



Plymouth Garden Club

January 2025

Linda O'Neill and Kate Angley, Co-Presidents

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active 86

Associate 12

Life: 4

Unusual Evergreens

By Joy Sand

Having just completed another Green Sale, this may be a good time to consider adding some unconventional evergreens to your garden. Many of these plants offer 'additional gifts' of blossoms for pollinators and seeds or fruit for birds and mammals. The stems should be kept in water until they are added to displays. Stems may be wired to pointed sticks for added strength.

Lungwort *Pulmonaria* - zone 3-8 bares speckled silvery green foliage that lasts all winter. Purple and white flowers in early spring feed early pollinators.

Mediterranean Spurge *Euphorbia* - zone 6-8 - is a sculptural plant of whorled blue green foliage. The neon green stems provide added interest.

Bugle weed *Ajuga* - zone 3-10 - the black scarlet leafed variety is a compact ground cover having long stems with purple black leaf. Rich blue flowers support pollinators in mid to late spring. It can be invasive, best grown in containers or hanging baskets.

Our January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8 at the Chiltonville Church. Social time begins at 12:15 PM. The meeting will start at 1pm. Our educational program will be 'Today's African Violets' with **Pat Crawford**, who is an active member of the Bay State African Violet Society. She will share her knowledge of the array of shapes, sizes, and plant colors, along with their care. There will be a brief business meeting and horticulture tips from Joy Sand before our traditional tea.

Hospitality: Our December Holiday lunch was a fun opportunity to enjoy good food, friendship and seasonal cheer. Thanks to all the committee who worked hard to make it so successful: Susan Fosdick, Suzanne Carchedi and Cheryl Larsen along with Karen Baker and the committee.

The January Tea committee will be chaired by Jean Dobachesky and Judy Brown with help from Sally Cohen, Debby Fay, Joy Hurley, Marie Keller, Sue Mc Nerney, Carol Pakalnis, Nancy Stetson-Stuart and Pam Thomas.

Holiday Greens Sale: Our sale on December 6 & 7 was very successful, the updated income after expenses is \$4150. Forty members worked hard to make it so successful, many coming more than one day to the Fehlow room to create wreaths and designs and fill wooden boxes, as well as greeting and helping customers and baking goods. If you see any holiday decorations, ornaments, mugs, small vases, etc. in January sales please pick them up and save them for next year.

If you put out a **Greens Sale sign** please bring it to the January meeting, so Co-President Kate Angley can collect them and put them in storage.

Garden Therapy: We would like to visit some of the nursing/ long term care homes in Plymouth to help the residents make small arrangements for their rooms while bringing joy and natural beauty. We need a couple of members to volunteer to organize a visit to one residence. It involves calling the nursing home, gathering 5 or 6 other member volunteers to assist, purchasing some flowers and gathering small containers. There are members who have done this in the past and can provide guidance. Call Linda (508-759-1870) to volunteer. This is a very rewarding program with a small time commitment.

Programs for next year: If you have suggestions for programs for our meetings next year that you have heard or a topic you would like to know more about, please let Co-President Linda O'Neill - 508-759-1870.

Thanks: The club received a generous donation of \$100 from the Stewart Family in memory of June Aronson. We will put it toward the purchase of a tree to be planted in the Schiff Garden behind the library in Memory of June and her husband Dave who were great supporters of the Library for many years.

Pigsqueak *Bergenia* - zones 4-10 - Fairytale Romance variety sports foliage that turns reddish in cold weather; the leaves make dramatic accents. The plant is also an early bloomer.

Ligonberry *Vaccinium vitis idaea* - zones 4-8 - has long branches of tiny bell shaped blossoms in spring, succulent red berries in late summer, and is related to blueberries. The decorative shrub supports pollinators, birds, and humans. At 6-8 feet tall the red branches are decorative.

Heath and Heathers *Ericaceae* - zones 3-8 - bloom in winter to spring, providing flowers and durable foliage for winter arrangements.

These are but a few of the unusual evergreens. Think outside the box.

Happy New Year!
Garden on.... Joy

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream."

-Josephine Nuese

Come Grow With Us!

2024 – 2025

Our 96th Year

Founded 1929 • Federated 1971

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts: You can find a wealth of information on the GCFM website - www.GCFM.org .

There is an upcoming Design Workshop on April 24th with Dolores Ahern, award winning Designer and National Garden Clubs Flower Show Judge. It will be nearby at St Patrick's Church in Wareham, time and details are not announced yet. However, this should be a great workshop with an excellent instructor, so save the date and check back on the website for more information and other opportunities.

The Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association -

massmastergardeners.org is another great source of information. You can sign up for their monthly e-newsletter The Dirt, which offers informative articles on gardening techniques, native plants, workshops and more. In The Dirt this month there is an article on analyzing your gardens this winter and making plans for the spring planting, and one on the native shrub St. John's Wort which is pollinator friendly and drought tolerant.