garden is lovely and appreciated. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. There are many wonderful opportunities within the Town of Plymouth to help with new and old opportunities.

**Hospitality:** The December Bruncheon was all set for 73 members (including five new members), and 68 members attended. Plymouth Bay Caterers provided a brunch, and Joe Butterfield picked up the food. Christine Sampson helped cut the food portions and served with Donna Olsson, Ellin Murphy, Judy Fosdick, and Suzanne Carchedi. Marcia Sykes, her husband, Donna Olsson, and Jane set up tables on Monday so we could do the majority of the setup before Wednesday. Crystal Payne provided background holiday music. Kevinette Considine gave the Invocation. Each member received a raffle ticket when they checked in for the Tea Table centerpiece made by Nancy Carafoli. There was also a Nutcracker gift from Colletta for members. The room was alight with lanterns containing fairy lights and greenery. DeeDee Dunlap and Paula Butterfield were the event planners in charge of this event. I worked with Paula and DeeDee to oversee the project. The event was a glorious success, with many compliments and happy, smiling members.

**Help Wanted:** We will be developing a Greens Sale Book/Doc. If you would like to help or would like to contribute helpful information, please send to Colleen or Cynthia. We will later develop a Plant Sale guideline.

**COOKBOOKS:** The Plymouth Garden Club cookbooks have been printed and were available for sale at the meeting for \$5/each. These are recipes from the cookies made from last year’s Holiday Brunch. There are 40 books still available.

Put pollinator friendly seeds such as milkweed, marigold, yarrow, and daisy shaped wild flowers in a shallow bowl. Avoid commercial wild flower mixes as they often contain nonnative or invasive species.

Roll the balls in the seeds, pressing the seeds into the surface of the ball. Lay the completed balls on a flat surface to dry.

When scattering the seed balls, avoid trespassing on private property. Also avoid states or federal parks. When the seed balls are tossed should receive 6 to 8 hours of sunlight. For best results, drop the seed balls in groups of two or three in the fall before a killing frost. Then wait for Spring to see the results of your efforts. Garden On .....

“Unexpected intrusions of beauty. This is what life is”

Saul Bellow

Treasury report will be posted at the meeting. For a copy email [treasurer@plymouthgardenclub.Org](mailto:treasurer@plymouthgardenclub.Org).

**Free Book:** The Plymouth Library distributed copies of Douglas Tallamy's great book "Nature's Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard" from the Plymouth Library. They still have copies available, just go to the reference desk and ask for a copy. It is part of their one Book, One Community program. There will be a virtual talk by Doug Tallamy on January 16, you must register for it at the Library.

**Library Beds** . The planters look great for the holiday season. A work party will be needed to clean up the beds in the Spring.

**Communications:** ““We’re thinking of you” to Colleen Costa, Linda Berthold & Charlotte Russell. Get well card to Marie Young. Coordinating get well gifts with Paula; gift card purchased for Linda Berthold, from the Plymouth General Store, and delivered by Paula. .

**Nominating:** We will be looking for members to step up for next year to fill spots on the Board and share their ideas. Please think about what talents you have! Remember our club is run by volunteers like yourself.

**Junior Gardener Environmental:** Many of the program volunteers met at the Library on December 7th for orientation and to plan the schedule. Several new members have joined the dedicated volunteers from previous years and we have presenters and assistants set for the spring. Classroom presentations to all 8 Plymouth Elementary Schools will begin on March 4th and continue through April. Thanks to all who help make the valuable program possible.

**Important Vote on January 13** Opinion article from Geri Williams Last fall in response to the serious litter problem of nips, small liquor bottles, all around Plymouth roads and the concern that they indicate people drinking while driving, Town Meeting members voted to ban the sale of nips in Plymouth. The liquor store owners gathered signatures to have a special election vote to overturn the Town Meeting vote. On Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> citizens of Plymouth will vote whether the ban approved by Town Meeting stays in place. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm.

These plastic bottles are too small to be recycled by any recyclers in Eastern Mass, so that is not an option for removing them from the waste stream.

Nips bans measurably reduce litter. Falmouth litter audits demonstrated that within a year, nips went from being the single most prevalent item in the litter stream at 32 percent down to only 6 percent. Every town that has bans reports nip litter has been largely eliminated.

Bans like this in other towns have been proven to make significant impacts on litter, public intoxication, and alcohol-related harms of all kinds. A YES vote will keep the ban passed by Town meeting in place.

**Please support efforts to protect our local environment by voting on January 13.**

You can also go to the Town Clerks Office in Town Hall during business hours until noon on Friday to vote early if you are unable to vote on Saturday.