



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

December 2023

Vol. 31, No. 12

May Your Holidays be Merry and Bright!



Make a wreath!

Saturday

Dec 2nd at 10AM

Wilder Hill Farm

Conway, MA

RSVP to the club

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 8th

5PM – 7PM

Held at the home of Linda and Harlan Smith
788 Bernardston Rd, Greenfield

RSVP greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Or call 413-522-0901 (Laura)

Bring a dessert to share - savory food and drinks supplied by the club. Bring an optional Yankee Swap wrapped gift in the \$15-\$20 range, and enjoy the ensuing surprises and fun. Please try to carpool as Linda has a circular driveway and parking is at a premium. Increase the fun and festivity by wearing a holiday sweater (ugly?!) or something sparkly. (Masks are optional depending on your comfort level.)
RSVP deadline extended to 12/4.

Wilder Hill has an Open House wreath-making all weekend 10 -4. Come with the club at 10AM on Saturday. Wreaths are \$25 and swags are \$20. All materials & instruction will be supplied, but bring a pair of snips and gloves. Enjoy a mug of hot cider out by the stupa or shop for gifts in the studio.
RSVP: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

December President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

We are fast approaching the shortest day of the year and starting the slow climb back to spring! I did manage to get all the plants in the ground that were waiting so patiently to get their toes in the soil, and I got the garlic tucked in as well. We had a great wreath-making experience this year, and we hope to go back to Wilder Hill during the growing season for a walk and talk with Lilian. The Annual Meeting will be held on February 25th, and we are still deciding who to bring in as a speaker. We are thinking about returning to the Whately Inn. There is still time to send us your suggestions for both a speaker and a function hall! We are looking forward to the Annual Holiday Party for food, fun, and festivities. I look forward to wrapping up the year with many of you then. Cheers and Wassail! ~ Laura



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5, 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meeting

December 2, 10 AM - [Wreath-making at Wilder Hill Gardens](#)

December 8, 5-7PM – Annual Holiday Party

December 9, 10 – 1 – Winter Farmers Market at the library

December 21, 10:27pm – Winter Solstice

Every Gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ~ Luther Burbank

Garden Tour 2024

As we alternate between the Extravaganza and the Garden Tour, we are gearing up for the latter in 2024. Pat Leuchtman has already volunteered her garden for the Tour – who else would like to jump in? How about suggesting your neighbor or a garden you drive by every day? We need to gather together a committee to identify these and other potential gardens and ask their owners if they would be interested in opening their gardens to the public. If you are interested in being a part of this planning process, please contact Norm Hirschfeld:

nhms41@comcast.net or 413-773-0201



Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden**

Chores on her website:

<https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/>

ADOPT A PLANTER!

Emily Garmalo has a plant that needs a new home ASAP. It is located at Pioneer Valley Hospice (the doorway just before Valley Medical's main entrance at 329 Conway St). It's about 2.25 feet in diameter, and a good 2 feet off the floor. It has a metal stand. It will take 2 people to move it. Emily is willing to help get it out of the building and into your car. Emily's work # is 413-774-2400, 8am-5pm, if you would like to arrange to see the planter or claim it for your own. You are welcome to keep the decorations in the pot, or not.



Officers 2023:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website:

Laura Schlaikjer

Vice President:

Marsha Stone

Treasurer:

Becky George

Recording Secretary:

Pamela McBride

Corresponding Secretary:

Eva Carrier

At Large Member/s: Nicki Shipman;

Michelle Tirrell



Happy Winter Solstice!

A solstice is different from an equinox. Solstices (summer and winter) define the longest and shortest days of the year, while equinoxes (spring and fall) define days that have an equal amount of daytime as nighttime. Some people believe that Stonehenge, in England, was built to celebrate the solstices. Each planet in the Earth's solar system has its own solstices and equinoxes. The length of each season and when each solstice and equinox occurs depends on the planet's tilt. For instance, Uranus is tilted by 82 degrees, so it has seasons that last 2 decades!! Imagine 20 years of summer followed by 20 years of winter, and so on! Some of the names given to the Winter Solstice are Yule, Midwinter, The Longest Night, and Solstice Night. You will notice that the Winter Solstice occurs this year on December 21 at 10:27 EST. It happens in the blink of an eye, and is not really a full day (or night). Enjoy the lengthening days!



December 2nd wreath-making at Wilder Hill Gardens in Conway. About 10 GGC members had a wonderful time creating wreaths en plein air. We really appreciated the fresh greens harvested there on the property.





Gardeners Supply has a wonderful [article](#) on caring for your amaryllis bulbs, including a link to Laura at Garden Answer's YouTube video and link to her tips and advice. They are not that finicky and with some modicum of care can rebloom and even reproduce year after year.



Fresh snow absorbs sound, lowering ambient noise over a landscape because the trapped air between snowflakes attenuates vibration. That's why it gets so quiet when it snows.

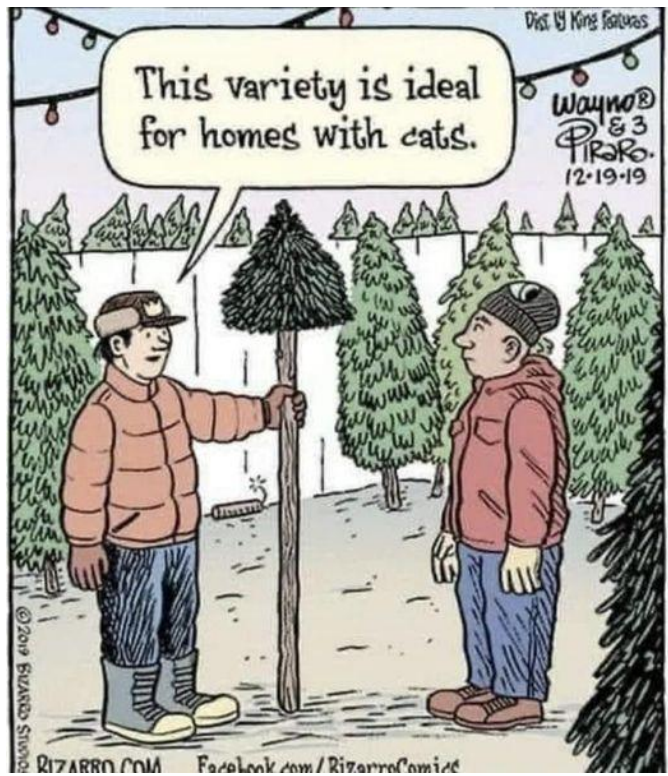
GREENFIELD, MA
WINTER FARMERS MARKET

NEW LOCATION!

Greenfield Public Library
 Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm

Nov. 18th - Dec. 9th - Dec. 23rd
Jan. 20th - Feb. 17th - Mar. 16th

Fresh Food, Local Crafts, Live Music, Library Activities, ...and more!

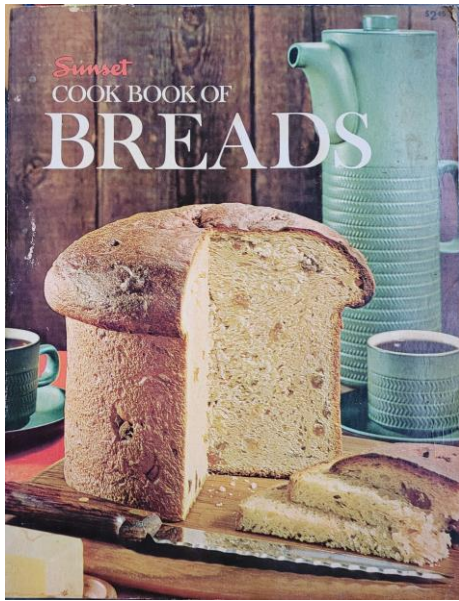


2024 Reading Challenge

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>A book you read years ago that you may feel different about now</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>A book with a color in the title</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>A book whose protagonist has a different culture or lifestyle from you</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>A book about nature, the environment, or climate change</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>A graphic novel</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>A book that inspired a film or television series</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>A book by an author born outside of the United States</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>A book whose title starts with the same letter as your birthday month</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>A debut book by a Massachusetts author</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>A book about a time in history you'd like to know more about</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>A relaxing, soul-soothing book</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>A well-reviewed book in your least favorite genre</p>

visit massbook.org/readingchallenge to learn more

Ready for a **Reading Challenge**? The 2024 edition is starting soon. January's challenge – Choose a book that you read years ago that you may feel different about now – requires some thought, so start planning now!



CHRISTOPSOMO – Greek Christmas Bread

Identified by a symbolic cross on top, Christopsomo is a large golden Greek yeast loaf rich with eggs. It is excellent served warm, the anise-scented slices spread with sweet or regular butter, and it's equally as good later when toasted and served with honey. It's a holiday tradition in my home, and can be found in the [Sunset Book of Breads](#) c. 1966. My copy is the 21st printing, from 1976. You can work on other projects while the bread is rising. I find a [Danish Dough Whisk](#) and large stainless steel bowl very handy in mixing the batter. *(Let me know if you would like a printout in a larger font!)*

2 pkg yeast, active dry or compressed
 ½ c warm water (lukewarm for compressed)
 ½ c milk, scalded and cooled
 1 c (1/2 lb) butter or margarine, melted and cooled to lukewarm

7 c un-sifted regular all-purpose flour
 9 candied cherries or walnut halves (I use red and green cherries)
 1 egg white slightly beaten

4 eggs, slightly beaten
 ¾ c sugar
 2 tsp crushed anise seed
 1 tsp salt

Blend yeast with warm water and let stand until softened, @ 5 min. In a large bowl, combine yeast mixture, milk, butter, eggs, sugar, anise seed, and salt; blend thoroughly. Gradually beat in flour. Turn dough onto a lightly floured board and knead for 10 min or until dough is smooth and elastic. Grease your (probably clean) mixing bowl, then add the dough ball, turning so all surfaces are greased. Cover and let rise in a warm place about 2 hrs, or until doubled in size. Punch dough down and pinch off 2 pieces, each about 3 inches in diameter, and set aside. Knead remaining dough on un-floured board to make a smooth ball. Place on a greased baking sheet and flatten into a 9-to-10-inch round. Shape each of the 3-inch balls into a 15-inch-long rope by rolling on an un-floured board under the palm of your hand. Slash 5 inches in on each end of both ropes. Cross ropes on the center of the round loaf – *do not press down*. Curl slashed sections away from each other as per the photo. Place a candied cherry or walnut half inside each curl and 1 on the center of the cross. Brush loaf with beaten egg white, cover lightly with plastic wrap, and let rise for about an hour until almost doubled in size. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 45 minutes or until a thin wooden skewer inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean. Watch it carefully towards the end of the cooking time to make sure it does not over-cook. Serve hot or cool on a wire rack. Cut in wedges or slices. Makes 1 large loaf. Wrap in foil to reheat.



Lightly arrange two ropes of dough on Greek Christmas loaf; curl slashed ends inward.



Dough strips atop baked loaf resemble one form of Christian cross. Bread is mildly sweet.

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

(Shared by John Howard through Greening Greenfield)

We are all understandably upset by the amount of plastic trash on our streets, our oceans, our water, and now microscopically in our own bodies! It is costing us money to remove and is killing birds, animals and some of us. We have also heard that much of plastic recycling is not really recycling. There are a few plastics that we can recycle! Both Stop & Shop and Big Y have plastic bag recycling in the rooms with their bottle and can recycling. The Nextrex corporation will collect them and turn them into plastic decking. They will take Produce Bags, Newspaper Sleeves, Dry Cleaning, Bubble Wrap, Plastic e-commerce Mailers, Ziploc & Other Re-closable Bags, Cereal Box Bags, Bread Bags, Ice Bags, Store Bags & Case Overwrap Bags. For more detailed information please see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDNFXtMu6M0&list=PLV4bBr1Ca3JB49YYVJnN7y_Nkh5dwXit9&index=7

Dear Greenfield Garden Club members,

I am excited to express my gratitude for Greenfield Garden Club's grant funding of my youth program, **Youth Climate Action of Franklin County**. GGC's grant allowed me to extend my summer program, resulting in an additional day of work for two youth. During this work day we planted three trees, assembled and installed several "Planting for Pollinators" signs, and performed essential maintenance at our gardens at The Shady Glen Diner, Montague Town Hall, and The Great Falls Discovery Center. Thanks so much for supporting my work and for promoting gardens everywhere!

Best,

Peter Wackernagel



Shown at left is a photograph from the work day funded through the Greenfield Garden Club grant. People in the photo are (from left to right): Anthony Borowiec, Gage Stanislawski, and grant submission recipient, Peter Wackernagel.

Leyden Holiday Craft Fair

December 9th

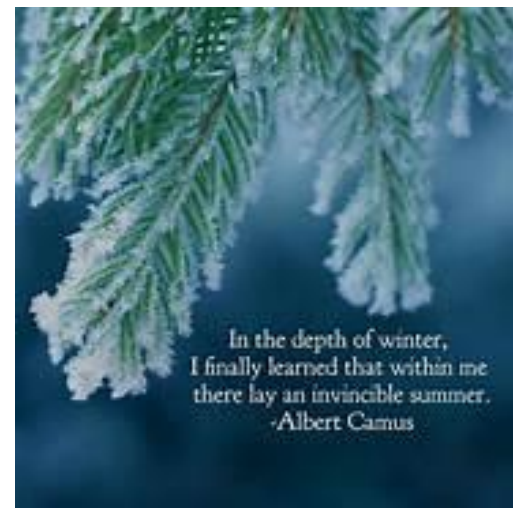
10AM – 3PM

Hosted by the Leyden United Methodist Church, and held at both the church and the Leyden Town Hall across the street.

15 & 16 West Leyden Rd, Leyden.

Lunch prepared by the church – you know – the folks who also bring you all that good food at the annual Franklin County Fair.

There will be a bake sale, raffle, and lots of talented craft vendors.



The Good Old Days

Pity the poor children of today, with their calendars stuffed with chocolates,

never to know the thrill of opening a small cardboard door and discovering behind it

a picture of a bell.

Brian Bilston

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Sept 15, 2023\$8,266.33

Income\$40.22

Interest \$0.22; membership: \$40

Expenses \$230.83

Oktoberfest: \$169.08; Snacks on NYC Bus trip: \$61.75

Balance as of Oct 16, 2023.....\$8,075.72

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:

c/o Becky George, 61 Madison Cir

Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Thursday, December 28th

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com



Greenfield Garden Club
PO Box 309
Greenfield, MA 01302-0309

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

These vendors have agreed to provide the listed discounts for members who show their membership card when making a purchase. We appreciate their support! Please respect their offers by remembering these generous discounts are for club members only and only when your card is presented.

Baystate Perennial Farm

36 State Road (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants with membership

Chapley Gardens

397 Greenfield Road (Route 5/10), Deerfield
10% off regular priced plants and pond supplies

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)

269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden-related

Silver Garden Daylilies – 23 Picket Lane, Greenfield

10% off daylilies

Any vendors interested in offering our club member - gardeners a discount, please contact a member of the Steering Committee – thank you!!

LaSalle Florists

23 LaSalle Drive (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

O'Brien Nurserymen – 40 Wells Road, Granby, CT

10% off plants

Mill River Farm Market – Conway

Road/corner 116 & Rtes 5/10. S. Deerfield
10% off plants in Spring and Fall

Warm Colors Apiary

2 South Mill River Road, South Deerfield
10% off

Wilder Hill Gardens

351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway
10% off plants and consultations