



# Plymouth Garden Club

May 2025

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

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

## Membership

Active 90

Associate 11

Life: 4

## **No Mow May**

By Joy Sand

A new effort to support pollinators, especially early bees, is 'No Mow May'. The idea is spreading on social mediator through yard signs. Delaying the first mowing allows early pollen sources such as clover, dandelions, oxeye daisies to bloom. The idea originated in the UK and is compatible with our USDA Zone 6B. But if the lawn has been treated for weeds, there may not be any pollen sources to bloom. Those living there are drawbacks.

Pollinators frequent our area where lawn length is dictated by local ordinance or homeowners association may not have the freedom to choose not to mow. Although 'No Mow' has increased the awareness of pollinators and their needs, there are drawbacks. Pollinators frequenting an unmowed lawn will be displaced when sheering resumes. Some may even be killed in the first mow. It is best to reintroduce mowing in stages. Begin with a string trimmer, and lower the height in stages.

There are alternatives to 'No Mow'. First, eliminate all lawn insecticides

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## **Our May meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14 at the Chiltonville Church.**

Social time begins at 12:15 PM. The meeting will start at 1pm. Our guest speaker will be **Mike Paduch** of Crystal Lake Nursery. Mike will speak about his passion for growing begonias and their care. He will also demonstrate how to make your own container garden. Mike will discuss gardening with unusual flowers and garden plants, many of which he will have for purchase. A business meeting including election of officers for the coming year will follow the program before our traditional tea.

**Hospitality:** Thank you in advance to the May Tea committee. Karen Baker requests members contact her at 508-274-2223 or [karenl\\_baker@msn.com](mailto:karenl_baker@msn.com) if you would like to serve on Tea Committee during a different month next year. If you are a Hostess and want to change, please see if someone on your Committee will change places with you. Karen needs to finalize the tea committees for next year by June 30th.

**June Luncheon:** Paula Butterfield, Dee Dee Dunlap and Karen Baker have planned a wonderful Annual Luncheon on **June 11th at 11am**. It will be held at East Bay Grill on Water St. Cost will be \$43. You can pay Paula or Dee Dee at the May meeting, be sure to turn in a reservation form indicating your choice of entree with your payment. You can also pay online at [plymouthgardenclub.org](http://plymouthgardenclub.org) under SHOP (choose Dues/Gifts), be sure to indicate your entree. You can pay your dues at the same time. The deadline for reservations is June 2, no refunds are possible after that date. The luncheon will be in the tent on the harbor side of East Bay Grill, you will walk through the restaurant. Valet parking will be available.

**Dues must be paid by June 30** in order for your picture and contact information to appear in next years yearbook. Contact Sharon Ferraguto [beachrose22@yahoo.com](mailto:beachrose22@yahoo.com) with any changes to your contact info.

**Jr. Gardener Environmental Program:** Thank you to all who helped make this another successful year educating all Plymouth Public School third graders about our special environments in Plymouth and how we can protect our water and ecosystems.

**Books and Blossoms Four is More:** Thanks to the following creative designers who deserve all the credit for our successful event: Linda O'Neill, Judy MacDonald, Colleen Costa, Susan Weitzmann, Anne Humphrey, Judy Fosdick, Crystal Payne, Gail Conner, Carolina Glenn, Jean Dobachesky, Cheryl Larsen, Pat Parker, Carol Hartnett, Beth Soukhanov, Katherine Crowley, and Paula Butterfield who interpreted both children and adult books in table settings. The Fehlow room looked spectacular.

**Update Paula Butterfield's address:** 30 Sterling Blvd. Plymouth, 617-680-9831

and chemical fertilizers. Create 'pocket plantings' in large expanses of lawn of pollinator friendly plants and practices. Meadowscape a portion of your yard with native, pollinator friendly plants, where you use no herbicides or insecticides and the area isn't mowed until late autumn. Over time the area becomes low maintenance, An extra bonus of 'No Mow' or meadowscaping - fireflies. Toward the end of May, they return for their colorful courting displays.

Garden on.... Joy

*"And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you, because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places."*  
Roald Dahl



## Come Grow With Us!

2024 – 2025  
Our 96th Year  
Founded 1929 • Federated 1971

**Plant Sale:** Our Plant Sale fundraiser is coming up this **Saturday, May 17th** on the front lawn of the Library. The proceeds of the sale will fund our student scholarships and community projects. Please share the Plant Sale flyer with your family and friends. We need all members to participate. Hopefully you have divided some of your perennials, and /or grown some annual plants. Please label your plants with the name, conditions it needs to grow, mature size and color, any any other information that will help people grow the plant. It is a policy of the Club that all members contribute 5 plants to the sale or make a donation \$15. You can purchase annuals or herbs to donate, or put them in baskets or a small window box, these always sell well. Please drop off your plants and baked goods early, between 7:30- 9:30 am on Saturday morning. If you are not able to drop your plants off on Saturday, Geri will be at the back of the library on Friday from 3-5pm to receive plants.

We need volunteers the day of the sale starting at 7:15 am to set up tables, ( a few husbands to help bring out and set up the tables would be so helpful,) lots to help with the intake and pricing of plants, and during the sale to help the many customers who come to buy plants. We have usually sold most of the plants and baked goods by 2pm, but still need volunteers to clean up.

Susan Mann and her helpers have been creating wonderful crafts for the boutique table. You can contribute good, garden related items for the sale as well.

Janet Voyer and Becky Freer Freedman will chair the Bake Table. Donations of baked goods, cookies, breads, jams, etc are needed. Please make your baked goods as appealing as possible and list ingredients. Boxes will be available at the meeting. The Bake Sale and Boutique Tables will also need volunteers. There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting, please sign up to help for a couple of hours.

**Library Beds:** Last Thursday Debbie Clark Lalley with Crystal Payne, Margi Delafield, Donna Olson, Suzanne Carchedi, Maureen Garber, Jean Dobachesky, Ellie Gilbert, and Dawn Barrett worked hard to get the Library beds into excellent condition before the plant sale, weeding, pruning fertilizing and mulching.

**Garden Therapy:** Nancy Carafoli with helpers Marcia Sykes, Pat Parker, Linda Souza and Karen Baker worked with residents of Newfield House create small arrangements for their rooms. The residents were delighted and very appreciative.

**Membership Update:** Any members who have been in our Club eight years or longer are welcome to transfer to Associate Membership next year. This may be especially beneficial for members who are finding it difficult to attend meetings, and you would not be required to serve on a tea or other committees. If you would like to change to Associate Membership for next year, please do so when paying your dues by June 30.

**Sending Thoughts to some Members:** If you hear about a member to whom we should send a card, please notify Ellie Gilbert at 508-732-0410 or [coastalgardenerma@gmail.com](mailto:coastalgardenerma@gmail.com)