Plymouth Garden Club

Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active: 74
Associate: 15
Life: 2

Those Amazing Mantises

By Joy Sand

Some people - even gardeners - are completely repulsed by the prehistoric appearance of the praying mantis. They are truly prehistoric. The oldest fossil that resembles today's mantis is 59 million years old.

The female of this powerful predator can lay up to 15 egg cases as an adult. Each case contains at least 100 eggs. That's 1,800 eggs total production. A female can boost her egg production by 22 to 135% by consuming her mate.

Typically, the female's lifespan is 6.5 months. Large birds do prey on mantises. But significant threat to mantises in the late summer and fall is lawn mowers. The very large slow moving insects rest on grass blades. They can't get out of the way in time.

Twelve mantises species extend their carnivorous diet to include humming birds because the birds are small and the mantises rest on the stems of favorite pollinator plants.

There are ten cultures worldwide that consider mantises a delicacy. In India and Nigeria they are served fried, roasted, or smoked! And if human consumption or canabilism

continued

Our November meeting **will held on Wednesday, November 11th** at the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be **Designs for Entertaining** by **Maureen Christmas,** who is a MA certified horticulturist and frequent lecturer at the Boston Flower and Garden Show. Flowers set the mood for your dinner party, cocktail party or special event. Who cares how the food tastes if the flowers look great? Maureen will demonstrate seasonal designs for various occasions using eco-friendly techniques. Our business meeting and tea will follow. For Horticulture please bring in a labeled specimen. Bring in the pull tabs you've save.

Hospitality: The Tea Committee this month is chaired Debbie Clark-Lalley and Diane Thomas assisted by Kimberly Carmichael, Sharon Ferraguto, Liz Hester, Elizabeth Sellon, Joyce Willet and Pat Windelspecht.

Ways and Means: Be sure to stop by and see us at the Ways and Means table! This month we will be featuring 4 Raffles, generously donated by Cathy Grote, Noreen Casey, Linda Santulli and Joy Sand and the tea table and speaker's design arrangements. We will also have Garden Gloves in all sizes for $6 a pair. This is a great price, so think Stocking Stuffers. This month's helpers will be Donna Prosser and Beth Soukhanov. In October, our total sales were $488!!! A big Thank You for all your support.

December Holiday Luncheon: Suzanne Carchedi and Cheryl Larson, luncheon chairs, have ordered the same menu of favorites including Chicken Piccata, vegetable lasagna and pink lady apple salad. They will be at the check in table collecting the $15 which can be paid with cash, check, and credit card or online on our website. The deadline for paying is November 20. Members are asked to bring cookies or a dessert to share. Please sign up on the sheet near the windows.

Floral Design Workshop: Unfortunately Nancy Carafoli was injured last month just before the workshop and had to cancel. She will do a floral design workshop next spring.

Junior Gardeners Environmental Program: We will again be visiting all the 3rd grades in the Plymouth Public Schools next spring with information on Plymouth's unique Pine Barrens environment. Geri Williams is coordinating the program and needs volunteers to present the material and helpers. The visits are usually an hour or two in the morning in March and April. Geri will have a **meeting Tuesday December 15th** at 11am in the Library Board Room to train volunteers and choose dates. Contact Geri at 508-833-4355 or **geri3williams@comcast.net** if you are interested in helping with this environmental educational program.

Mayflower: The latest issue of the GCFM newsletter, the Mayflower, is available on their website **gcfm.org** There are many great articles and flower show photos, including Jean Dobachesky's 2nd place design at Marshfield.

exceeds 40% during breeding season, a mantis population in an area can go extinct.

Mantises prey on insects from noxious caterpillars to beetles to ants and slugs, but also beneficial insects, as well as beloved pollinators like butterflies and bumble bees and small vertebrates like frogs and toads.

The formidable mantis is just one of the beneficial insects that Mother Nature provides with a dark side.

Garden on, Joy!

"I hope your rambles have been sweet and reveries spacious"
- Emily Dickenson

A tip from Joy: The ground should be below 50 degrees when you plant bulbs or you risk the bulbs rotting. It takes at least 4 days with weather below 50 degrees to chill the ground. A simple check is to stick your hand in the soil, it should feel pretty cold on your hand.

Rooted in Community, Blooming in Friendships



Jean Dobachesky's 2nd place entry

Holiday Greens Sale: Our Sale in December is a major fundraiser for our scholarships and community projects so we need the support and participation of all members. We will have workshops to decorate wreaths, create arrangements, and fill cemetery/porch boxes on Thurs. Dec.3 and Fri. Dec.4 in the Library Fehlow Room. Please plan to attend and help at least part of one day of the workshops and/or the sale on Dec.4 & 5. A sign up sheet will be on a clip board at the meeting. Save dried flower heads, grasses, seedpods, and pinecones, spray them with silver, gold, white or red paint. Donate small sprays, snowflakes, fake fruit, flowers or ornaments that we could use on wreaths or in arrangements and baskets. If you are going through your old holiday decorations, donate ornaments, silk flowers or old wreaths. Bring these to the November meeting or to the workshops. We use **lots of greens**: any evergreen, various holly, boxwood, variegated euonymus, pieris andromeda, cypress and arbor vitae, etc.Please cut greens and bring them in buckets with water. (Label your buckets) Larger branches can be dropped off in the trailer behind the library Wednesday,Thursday or Friday. If you have one of the rustic wooden boxes from last year you can bring it for us to fill again. In 2020 Geri did a video demonstrating decorating wreaths, filling a wooden box, and making a bow. You can watch it here: https://youtu.be/bxtRpIyJD6A for some tips. (Ignore the info about the limits to persons allowed in the room due to Covid 19 that year) If you are new to decorating wreaths or creating arrangements there will be members to help you. There will be some kits with prewired items to decorate a wreath. It is important to wrap the wires for the bows all the way around the wreath so it will be secure and not droop.and wrap the wires of other items around a group of branches. When you are finished hold up the wreath and give it a small shake to make sure everything is well attached. Becky Freedman and Janet Voyer will also be organizing a bake sale and ask you to bake cookies, brownies, small breads and cakes. They will have a sign up sheet, so we have a variety of baked goods, not too many chocolate chip cookies. Please bring your baked goods to the library Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

New Members: Please welcome our newest members: Jennifer Greenwood, and Kristen Kaskela, Also welcome back former member Liz Branch,

Flower Show Awards: Several of our members won awards at the Flower Show at the Marshfield Fair: Jean Dobachesky earned a red, Second place ribbon, Judy MacDonald and Colleen Costa each earned an Honorable Mention for their designs and Crystal Payne won first place for her beeswax candle and 3rd for her honey. Carol Hartnett was awarded a Honorable Mention at the Tower Hill Show for her design. Photos of their designs are on the PGC FaceBook page and our website **PlymouthGardenClub.org**.

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**

Facinator Workshop: Cynthia Sykes has canceled the Nov. 11th workshop since there was not enough interest.