



Plymouth Garden Club

November 2024

Linda O'Neill and Kate Angley, Co-Presidents

Volume 63 Issue 3

Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active 87

Associate 12

Life: 5

Come Over to the Dark Side

By Joy Sand

Going back millennia, our ancestors abhorred the dark. With the discovery of fire, early peoples kept fires burning in front of their living spaces. The discovery of electricity enabled them to light their environments year round.

But increasing research is pointing to artificial outdoor and landscape lighting as detrimental to wildlife, pollinators and plants. For years "Turtle Ladies" along the Southeast beaches have battled night time light pollution during sea turtle hatching season. Turtles, which hatch at night, should head to the ocean glowing in the moonlight. Instead, the artificial light draws the young turtles inland, where they are frequently crushed by cars as they try to cross roads – 100% mortality.

As we approach both the holiday season and "the bleak midwinter", our natural inclination to light and commercial pressure for "festive lighting" conflicts with good environmental practices. Dark Sky International, an organization that promotes the value of unlit spaces for humans and wildlife, stresses that over lighting affects migratory birds, pollinators, sea turtles and mammals.

Our November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th.

Social time begins at 12:15 PM and the meeting will start at 1PM at the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be **Fall Tablescape with Grace Whittemore**. Grace is a local floral designer with a passion for gardening. She will design a Fall Thanksgiving centerpiece. Grace has spent the last 10 years in the wedding industry designing flowers all throughout New England and owns her own business, PrimRose Floral & Event Design, which specializes in weddings. Grace also works at a local flower shop in Plymouth, Flair Floral, which caters to everyday arrangements, funerals, and weddings. Please bring in a labeled horticultural specimen from your garden.

Hospitality: Thanks to our tea table hostesses Debby Clark-Lalley and Susan Denehy and the committee for our delicious afternoon tea refreshments. Judy Fosdick, Suzanne Carchedi and Karen Baker have been busy planning a special Holiday Luncheon that will be catered by Southside Faire at Plymouth South High School. It will be a buffet lunch with social time starting at 11:30am and lunch served at noon. See the attached Invitation for more details. 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 under SHOP- dues & gifts - December Meeting. Or mail a check made out to Plymouth Garden Club to Judy Fosdick, 37 Union St. Plymouth by Dec. 1. Please bring cookies or a dessert to share. You may bring a holiday ornament for the ornament exchange. Guests are not allowed at this 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, and 2 centerpieces created during the program. Please drop your change to support the GCFM and National GC program Plant-a Tree in the jar on the W & M table.

Pat Parker is bringing to our meeting common milkweed seed pods, take some to plant for the monarchs next summer or for spraying gold for a craft.

Jr. Gardeners Environmental Program: We will be visiting all the 3rd grade classes in the Plymouth Public schools again next spring sharing our PowerPoint presentation on the unique environments in Plymouth. The presentations are about 55 minutes. We need more members to volunteer with this program. There will be an orientation meeting on Monday, December 16 at 10am and we will pick dates to go into the classrooms as well. If you would like more information about this program or are willing to volunteer, please contact Geri Williams at geri3williams@comcast.net. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting.

New members: Please welcome our newest members, **Barbara Casagrande**, and **Andrea Feeny**. Please add their information to your Yearbook. If you find an error in your yearbook information, contact Sharon Ferraguto at beachrose22@yahoo.com She will collect all the changes and send out a list of the corrections.

Plants use light as an energy source and need darkness to thrive. The natural 24 hours cycle of light & dark and seasonal variations are disrupted by artificial light. Studies of artificial light by the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy at Carnegie Mellon University lead to Pittsburg being the first US city to restrict urban lights.

Overuse of outdoor lighting affects humans' ability to see starlight, but it also disrupts the circadian rhythms of nocturnal pollinators. They are driven from lighted gardens because they are more visible to predators. Light stressed pollinators are less effective, leading to daylight pollinators unable to make up the deficit.

So what can we do? Use light only where vital to human safety but doesn't affect wildlife habitats. Use shields and specific aiming to direct light. Use low level lighting - no brighter than necessary. Avoid shining lights on surfaces (glass) or features (water) that reflect light. Use light only as long as necessary, use timers and detectors to limit time on. Use warmer (yellow) light whenever possible. Avoid the blue-purple (LED) lights as much as possible.

Moths are the largest groups of nocturnal pollinators. They need as much support as diurnal bees and butterflies. The Xerces Society and National Wildlife Federation provide info on nectar, host plants shelter and habitat.

Garden on ... Joy

Come Grow With Us!

2024 – 2025

Our 96th Year

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Holiday Greens Sale: Our sale on December 6 & 7 is fast approaching. Share the attached flyer with your friends and family. For it to be a successful fundraiser we need everyone to participate. We will have workshops to decorate wreaths, create arrangements, and fill cemetery/porch boxes on Thurs. Dec.5 and Fri. Dec.6 from 9am - 5pm (before 10am enter at the back of the library) in the Fehlow Room. Please plan to attend and help at least part of one day of the workshops and sale. Help with the sale Friday afternoon and Saturday is also needed. *There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting to volunteer for specific times.* 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, bring them to the November meeting. Any of the above decorations or holiday containers can also be brought to the library on Dec.5. If you are crafty and can create some ornaments, we'd love them for our sale too.

Please cut greens shortly before Thurs. Dec. 5. Bring them in buckets labeled with your name with a little water in the bottom, or for larger branches put them in the trailer that will be behind the library.

You are also asked to bake for the Bake Table. There will be a sign up sheet for baked goods at the meeting.

Conservation Concern: Sand and gravel mining has becoming a serious environmental concern here in Plymouth and nearby Carver. Millions of tons of sand has already been dug up and trucked away. The sand filters and binds many pollutants from precipitation and runoff keeping them out of our Plymouth Sole Source Aquifer, which is the only source of water for 200,000 residents of Plymouth and nearby towns. By reducing the amount of sand, contaminants can more easily and quickly pollute our water. There is another huge sand removal project recently proposed to remove 200 million cubic yards of sand from near Hedges Pond Rd. in Cedarville under the guise of expanding cranberry bogs and a water retention pond. In the past several years hundreds of cubic yards of sand have been removed from nearby sites and a developer plans to remove about 350,000 cubic yards to level a 34 acre site also on Hedges Pond Rd. to build a huge warehouse and several other buildings. In addition to the impact on our water quality the developers plan to send 40 huge trucks each day on Hedges Pond Rd. and Rt.3 to cart away the sand, increasing traffic congestion, road wear and tear, and the risk of serious accidents. As citizens concerned about our environment and water we should make our voices heard. The Planning Board review is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 4 and the Zoning Board of Appeals is tentatively scheduled to hear the project on Dec. 16, attend either meeting or send letters to Select Board members or Planning Commission members. There is a good article in the Plymouth Independent you can read at <https://www.plymouthindependent.org/developer-wants-to-remove-2-million-yards-of-sand-and-gravel-from-cedarville-parcel/>

Gardener Notes from Joy Sand. Keep watering new plantings until the soil freezes. * Continue to wear sun and insect protection. Ticks are active any time the temp is above freezing. * Keep birdbaths full until a hard freeze. Drought affects birds, too. * Large plant saucers make excellent mammal watering stations flat on the ground. * A light coating of oil protects bladed tools against winter dampness.