



# Plymouth Garden Club

October 2024

Linda O'Neill and Kate Angley, Co-Presidents

Volume 63 Issue 2

Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

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

## Membership

Active 85

Associate 12

Life: 5

## Hints for Recycling

By Joy Sand

Keeping most post consumer material out of the solid waste stream is generally recognized as vital. The garden can play a significant role in recycling.

Coffee grounds: Save your daily coffee grounds and tea bags in a small bucket. Stir the grounds frequently as they dry for a week. Spread the grounds around the roots of acid loving plants, such as Hydrangeas (for blue color), holly, etc. at the rate of 1 tablespoon per inch to 1 cup, depending on the size of the plant.

Oasis: As stems are pushed into Oasis pieces frequently break off. Save the fragments and break them into pea-sized pieces. Mix the pieces into potting soil. Use the combination to pot moisture loving plants – such as tropical – that don't require fast draining soil. The recycled Oasis increases the soils ability to hold and slowly release moisture.

Pickle juice: The brine in jars of pickles and olives is both salty and acidic. If you don't reuse the liquid in homemade salad dressing, it is an excellent herbicide. Pour the brine over

**Our October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9th.** Social time begins at 12:15 PM and the meeting will start at 1PM at the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be **Orchids 101** by Mike Badia, a member of the Massachusetts Orchid Society who has an orchid collection of over 400 plants. He will offer tips on the basics of orchid culture (especially phalaenopsis), including watering, fertilizing, light requirements, potting mixes, repotting and pests. You will also learn about sources for orchid plants and orchid cultural information on the web. Please bring in a labeled horticultural specimen from your garden or wonderful indoor plant.

**Hospitality:** Thanks to our tea table hostesses and committee for our delicious afternoon tea refreshments. The tea table centerpiece each month is provided by a member of the Tea Committee and is raffled off by Ways and Means including the container and all flowers. The arranger can request a reimbursement of up to \$30 from our treasurer Cynthia Sykes. Judy Fosdick, Suzanne Carchedi and Karen Baker have been busy planning our Holiday Luncheon that will be catered by Southside Faire at Plymouth South High School. It will be a lunch with social time starting at 11:30am and lunch served at noon. The cost will be \$5 per person with the remaining costs covered by our treasury. You may pay at the November meeting or on our Club website. Guests are not allowed at this lunch meeting.

**Ways and Means:** Don't forget to stop by the Ways and Means Table, they will have raffle tickets for the tea table centerpiece, an orchid, and other wonderful items. For sale there will be insulated shopping bags, gloves, as well as plants donated by members and other item. Please drop your change to support the GCFM and National GC program Plant-a Tree in the jar on the W & M table. Collected money is allocated for planting an acre of seedlings in a devastated area. If you have any suggestions for items that would be good to sell on the W & M table tell Dianne Thomas or Susan Fessenden.

**New member:** Please welcome our newest member, Julie Decot, who loves gardening and volunteers in the Horticulture Department at Plimoth Pawtuxet. If you find an error in your information in the yearbook contact Sharon Ferraguto at [beachrose22@yahoo.com](mailto:beachrose22@yahoo.com) She will collect all the changes/mistakes and send out a list of the corrections.

**Jr. Gardeners Environmental Program:** We will be visiting all the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes in the Plymouth Public schools again next spring sharing our PowerPoint presentation on the unique environments in Plymouth. We share facts about the Pine Barrens Ecosystem, the Coastal Plain Ponds and our Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer - all make Plymouth very special. The presentations are about 55 minutes. If you would like more information about this program or are willing to volunteer, please contact Geri Williams at [geri3williams@comcast.net](mailto:geri3williams@comcast.net). There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting.

(continued)

small weeds in the cracks between bricks in a walkway or a driveway. The liquid will desiccate (dry out) the weeds without disturbing the paving. Also pour the brine into anthills in the garden, driveway, etc. Just be careful not to splash the brine on plants or grass. An indoor waterer with a slender spout works well.

Coffee, tea or chocolate chine pots: If your beverage pot has lost its cover, don't toss it. Repurpose the pot as a container for a flower arrangement. Short, squat teapots can be used as pots for small houseplants. Put a layer of aquarium pebbles in the bottom for drainage.

Vegetable Drawer Liners: These coarse mesh liners for fridge drawers can be reused over the drainage holes in pots. They keep the soil from washing out. Cut the material into squares to cover the drainage hole.

Take away Cups: The large take out drinking cups make excellent plant waterers. Use a compass point or thin knife to puncture 4 holes in the bottom. Set the cup in a container garden and fill with water. The opening in the top keeps the cup from imploding. Refill as needed.

Garden on ... Joy

*You don't stop gardening when you grow old; you get old when you stop gardening.*

**Come Grow With Us!**

2024 – 2025

Our 96th Year

Founded 1929 • Federated 1971

**Garden Therapy:** We are in need of a member to coordinate visits to the local nursing homes to help their residents make small arrangements for their rooms. If you are willing to organize the visits or even just a visit to one facility please contact Co-President Linda O'Neill (508-759-1870).

**Library Beds:** Debbie Clark Lalley and a group of club members planted many mums, weeded and amended the beds. They are so colorful and look wonderful. Colleen Costa planted a container by the entrance to the Manomet Library. Thank you to all who helped beautify our libraries.



**Holiday Greens Sale:** Our Sale in December is a major fundraiser for our scholarships and community projects so we need the support and participation of all members. We will have workshops to decorate wreaths, create arrangements, and fill cemetery/porch boxes on Thurs. Dec.5 and Fri. Dec.6 in the Library Fehlow Room. Please plan to attend and help at least part of one day of the workshops and/or sale. Save dried flower heads, grasses, seedpods, and pinecones, spray them with silver, gold, white or red paint. Pick up and donate small sprays, snowflakes, fake fruit, glittery flowers or ornaments that we could use on wreaths or in arrangements and baskets. If you are going through your old holiday decorations, call Geri (508-833-4355) to arrange to donate ornaments or old wreaths that could be redecorated or bring them to the October and November meetings.

**Garden Club Communications:** Crystal Payne, our Technology Chair will try to consolidate emails so they are sent out only a couple of times per month, mostly on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. If you have something to send out to all members please send it to Crystal for inclusion with the every other Friday email. The GCFM Presidents Monday Memo will be put on our Website each week.

**Don't forget to vote:** Election Day is Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>; early voting in Massachusetts starts on Oct. 19th, please vote. Especially in voting for State and County candidates, look up their voting records and views on environmental issues and vote with the good of our environment in mind.

**Conservation Tips:**

Leave your leaves under trees and in flowerbeds where you can. Many caterpillars and other insects utilize fallen leaves as protection for the winter. In spring these insects provide food for our early returning birds. With leaves on your lawn mulch them with the mower and leave in place (or apply to your perennial beds) to improve the soil for next year. Leave seed heads from coneflowers, black-eyed Susans and similar flowers standing in your gardens, the birds and bees will thank you this winter.

**Gardener Notes from Joy Sand.** Planting fall bulbs depends on soil temperature. Start too early, bulbs will sprout, then frost will kill the starts, there will be no blooms come spring, and the bulbs may rot. Planting can begin when the soil is 45-50 degrees. That usually means a week or 10 days of night temps around 32 degrees.