



Plymouth Garden Club

MAy 2026

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active: 83

Associate: 16

Life: 2

Nocturnally Scented Flowers

By Joy Sand

Romance novels and travel brochures have long made much of lush, fragrant tropical gardens. Plants in USDA Zones 10, 11 or 12 tend to release their scent after sundown. They depend on moths and bats, creatures most active at night for pollination. Since these zones are not victims of frosts and snows, here in zone 7A they are treated as annuals or moved inside to sunny rooms for the winter.

These nighttime perfumers have several characteristics in common. Blooms tend to be large and pale colored so they show up in the dark. Fragrances tend to be rosy and floral; fruity or citrusy; sharp and spicy. All tend to be intensified by humidity.

Angel's Trumpet and Devil's Trumpet are shrubs to small trees whose flamboyant blooms are tough enough to deal with 100+ temps and 70% humidity. However, all parts of the plants are toxic. Be cautious if your garden hosts small children.

Four o'clocks, Nicotiana and Evening Primrose are already familiar to most gardeners as occupants of cottage gardens. Four o'clocks, as the name implies, open

Our **May meeting will held on Wednesday, May 13th** at the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be "A Fresh Look at Lilacs" by Jack Alexander. Learn how to be choosy about the shape, fragrance, hue and bloom time of a lilac. Jack, a former Arnold Arboretum propagator, officially introduced a new lilac cultivar known as *Syringa X chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday', after requesting the original seed from a list provided by the Chinese Botanical Academy in Beijing. A perfect program for this time of year! 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. This meeting is the last time Linda will collect pull tabs.

Hospitality: The Tea Committee this month is chaired by Gail Conner and Carolina Glenn assisted by Julie Decot, Susan Fessenden, Judy MacDonald, Catherine McKenna, Donna Prosser and Beth Soukhanov. From Karen Baker: the Tea Committees will stay the same for the 2026-2027 year, beginning in September 2026. If you must make any changes, please let Karen know which month you are currently in and which other months you could switch to next year. If you have been a hostess or co-hostess and need to change, please see if a committee member can exchange places with you. Let Karen know before JUNE 3 what the changes are so that I can finalize the calendar and committees for the YEARBOOK by June 25th.

Annual Meeting Luncheon on June 10th will be at East Bay Grill. Paula and Karen will be collecting the \$45 fee at this meeting, 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 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 with any changes to your contact info.

Committee Chairs needed: We still need members to chair the Hospitality Committee next year and Ways and Means. Please contact Becky Freer Freedman if you are interested in helping at 617-543-2320.

Ways and Means: There will be a raffle and Ways and Means table at this meeting. Please buy your raffle tickets and purchases before the meeting starts at 1pm. Sally Cohen will be bringing to sell at W&M some of the lovely crafts her group has made for the Plant Sale.

Fascinator 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 everything you will need for a nominal fee. Sign up at the May meeting.

in the late afternoon. They grow 3 to 4 feet in height. The Nicotiana, also called tobacco plant, grow from 12 inches to 7 feet. Evening Primrose is a North American native biennial that is being investigated as a natural remedy for ills ranging from dermatitis to osteoporosis.

Brought to the 'colonies' by European colonists, Dame's Rocket prefers growing conditions similar to roses and was often found in rose gardens from the Tuileries in Paris to Jefferson's Monticello.

Moonflower, a morning glory relative, grows to a vine especially beloved by hummingbird moths. Tuberose bloom on 3 foot spikes from tubers that can be overwintered like gladiolus corms. Night blooming Jasmine has the least impressive blooms but the most alluring fragrance, a blend of jasmine and honeysuckle.

Devil's and Angel's Trumpets and Night-blooming Jasmine can be grown in pots. Placed on porches, patios, or decks they can be enjoyed for evening relaxation. I once had a tropical fragrance garden at the end of the pool. One of my most treasured memories is sitting among the blooms and watching the Lunar, Cecropia and hummingbird moths sipping at the blossoms seeming to float in the dark.

Garden on... Joy

"I was rich if not in money, in sunny hours and summer days."

Henry David Thoreau

Come Grow With Us!

Plant Sale: Our Plant Sale fundraiser is coming up this **Saturday, May 16th** on the front lawn of the Library. 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 of \$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 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 3-4:30pm to receive plants. We have usually sold most of the plants by 2pm, but still need volunteers to clean up. Please signup on the sheet at the meeting if you haven't already.



Library Garden Beds: A sincere thank you to garden club members Debbie Clark-Lalley, Joy Hurley, Marcia Sykes, Judy Fosdick, Margi Delafield, and Crystal Payne who worked tirelessly enabling us to complete the spring clean up. The garden beds at the library look wonderful.

"Rose Man" Trip: An optional outing is planned to visit Irwin Ehrenreich's gardens on Thursday, **June 18th at 10:30 am**, 3780 Main St Barnstable Village (6A). The reservation for Dunbar's Tea Room lunch in Sandwich is full. However, Becky is hosting lunch at the Dolphin Restaurant in Sandwich. Members can sign up for the Dolphin Restaurant at the May meeting as well as the garden tour. Carpooling is encouraged.

Nominations of Officers for 2026-2027: We will vote on the slate of officers for the coming Club year at the May meeting:

President:	Rebecca Freer Freedman
1st Vice President:	Carol Hartnett
2nd Vice President:	Sharon Ferraguto
Recording Secretaries:	Debbie Fay, Board Meetings Linda Santulli, Club Meetings
Communications Secretary:	Sally Cohen
Treasurer:	Cynthia Sykes
Assistant Treasurer:	Denise Faherty
Parliamentarian:	Paula Butterfield
Immediate Past President:	Linda O'Neill

Thank You: Lots of thanks to our hard working members who over the year made our Jr. Gardener Environmental Program and Garden Therapy visits very successful and to all who made last month's Presidents Day so wonderful.

Well Wishes: Meghan Rinker will be having surgery to remove a tumor in her ear on May 14, keep her in your prayers. 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