



Plymouth Garden Club

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Colleen Costa, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active 82

Associate 13

Life: 3

The Care and Feeding of Hydrangeas

By Joy Sand

One of the most beloved of the high summer blooming shrubs is the Hydrangea. The name comes from two Greek words meaning water and vessel. The Hydrangea needs ample water and bears cup shaped blossoms. They are native to southern and eastern Asia. Hydrangeas come in colors of white, blue, pink and even red and green.

Some colors are affected by soil ph. In acidic soil, the flowers will be blue to purple. Alkaline soil produces pink shades. White blossoms are not affected by ph. Some of the new hybrids are not affected either.

Hydrangeas bloom on old wood - last years' growth, or new wood - this years' growth. Most Hydrangeas sold in nurseries carry labels specifying which bloom habit the shrub has. Most of the classic Hydrangeas such as Nikko Blue bloom on old wood. That means when cutting blooms for arrangements, deadheading, or pruning, cut at a leaf notch, the point where

April meeting will be held on April 10th. Social begins at 12:15 PM and the meeting will be at 1PM at the Chiltonville Church. There has been a program change. Our program will be Nancy Rubin Stuart speaking on 'Poor Richard's Women'. She is the author of 'Poor Richard's Women: *Deborah Read Franklin and the Other Women Behind the Founding Father*. Weaving detailed historical research and personal testimony, Nancy Rubin Stuart traces the life of his common law wife and partner, Deborah Read Franklin as well as those of Ben's other romantic attachments through their personal correspondence. Nancy is a new PGC member and the author of eight acclaimed nonfiction books about women and social history

Hospitality: Paula Butterfield and DeeDee Dunlap will be taking reservations for the June Luncheon at both the April 10 and May 8 meetings. Luncheon choice sheets will be available at the meeting to be turned in with payment of \$39.00. Tickets are also available on-line at plymouthgardenclub.org by going to SHOP, then DUES/GIFTS. One-stop shopping if you want to pay for both dues and luncheon choice on-line at the same time. Checks made out to Plymouth Garden Club for \$39, and luncheon choice can be mailed to: Paula Butterfield, 22 Hillview Lane, Plymouth, MA 02360.

Plant Sale: Our Plant Sale is set for **May 18 from 10am -2pm** on the Library lawn, invite your friends. (Share the flyer enclosed with this email.) We need every member to participate. Please start digging, dividing and potting up plants to bring to the sale. It is expected that each member will donate at least 5 plants or make a \$10 donation to the club. We will also have a Bake Sale table chaired by Janet Voyer and Becky Freer, and a Boutique Table chaired by Sally Cohen (978-835-8998) which will feature spring and garden related items - pretty planters, garden books, yard decorations. Contact Sally for more information. We need many members to volunteer to help on the day of the sale. A few volunteers are needed at the library at 7:15am to help the custodian bring out the Library tables and begin setting up. More volunteers will be needed to help unload plants, price and place them. With more volunteers scheduled during the sale to help customers. There will be sign up sheets to volunteer to help with the Bake and Boutique tables and the Plant Sale. There will be yard signs at the meeting. Please take a sign to post near your home to promote the sale.

Tour of Arnold Arboretum: President Colleen Costa is organizing a trip to tour Arnold Arboretum with a guide on **May 2** followed by lunch at Granite Links Tavern in Quincy at which members can order from the menu. Those interested in participating must call Colleen (781-775-5832). We will meet at Stop 'n' Shop at 8am and carpool from there. There will be a cost of \$20 for the guide, each member will pay their own lunch.

Scholarships: President Colleen Costa and Cynthia are looking into the possibility of giving a scholarship to a student who wants to study floriculture or horticulture for next year.

leaves attach to the stem. The next bud will form there. Hydrangeas that bloom on new wood can be cut anywhere on the stem. In the spring, once buds are visible, cut away any dead wood.

Newer hybrid Hydrangeas can be as compact as 2 feet tall. They are suitable for container gardening. Being perennial, the pots need winter protection. Save bubble wrap to tie around the pot. Sprinkle rodent repellent on the soil and store in a frost free garage or shed. Check the soil periodically to be sure it doesn't dry out. Return the container to the outdoors in mid March.

Hydrangeas in the garden need their space. They can grow up to 10 feet tall and wide. They need a minimum of 3 hours sunlight to bloom, but should be shielded from hot western facing sun. Do not allow the shrub to dry to the point of leaf wilt. During recent droughts, I mulched my Hydrangeas with aged compost to hold moisture. They thrived.

Hydrangeas cut for arrangements need plenty of fresh water and Floral Life. Cut the stems on a 45 degree angle and remove most leaves. Hydrangeas are the only cut flower that drink through their blooms. I tried misting the arrangement daily, and the blooms did last longer.

Garden on--- Joy

Treasury report will be posted at the meeting. For a copy email treasurer@plymouthgardenclub.Org.

PROPOSED BY LAW: On April 3, 2024, the Board voted in favor of the following by-law change. The purpose of this is to be in compliance with Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts by-law wording regarding Elections. It will also provide more clarity on the wording of the Article about when the membership votes. We will vote on this amendment at the meeting. Wording in red is the proposed changes.

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, each with at least two years' membership, two appointed by the President and one elected by the membership. **This committee shall present their Proposed Slate of Officers to the Board of Directors at the April Board meeting for information only. At the General meeting in April, the Nominating Committee will present the Slate of Officers to the membership.**

Section 2. The Election of Officers shall take place at the **May General meeting, which is one month prior to our Annual Meeting in June.**

Junior Gardener Environmental Program: Most of the classroom visits have taken place with only 2 schools remaining. We plan to individually bag the seedling tree to distribute to each 3rd grader at Geri Williams's home (42 Carters Bridge Rd.) on April 24th at 10am. Please come and help. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting. The Town will plant a tree at Indian Brook Elementary on Arbor Day, April 26 at 9:30am. We will help those 3rd graders plant their seedling trees in pots to take home. Come help if you are available.

Garden Therapy: After a hiatus due to Covid, Linda Berthold is organizing a visit to **Newfield** House to celebrate Nursing Home Week by helping some residents create small arrangements. 6-8 volunteers are needed to help on **Monday, May 13 at 9:30am**. Please sign up at the April meeting.

Library Beds : Time to clean up and dress the Library beds. Debbie Clark Lalley needs help on Saturday, April 13 at 10am with a raindate of April 14 at 10am. The goal is to remove any debris, gently cultivate, and apply a top dressing of mulch to each of the library beds. Bring your gloves, and pruners.

Dues: \$40 for Members and \$60 for Associates will be collected at the April and May meetings or you can pay online on PGC Website. You can also include \$39 for the June luncheon.

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Annual Meeting will be held on **June 13** from 9:15 – 2:30pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Andover. It is promoted as a 'Learning Experience' with awards, floral designers and keynote speaker. Contact Colleen Costa if you would like to attend, the Club could reimburse you. The registration form is on the GCFM website with more details.

New Member: Please welcome new member Catherine McKenna, 774-454-4955, email: cmckenna@bealconsulting.com