



# Plymouth Garden Club

April 2026

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

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

## Membership

**Active: 83**

**Associate: 17**

**Life: 2**

## **Toward a Peaceable Kingdom**

By Joy Sand

Just in the time that I have been writing this column, attitudes and recommendations relating to wildlife have changed. Wildlife watching is a fast-growing outdoor recreation, on track to surpass wildlife management hunting. However, some well meaning individuals are actually endangering the lives of wildlife by feeding, rescuing, or relocating them. They see wildlife like our pets who need our care, and are not independent wild creatures who have evolved to survive in Nature. Wildlife professionals refer to spring as 'baby season'. It often brings young animals in contact with well-meaning but misinformed humans. Our nearest animal neighbors, rabbits and deer, leave their offspring hidden in the brush, ferns, etc. while the mom grazes close by. She returns at intervals to feed her baby, who is not 'abandoned'. But the young animals scooped up by humans can seldom be returned to the wild. If they survive, they won't learn the necessary survival skills, including fear of humans. And many die in the 'care' of humans who have no knowledge of the proper feeding of young animals.

Our **April meeting will held on Wednesday, April 8th** at the Chiltonville Church. At this meeting we will host Presidents and guests from other clubs in our District and the new GCFM President, Susan MacPhearson. **John Forti**, The Heirloom Gardener will present a program titled **Gardening with Traditional Plants and Skills**. It draws from his new book of traditional plants and skills for the modern world. His presentation shares inspiration from our long history of heirloom preservation, garden craft, and homestead lifeways. John is an ethnobotanist, food biodiversity advocate, historical horticulturist and garden designer. John was the Director of Horticulture at Plimoth Patuxet Museum, where the garden and seed program he created brought international attention to the Pilgrim and Wampanoag heirloom crops. 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 Nancy Carafoli and Nancy Markley assisted by Jeanne Burnell, Denise Faherty, Maureen Garber, Anne Humphrey, Joy Sand and Geri Williams. 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 this meeting 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). Dues should be paid by June 1st.

**Ways and Means:** There will not be a raffle or Ways and Means table at this meeting.

**Garden Therapy:** Nancy Carafoli will be leading a workshop at Newfield House on **April 28** at 2pm. Becky Freer Freedman is still looking for a member to lead a visit to Life Care. Call Becky at 617-543-2320 if you can help.

**Facinator Workshop:** If you would like to create a fascinator to wear to our Annual Meeting and Luncheon in June, join Cynthia Sykes at her home on Thursday, May 21 at 10am for a fun workshop. Cynthia will have the supplies, there will be a nominal fee for supplies. A sign up sheet will be available at the April and May meetings.

**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, (42 Carters Bridge Rd.) 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. The Plymouth Parks and Forestry Department will be planting a tree at South Elementary School on Tuesday, April 28 to celebrate Arbor Day.

The notable exception to the ‘hands off’ policy is clear evidence of the mother’s death. Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or the Mass Wildlife District office for help. Fledgling songbirds are fully feathered and can be seen hopping on the ground and taking short flights. People are tricked into thinking they need help. Not so - these birds are practicing techniques for taking off and landing and catching insects for food.

Wildlife doesn’t need supplemental feeding. Bird feeders encourage unhealthy gathering of large numbers of birds where disease can spread unchecked. The recent drop in songbirds was aided by the transmission of bird flu at feeding stations. Some communities have ordinances against feeding stations to discourage turkeys and bears.

Feeding wildlife can also bring sick wildlife in contact with domestic animals and spread disease to them - bird flu to chickens and mange to dogs and cats.

To support peaceful co-existence with wildlife, stress planting native plants, some of which are deer and rabbit resistant, and provide winter food and shelter. Rabbits can be discouraged by laying thorny branches around choice plants.

Gardening catalogues sell mats with prongs to deter cats and dogs from digging in gardens, They’ll work to keep rabbits at bay, too.

Garden on... Joy

*“Through love and friendship, we experience more than one life”*

*Anais Nin*

**Come Grow With Us!**

**Craft Workshops for the Plant Sale:** Sally Cohen is hosting a workshop on **April 16, 10:00am**, at 35 Spencer Dr. We will be finishing up some projects and making Spring wreaths to sell at the Plant sale. Please text or contact her at 978-835-8998 if you plan on coming. Many thanks in advance!! Sally.

**Plant Sale:** The Plant Sale on **Saturday, May 16, 10am-2pm** 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. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting to select your time to help. Look for perennials that you can divide or plants in places you don’t want them to pot up for the sale. The longer they are growing in a pot, the more appealing they will be at the sale. It is important to label your plants and add information about how big they get, how much sun and water they prefer, etc. If you have an empty pot from a previous hanging plant or decorative planter, fill it with some purchased annuals, these sell fast. People look for herbs, both individual starter pots or a collection in a planter or window box. Members are expected to contribute at least 5 plants or make a donation of \$15. We need volunteers the day of the sale starting at 7:30am to set up tables, 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 by 2pm, but still need volunteers to clean up. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting, please sign up to help for at least a couple of hours.

**Library Garden Beds:** After a long cold winter the anticipation of spring is surely welcome. The garden beds at the library fared well considering the harshness of the weather. Weeding, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, and general clean up is needed. The scheduled **work date is Friday, May 1st at 9am**, and if needed the rain date is Saturday May 2nd at 9am. With the plant sale the following weekend, it would be lovely to have the gardens looking their best. We usually have two volunteers maintain each of the 10 garden beds, periodically weeding and deadheading from May through September. Debby needs a few more people to commit to a bed. Please contact her at [debby@lalley.com](mailto:debby@lalley.com) to volunteer.

**June Day Trip:** An optional outing is being planned to visit the “Rose Man”, Irwin Ehrenreich’s gardens in Barnstable on Thursday, **June 18th** and then enjoy lunch together at Dunbar’s Tea Room in Sandwich. Irwin was our January speaker and enthralled us with photos of his roses. We will meet at Irwin’s garden, 3780 Main St Barnstable Village (6A), at 10:30am on June 18th, with lunch at 12:30pm. Another option for lunch is the Dolphin Restaurant. You will be able to sign up for either or both at the April meeting. Carpooling will be encouraged.

**Wicked Tulip Flower Gardens:** These gardens in Kingstown, RI and Preston, Conn. contain acres of tulips you can walk through and pick your own tulips. Check out their website: [wickedtulips.com/](http://wickedtulips.com/). If you can’t get to Holland this is a chance to immerse yourself tulips. Several Board members are planning on driving to the Kingstown garden on Thursday, **May 7**. If we have 10 or more we can purchase tickets in advance at a discount and carpool. Often they do not have tickets available at the farm the day of because they are sold out. There will be a sign up sheet at the the meeting if you would like to go.