



# Plymouth Garden Club

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Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

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

## Membership

**Active: 83**

**Associate: 18**

**Life: 2**

## **Thoughts on Snow**

By Joy Sand

Some individuals, when faced with a forecast of snow, think of clamping two strips of fiberglass to the bottoms of their feet and going screaming down a mountain. Me - not so much! Snow is a mixed blessing to the gardener. Snow is a natural insulation, trapping pockets of air around plant crown and on soil.

Six inches of snow stabilizes soil temperature down to the depth of roots. Light, fluffy snow can stabilize soil temps at up to twice the air temp. Without snow, perennial crowns and shallow roots suffer frost heaves from rapid temperature swings of day and night.

Winter can be the driest period for plants. With water locked in frozen soil, any plant parts above the soil lose water to drying winds. Dessicated evergreen leaves curl, brown at the edges, and fall with the eventual arrival of spring. A deep snow pack stabilizes soil temps, keeping water available to deep roots, easing drought stress. The snow pack also slowly releases water to the soil during melting.

Snow captures atmospheric nitrogen which it deposits into the soil during

*continued*

**Our March meeting will held on Wednesday, March 11th** at the Chiltonville Church. The program will be on **The Vernal Pool by Joy Marzolf**. We'll see and learn about the animals, insects, and plant life inside a vernal pool. Joy will share her vast knowledge about wildlife, wildlife photography, and nature in general. Joy was a naturalist and educator for Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Sanctuary for almost 14 years. There she taught programs on butterflies & dragonflies, reptiles & amphibians, mammals, animal tracking and photography. 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. Bring your pull tabs to give to Linda.

**Hospitality:** The Tea Committee this month is chaired by Karen Baker. She will be assisted by Rebecca Conroy, Myrna Fossum, Marge Galletta, Ellie Gilbert, Cathy Grote, Ellen Sexton and Susan Weitzmann. Plans are set for our **Annual Meeting Luncheon on June 10th** at East Bay Grill, see the attached invitation for details. Paula and Karen will be collecting the \$45 fee at the meetings in March, April and May; indicate your entree choice and whether you need gluten free. The deadline for reservations and refunds is June 1st. You can pay by cash, check, credit card or Venmo and may include your dues for next year (\$40 or \$60 Associate)

**Ways and Means:** There will be a raffle and various items for sale on the Ways and Means table at this meeting. Cheryl Larson and Anne Humphrey will assist chairs Diane Thomas and Carol Hartnett.

**Garden Therapy:** Nancy Carafoli will be leading a workshop at Newfield House on April 28 at 2pm. If you would like to help contact Nancy. Cheryl Larson will be working at a third facility, details to be announced. A big thank you from the residents and staff at Plymouth Rehab to Susan Weitzmann and her helpers who brought so much joy with their flowers. Photo on page 2.

**Floral Workshop:** Debbie Wells will lead a floral design workshop Wednesday morning at 10am before the meeting on March 11th. She will provide the containers, flowers and greens. There are still 3 places, call or text Debbie at 617-759-8815 by 8pm Monday if you would like to join in. The fee will be \$25 and will be collected at the workshop by cash or check.

**Junior Gardeners Environmental Program:** Club volunteers will be visiting all the 3rd grades in all 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. We will be planting a tree at South Elementary School, with the Plymouth Parks and Forestry Department on Tuesday, April 28 to celebrate Arbor Day.

melting. A slow spring snow melt provides steady, deep, even moisture.

Snow's insulating properties can also protect plants from initiating growth during the 'premature spring' of a mild winter by keeping plants dormant. Self-seeding plants are protected from die off of tender seedlings by too early growth. Clean salt free snow can be piled on planting beds. Farmers of yore called snow the poor mans fertilizer.

A deep snow pack also helps to fight plant pathogens and harmful insects. Cold night temps of deep snow kill off the wooly hemlock adelgid, while beneficial insects tucked into hollow stems and brush piles below the snow sleep safe.

But for trees and shrubs there is a downside to snow. The physics of fully freighted branches leads to cracks and falls. Annual inspection of trees by licensed arborists to cull weakened branches helps. Some damage is inevitable. Mice and moles happily chew away under the protection of the snow leaving dead stems for spring.

Garden on... Joy

## Come Grow With Us!



Garden Therapy at Plymouth Rehab

**Craft Workshops for the Plant Sale:** The annual plant sale is on May 16 and many workshops will be held to create beautiful items showcasing the talents of our members for the sale. Please consider donating the following items and bring to the March meeting: silk flowers, small American flags, terracotta pots and saucers 6" and larger, old hoses, wreath forms of any kind. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting if you are interested in participating in a craft workshop!! Many thanks in advance!! Sally Cohen

**Plant Sale:** The Plant Sale on May 16 is our other big fund raiser for our scholarships and community projects. All active members are expected to participate by donating plants, helping with the crafts and assisting on the day of the sale. Now is the time to start some tomatoes and flowers from seeds so they will be a good size for the sale. For best results use seed starting mix not soil to start seeds, then transplant them when they have 2 sets of true leaves to potting mix. After the snow melts and plants start growing, look for perennials that you can divide or plants in places you don't want them to pot up for the sale.

**Library Garden Beds:** It's hard to think about maintaining the beds in front of the library with all the snow on the ground, but Debby Clark-Lalley is planning ahead. It has been the custom to have two volunteers maintain each of the 10 garden beds, periodically weeding and deadheading from May through September. Not a lot of time or effort. Debby needs a few more people to commit to a bed. Please contact her at [debby@lalley.com](mailto:debby@lalley.com) to volunteer.

**April Meeting:** At this meeting we will be celebrating President's Day to honor our President and the other presidents in the South Shore District. We are expecting a large attendance so we will not be allowing other guests and will not have a Ways and Means table.

**June Day Trip:** An optional outing is being planned to visit the "Rose Man", Irwin Ehrenreich's gardens in Barnstable and then enjoy lunch together at Dunbar's Tea Room in Sandwich. Irwin was our January speaker and enthralled us with his photos of roses. We will meet at Irwin's garden at 10:30am on June 18th, with lunch at 12:30pm. You will be able to sign up for either or both at the March meeting. Carpooling will be encouraged.

**Composting:** Home composting is not for everyone. It is predicted Massachusetts landfills will close in 7-8 years. Food waste constitutes 20-40 % in landfills. GOOD NEWS - there is a viable solution for curbside food waste collection. Visit [BlackEarthCompost.Com](http://BlackEarthCompost.Com) or search Black Earth Compost YouTube <https://youtu.be/Biz3DRGX92Q> . Debby Clark-Lalley will briefly share additional information at the meeting on Wednesday.

**Change of Date:** The Fascinator Workshop offered by Cynthia Sykes will be on Thursday May 21 at 10am at her home instead of June 4th.

**Well Wishes:** We're sending wishes for a speedy recovery to Ellin Murphy, who had back surgery and Nancy Markley who had a knee replacement. Both are recovering nicely. If you hear about a member to whom we should send a get well or sympathy card, please notify Ellie Gilbert at 508-732-0410 or [coastalgardenerma@gmail.com](mailto:coastalgardenerma@gmail.com)