



Plymouth Garden Club

February 2026

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active: 83

Associate: 18

Life: 2

Natives versus Cultivars

By Joy Sand

A debate is rising among plant producers between less flamboyant native plants and more dramatic cultivars. 'Straight', unhybridized, native plants serve the ecosystem by providing food for pollinators and adult and larval insects. Food includes pollen and nectar as well as leaves and buds for insect consumption. The more a plant is altered, the greater the risk of reducing the benefits to pollinators and caterpillars that feed the young of humming birds and other birds. Many caterpillars are specialists in the kinds of foliage they eat. Some feed exclusively on red or purple leaved plants. Altering the pigment in leaves, for example to create yellow-green leaves, may deter caterpillars from feeding. Then the number of insects for feeding birds is reduced.

Altering the petal color or the center structure of a plant's flower may produce a variety more visually appealing to humans. But the flower is devaluated for pollinators seeking pollen and nectar. Often the new plant looks enough like the native ancestor that gardeners assume

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Our February meeting will held on Wednesday, February 11th at the Chiltonville Church. The program will be "**Insects Near and Far**" by Gail Conner. The amazing variety of insects in Costa Rica and their relatives in Southeastern Massachusetts is the subject of this presentation. When Gail visited Costa Rica, she was amazed and taken by the number of insects she saw up close and personal. Gail is an active member of the Plymouth Garden Club and has led design workshops. She is an avid bee keeper and has spoken to various groups about bee keeping and monarch butterflies. Social time will begin at 12:15 pm and the program will begin at 1pm. Our business meeting will follow the program, then we will enjoy our traditional tea.

Hospitality: The Tea Committee this month is chaired by Marcia Sykes and Jane Gregg. They will be assisted by Linda Berthold, Linda Butterfield, Eileen Galerani, Christine Sampson, Betsy Sampson-Day and Janet Voyer.

Reservations for the annual June Luncheon will begin February 11 online on our [Plymouth Garden Club website](http://PlymouthGardenClub.org).

In case of inclement weather: An email will be sent to all members when a meeting needs to be canceled due to treacherous weather conditions and/or Plymouth Public Schools are closed.

Ways and Means: There will be a raffle and various items for sale on the Ways and Means table at this meeting. Liz Hester and Susan Mann will assist chairs Diane Thomas and Carol Hartnett.

Garden Therapy: Our date for Garden Therapy at Mayflower Rehabilitation and Health Center has been set for Thursday, March 5 at 2:00. Volunteers are needed to take care of the flower prep at Susan Weitzmann's home on Wednesday, March 4 at 2:00. Volunteers are also needed at the center (across from the library) at 1:30 on March 5 to set up and host the event. Signups gratefully accepted by Susan or at the February meeting.

Nancy Carafoli will be leading a workshop at Newfield House (date/time to be arranged.) Cheryl Larson will be working at a third facility. Rebecca Freer Freedman will be setting up the details for that.

Floral Workshop: Debbie Wells will lead a floral design workshop the morning before the meeting on March 11th at 10 AM. Please bring small clippers, bag lunch, (and a lazy susan if you have one.) She will provide the containers, flowers and greens. The fee will be \$25 and will be collected at the workshop by cash or check. Debbie will explain more and there will be a sign-up sheet at this meeting with a 16 person maximum, with a waiting list. Bonus: Nancy Costa, a Life-Accredited Flower Show Judge, will also be there with constructive comments and compliments on your creations.

both plants are equally beneficial. But do gardeners have to give up the often stunning new cultivars? Not completely. The new rosely cultivars of Asiatic lilies are promoted as pollen free; no pollen means no food. If you really want to plant roselilies, also plant the regular Asiatic lilies nearby. The pollen free sunflowers should be accompanied by traditional sunflowers.

Newer species of coneflower are bred with a fluffy center. This baffles pollinators attempts to feed. Plant the traditional, flat centered cone flowers nearby. The same problem is appearing among zinnias. Plant flat centered flowers next to fluffy centered ones.

“In the name of the bee, and of the butterfly, and of the breeze, amen”
Emily Dickenson

Garden on... Joy

Come Grow With Us!

2025 – 2026
Our 97th Year
Founded 1929 • Federated 1971

Accounts as of 1/27/2026

Checking balance:

Scholarship (money market):

CD:

If you would like more details
contact Cynthia Sykes.

Junior Gardeners Environmental Program: The schedule for school visits has been finalized and club volunteers will be visiting all the 3rd grades in the Plymouth Public Schools in March and April. On Monday, April 13 at 10am at Geri Williams' home, we will be packaging the seedling trees to be given to each 3rd grader. Help will be needed to wrap and bag about 550 seedling trees.

Book Written by Former Member Jerrine Egloff Wire: I was a devoted member of the Plymouth Garden Club for many decades - great memories of garden club. I started writing when I was in the club and my research into the last period of the life of Vincent van Gogh led me to writing a novel, Vincent mon Amour, written in the voice of the only woman who ever claimed to love him, Marguerite Gachet (she was an herbalist). The print book is available at Barnes and Noble on line, on Amazon, and independent bookstores on request. Also available in audio form. See [Outskirts Press](#) for more information.

GCFM There is information about various workshops and programs on the [GCFM website](#). Issues of the Mayflower are also available there and contain lots of great information, garden tips, and info on other clubs' activities.

Interesting Workshops: [Heritage Museum and Gardens](#) is sponsoring several interesting garden workshops in February. There are two with Kerry Ann Mendes that are webinars by zoom, each costs \$15.95 but you will get a recording that you can watch later if you miss it or watch again. She is a very interesting and well informed speaker. The third will be in person at Heritage Gardens on Feb.28. You can find more information on their website here: [Heritage Museums and Gardens](#) .

Change of Date: If you are planning ahead, the Fascinator Workshop by Cynthia Sykes will be on Thursday May 21 at 10am instead of June 4th.

Address Update: If you have a change in address, phone number or email address, please notify [Sharon Ferraguto](#) (beachrose22@yahoo.com) so she can update our files. She will make sure the update gets in the newsletter.

Help Send Thoughts to Members: If you hear about a member to whom we should send a get well or sympathy card, please notify [Ellie Gilbert](#) at or email at coastalgardenerma@gmail.com.