



Plymouth Garden Club

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Rebecca Freer Freedman, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active: 71

Associate: 15

Life: 2

Mum Alternatives

By Joy Sand

To some gardeners, the fluffy pink, russet, white, and yellow blooms of mums appearing in garden centers in August means fall. But those dense blooms are not ideal or even good choices for pollinators trying to 'bulk up' for migration or hibernation. However there is a plethora of accessible nectar and pollen rich autumn blooms.

Members of the aster family can be the back-bone of the autumn garden. North American native species such as New England aster and New York aster offer ease of cultivation, broad pallet of colors, late, long lasting bloom time, and cold tolerance. As a bonus, their flat, centered, daisy-like flowers, offer convenient landings for pollinators. There are some chrysanthemums, such as the antique Sheffield pink, or hybrid spider or spoon mums which are pollinator friendly.

For a jolt of yellow color, there are fall flowering tickseeds, black-eyed Susans, and perennial sunflowers. Those species provide a bonus of seeds to nourish birds through the winter. Not as large or bulky as summer sunflowers, tickseeds, Susans, and perennial sunflowers

Our first meeting of the 2026-2027 year **will held on Wednesday, September 9th** at the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be **Flowers for Every Occasion** presented by **Bridget Wright** of Sunshine Market Place in Kingston. Bridget joined the Sunshine Market Place as the resident florist in March of 2026. Her experience in floral arranging includes being a florist at Winston Flowers in Hingham. She will provide advice for selecting from the floral bar to ordering flower arrangements and custom bouquets. 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. Guests are welcome. For Horticulture please bring in a labeled specimen from your garden. You should bring in any aluminum tabs you have saved which support efforts at Shriner's Hospital. There will be a display board near the membership table that will highlight upcoming events and sign up sheets as well as other info. .

Hospitality: The Tea Committee this month is chaired by Pat Tarantino and Judy Tessin assisted by Dawn Barrett, Natalie Caramello, Diane Dunlap, Carol Hartnett, Crystal Payne and Donna Prosser.

Ways and Means: Cathy Grote and Margi Delafield are looking forward to chairing the Ways and Means table this year. This month, Pat Windelspecht and Susan Fessenden will be helping and Linda O'Neill, Nancy Stetson and Judy Tessin will be bringing raffle items. Thank you all. In September, we will be featuring grapevine and other wreaths, ready for Fall decoration. We will also have canvas and insulated totes, priced to sell, note cards and garden gloves. Be sure to look for our new Donation Box. If you are dividing perennials, consider sharing 2 or 3 pots with the Ways and Means table in September and October. Did you know that proceeds from the Ways and Means table go to Club activities and services? They help keep dues down and subsidize our Holiday and June luncheons. Please support us!

Garden Therapy: Member Volunteers will visit **Plymouth Life Care Center** on Wednesday, **September 16th at 2:00pm**. Marcia Sykes will lead the group. To participate please sign up near the membership table.

Art in Bloom: Art in Bloom will be presented by Plymouth Center for the Arts on **Thursday, October 1 through Sunday, October 4**. Members of Plymouth Garden Club are being invited to participate again this year as you have done so many years in the past with much appreciation by the Art Center. The opening reception will be on Thursday, October 1, 6 to 8 pm. **The days for selection of artwork at the Center will be September 21, 10 to 2, or September 22, 10 to 2.** Full instructions have been emailed to you. To participate or any questions, please contact: Chairman, Lynne Nybo, lynnenybo@gmail.com or call 617-901-3157. The Art Center looks forward to working with all the garden club members to create this wonderful event.

range in height from 12 to 24 inches. For shady, moist locations, consider pink or white turtleheads, relatives of snapdragons and foxgloves, they are best planted in drifts. The white version is also a host for the larva of the Baltimore checker-spot butterfly.

Two more native fall plants are goldenrod and ironweed. Blooming at the same time as ragweed, goldenrod has an undeserved reputation as an allergy trigger. 'Wild goldenrod' has a tendency to take over its space. Newer cultivars such as Golden Fleece is more contained. Ironweed, another aster relative, is a late bloomer with small, fluffy purple flowers and is a pollinator's favorite. Pruning in May or June can delay blooming.

These pollinator friendly choices can add variety to the autumn garden and support the garden ecology.

Garden on, Joy!

Farewell to summer, the season of sweet corn and fireflies. Joy

Rooted in Community, Blooming in Friendships



Ghost Ship design by Geri in Heritage Show

If you would like more details contact Cynthia Sykes.

Floral Design Workshop: Nancy Carafoli will be leading a floral workshop before our meeting on October 14th at 10:15am. The cost of the workshop including all materials is \$25 by check or cash only. To participate please sign up on the sheet near the membership table or contact Debbie Wells 617-756-8815 or debbiewells@comcast.net.

Junior Gardeners Environmental Program: To be able to continue this program of visiting all the 3rd grades in the Plymouth Public Schools next spring with information on Plymouth's unique environment we need more volunteers. The program is very appreciated by the schools, but before we commit to another year we must have at least one or two more members willing to present the program in the classroom. Contact Geri Williams if you are interested in helping with this environmental educational program at 508-833-4355 or geri3williams@comcast.net

Library Garden Beds: Debbie Clark-Lalley asks volunteers to come to the Library on Friday, **September 18 at 9am** to clean up, apply compost and plant mums in the beds. The raindate is Saturday, September 19 at 9am. If the weather is questionable, check the PGC website.

October Field Trip October 21st: David Gould, the Head of the Department of Energy and Environment, will be our program speaker at our October meeting discussing the Town's multimillion dollar Town Brook Restoration Project. He has kindly offered to lead a tour of the project along Town Brook on **October 21**. To participate please sign up on the sheet near the membership table.

Well Wishes: If you hear about a member to whom we should send a get well or sympathy card, please notify Sally Cohen at 978-835-8998 or sallycohen88@gmail.com



Cardinal Flower or *Lobelia cardinalis*



Black eyed Susans in Geri's yard