February 2024 Vol. 32, No. 1

Annual Meeting and a Valentine's Day Bonus!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 25th – Noon to 3:00pm Whately Inn

Invitations are in the mail! If you did not receive the mailing, please contact the club. Lilian Jackman of Wilder Hill Gardens will speak to us on caring for our beloved gardens and landscapes during these busy times and as we grow older? Learn sound gardening techniques and a few innovative "tricks." Lilian will illustrate ways to keep our surroundings healthy and beautiful while dramatically reducing the amount of labor involved. We can work smartly with our experience, our bodies and our passion for plants in a way that benefits the whole. Special attention will be given to native, pollinator, and habitat producing plants. Max attendance is 60, so please return your reservation early to avoid disappointment. Deadline is Feb 18. Call Marsha (413-773-0201) or Laura (413-522-0901) with questions.

Shelburne Farm and Garden Visit

Tuesday, February 13 – 5:00-6:00pm 355 Mohawk Tr, Shelburne Falls

Maria Topitzer of Lyonsville Farm in Colrain has recently become co-owner of Shelburne Farm and Garden, and is inviting club members to visit the store on Tuesday, February 13th to check out her stock of Valentine's Day gifts and to use our new 10% discount on her incredible selection of houseplants – or any gardening related supplies. Members can feel free to come earlier than 5:00pm to browse, but Maria will address the club at 5:00pm, and the store will close at 6:00pm. (Email the club about carpooling.) Speaking of Lyonsville Farm, plant pre-orders are now open on their website. A 15% discount will be automatically applied to your order until March 1st. They sell organic herbs, annuals, perennials, and vegetables. Plants can be picked up at the farm.

February President's Musings ~ Laura Schlaikjer

The calendar is turning to the shortest month of the year, and despite this being a leap year, there are still only 29 days this month. As you can see from the pages of this newsletter, there are many events to take advantage of, and I didn't have room to include the offerings over at Berkshire Botanical, including the 3/2 Winter Lecture featuring Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter in the UK, or the 2/8 virtual talk offered by The Garden Conservancy "Art & Nature: New Lessons from Russell Page" for only \$5 (the club is a membercall to register). I thank the steering cttee for the lovely floral arrangement seen at right (my dad passed 1/5) from Floral Affairs, who is doing a flower arranging event for us in March (see pg 2). I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting! ~ Laura



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2 - Happy Groundhog Day!

February 8, 5:15pm - Steering Committee Meeting

February 13, 5:00-6:00pm – GGC nite at Shelburne Farm & Garden

February 17, 10 – 1 – Winter Farmers Market at the Greenfield Library

February 25, 12-4 - Annual Meeting

In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret ~ Patience Strong

Orchid Cactus 'Clown' (Epiphyllum hybrid)

Orchid Cactus 'Clown' makes a great hanging basket with its large, colorful, oversized blooms. The eye-catching flowers have white inner petals that are blushed with pink and raspberry and its outer petals are deep raspberry-red. In their native habitat, epiphyllums grow in trees and like partially filtered sun. In a home environment, it's best grown in porous cactus soil. Once the plants have mature leaves and are ready to flower, dry down the soil starting in November until buds can be seen on last year's growth. Another trick to flowering is to keep the plant below 60°F but above freezing (no lower than 35°F) during the dry period. This chill and dryness will stimulate flower bud formation.

If this plant interests you, club member Linda Tyler has a small number of cuttings she is happy to pass along. All you need to do is plant the now-dried leaves in soil. They will take some time to bloom since they will need to become pot-bound first, so they have some growing to do!

Linda also has some cuttings from her Night-Blooming Cereus cactus to re-home. You can reach her at:

bluegardeninghat@gmail.com.



ORCHID CACTUS 'CLOWN'



NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS

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

Chores on her website:

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

COMING IN MARCH: BOUQUET WORKSHOP

Just in time for spring, GGC will be offering a fabulous flower arranging workshop hosted by Becky Guyer, owner of our local source for stunning bouquets, Floral

Affairs. Be creative, have fun, and be prepared for arranging your own beautiful garden blossom bouquets this spring and summer.

Where: Floral Affairs, 324 Deerfield

Street, Greenfield

Dates: March 9th and March 23rd from 3-5pm. Each workshop is limited to 10 participants.

Cost: \$40 - includes all materials and instruction for your take-home arrangement.

Wine and cheese included!

Please call or email Marsha to reserve your place: 413-773-0201 mds41@comcast.net

(There are only a few seats left in each workshop.)

(See photo on page 1 for an example of the lovely work Becky does.)

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

Native Plant Trust Programs in February

Restoration Ecology 101 Webinar REGISTER HERE

Ecological restoration is a discipline with many applications. This webinar is meant for those who want to know what the term "restoration" means in an ecological context, rather than for those who have experience conducting restoration. Ideal students would be those who have an interest in making their lands more friendly to native flora and fauna and want to take their first steps, but don't know what to do.

Date/time details Thursday, February 1, 2024, 6 PM - 7 PM

Location Zoom / Online

Program code BOT3816

Fee \$15 (Members) / \$18 (Nonmembers)

Instructor Brian Colleran CEU MCH: 0.5

Certificate Elective: Basic or Advanced, Botany

Conservation Biology Webinar REGISTER HERE

This introduction to conservation biology and biodiversity covers the factors that make a species vulnerable to extinction and the strategies and tools that can be used to protect plants and ecosystems. The course explores the interdisciplinary nature of conservation biology through readings, group exercises, and video clips. Participants receive a bibliography of resources for further study.

Date/time details Saturday, February 10, 17, 24, 2024, 10 AM - 2 PM

Location Zoom / Online

Program code BOT5100

Fee \$180 (Members) / \$216 (Nonmembers)

Instructor George LoCascio

CEU MCH: 0.5

Certificate Advanced Core, Botany

The Meaning of Gardens REGISTER HERE

For garden makers and visitors alike, the beauty or symbolism of a garden may kindle a sense of connection to a larger world, physical or imaginary. Garden creation begins in the imagination as a quest for meaning. We will explore the process of imagining a garden that holds personal meaning and look at examples of types of gardens that fulfill meaning-making for their creators or for visitors.

Date/time details Thursday, February 22, 2024, 5 - 6 PM

Location Zoom / Online
Program code HORW502

Fee \$15 (Members) / \$18 (Nonmembers)

Instructor Jane Roy Brown

Certificate Elective: Basic or Advanced, Horticulture

Please note: We do not make video or audio recordings of classes or programs available after the fact, because we believe education is interactive, with instructors and students building a community and culture of learning. Some programs may be recorded strictly for instructor-training purposes.









Don't forget your camera!

Wear good walking shoes!

The luxury coach departs from:

Brattleboro, S.Deerfield West Springfield, Lee! ********

Cancellation Insurance is available and recommended by calling NTA 1-800 388-1470 and give then our ID #216092

Longwood Gardens * Historic Philadelphia &

The Philadelphia Flower Show!
"United By Flowers"

<u>Dates</u>: Friday, March 1-3, 2024 \$599 p/p Double Occupancy* or \$779 Single*

The Philadelphia Flower Show returns in 2024 inside the Convention Center again, and we couldn't be more excited to be heading there in the new year! In 2023 we are going to celebrate the bold, the daring, the eccentric and the joyful side of flowers and gardens. The theme was inspired by that "jolt or magic we feel when we see flowers, see something captivating in landscaping or when we see something truly special". The annual Flower Show is a top destination and a must experience horticultural event! See why this yearly event attracts 250,000 visitors for a showcase of excellence that dates back to 1829.



Flower Show 2019





Flower Show 2019

Flower Show 2019

~ Tour Package Includes ~

A fabulous trip on a Luxury Thomas Charter Motorcoach to the city of Brotherly Love,
Philadelphia, hotel accommodations at Element by Westin at King of Prussia, breakfast each
morning (2), Longwood Gardens, 2 half day admissions into the flower show at the
convention center, guided Tour of Philadelphia with costumed guide and free time to explore
Historic Philadelphia on own, and tour manager and driver gratuity.

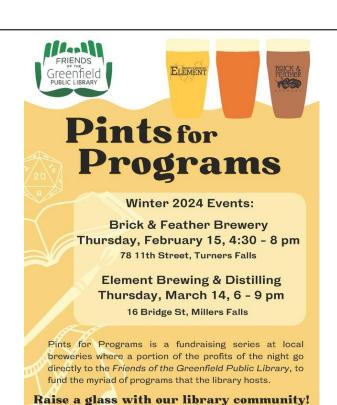
Don't delay!! To reserve your seat(s) on this outstanding trip please call us at 800-730-9091 or 413-665-9090

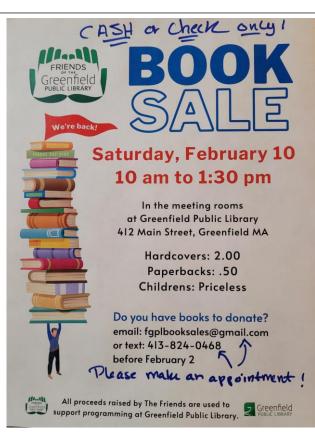
Email: maria@fctours.com or jessica@fctours.com

We look forward to seeing you on the bus with us!

This trip is not sponsored by the GGC, but we have been invited by our friends at First Choice Tours to join in if anyone is interested. Spots fill quickly, so reserve soon to guarantee your seat for this multi-day trip.







YOU'RE INVITED!

Sustainable Greenfield Community Gathering To Update Our Master Plan



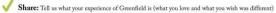
Monday, February 5th ● 6:30 – 8:00 pm John Zon Community Center





Greenfield - Past, Present, Future

Listen: As we reflect on Greenfield in the past and present with a focus on economic prosperity and natural abundance (think farms, food, forests, water and more). Learn about the parts of the 2014 Master Plan that have been completed – and what is still to be done.



Participate: Help us envision a prosperous and abundant future for Greenfield by taking part in a number of activities

Background: This gathering is the first of two in which the Conway School will seek input from residents. Your input will help as update the 2014 Statainable Greenfield Master Plan, facusing on two chapters: Land Use and Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources. Analysis and recommendations will be developed through the lens of climate and booftwersity resilience. More info on how clic to participate will be available hege in the coming week



Contact: eric.twarog@greenfield-ma.gov • Snow date: February 8th at 6:30 pm at the John Zon Community Center



The 33rd Poet's Seat Poetry Contest – deadline February 26th. For full submission details, visit the Friends of the Library website and click on the <u>current newsletter</u>.

Shelburne Farm and Garden is our newest discount program member!

Shelburne Farm and Garden is an independently owned garden store for green enthusiasts. We offer a diverse selection of seasonal annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees, with a special interest in natives. We also offer a wide variety of organically grown vegetables, herb, and flower starts from Lyonsville Farm (a sister business). Along with plants you'll find essential garden tools and supplies, nature-based and locally made gifts, locally grown produce, pet, bird, and large animal supplies. Visit us in the off season and explore our greenhouse chock full of house plants, pots, and pick up a unique gift! Find more information on their social media posts and website. You will need to show your member card in order to receive the discount. See other vendors on the last page of the newsletter.

Every Wed	nesday and son	ne Thursdays, 1,	/10 - 6/12/2024	. Free w/ pre-re	egistration. Det	ails @ cmasterga	rdeners.org
1/10 Climate Resilient Garden	1/17 Pruning Fruit Trees	1/18 Pruning Ornamental Trees	1/24 Growing Fruit Trees	1/31 Growing Blueberries	2/7 Garden Tools	2/8 Growing Cane Berries	2/14 Soil Amendments
2/21 Growing Tomatoes I	2/28 Growing Early- Vegetables	3/6 Garden Design 101	3/7 Rain Garden & Bioswale	3/13 Hosting Bees (Mason & Leafcutter)	3/14 Soil & Planting	3/20 Integrated Pest Management	3/27 Climate Friendly Lawns
3/28 Growing Tomatoes II	4/3 Garden Trans- formation	4/10 Debunking Gardening Myths	4/11 Raised Bed Gardening	4/17 Plant Trial Winners	4/24 Gardening For Birds	5/1 Native Plants	5/8 Groundcovers for Un-irrigated Landscapes
5/15 Growing Tomatoes III	5/22 Growing Root Crops	5/29 Growing Cover Crops	6/5 Growing Vegetables Year-Round	6/12 Enabled Gardener	Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener In collaboration with and in support of the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program.		

Registration Links will be released in batches. (Registration required)
Can't attend live? Register and receive a recording link 2 days after the session.

Free online seminars open to all. Every Wednesday from Noon to 1:00pm and some Thursdays.

2/7/24 - Garden Tools - Register Here
2/8/24 - Growing Cane Berries - Register Here
2/14/24 - Soil Amendments - Register Here
2/21/24 - Growing Tomatoes I - Register Here
2/28/24 - Growing Early Vegetables - Register Here

Kerry Mendez of Perennially Yours is Offering a Spring Webinar Series

All webinars are on **Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m**. (**ET).** The Webinars are **one-hour long** and include pages of lecture notes, as well as a CEU form for Master Gardeners and green industry professionals. **NOTE: registrants do not have to attend the scheduled live broadcasts to enjoy these colorful, info-packed lectures**. Within 72 hours of each broadcast, all registrants receive an email with the video link and password. The videos can be viewed anytime and as often as you wish. **The webinars are only \$13.95 BUT folks can save 20%** if they register for all three (total \$33.48 which is only \$11.16 per webinar). Below are this year's programs.

Saturday, February 24 Dazzling Plants and Design Tips for Seeing Your Way Out of the Shade! This illuminating, updated lecture will put the spotlight on gorgeous, rugged plants (shrubs & trees, evergreens, perennials, vines, annuals, and bulbs) that shine in lower light. Many of these stars also work great in containers. Topics include assessing shade; modifying shade to allow more light; key design tips for maximizing color; solutions for dry shade; and gardening under trees.

Saturday, March 9 Time-Saving, Mighty-Mite Shrubs that Outshine Perennials. My outlook on flower gardening has evolved over the decades. In addition to practicing the latest earth-friendly practices and incorporating more natives, I have also shifted my focus from perennials to shrubs that provide months of radiant color but are far less maintenance. This eye-opening lecture focuses on remarkable shrubs for front to mid-border gardens, as well as their pruning requirements. These stunning beauties also are ideal for over-wintering in containers.

Saturday, March 23 New and Lesser-Known Celebrity Plants for 2024. Grab your cameras and get ready to discover some VIPs (Very Important Plants) for the New Year. But just because they are attention-getters doesn't mean they require prima-donna care. I have trialed many of these myself and they have received my stamp of approval for no-fuss gardens.

Chicken, Leek and Rice Soup – *Smitten Kitchen*

4 to 6 servings

2TB olive oil or unsalted butter

2 large, or 3 medium leeks, halved and thinly sliced

1 celery rib, thinly sliced

1 carrot stick, thinly sliced (optional)

2 large garlic cloves, minced

4 cups chicken stock or broth, preferably homemade

2 cups water

1-pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs

½ c long grain white rice like Jasmine

Big handful of chopped fresh herbs (parsley, chives and dill

are favorites)

Lemon zest and juice

Red pepper flakes or harissa

Heat olive oil or butter over medium-high heat in a 4-to-5-quart pot. Add leeks, celery, carrots (if using), salt, and pepper, and cook, stirring, until the leeks have softened a bit, about 4 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute more. Add broth, water, and chicken plus salt (Deb uses 2 to 3 tsp of additional Kosher salt for barely-salted stock – use less if using regular table salt) and many grinds of black pepper and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cover, simmering for 15 minutes, until chicken is very tender and cooked through. Remove chicken with tongs and set on a cutting board. Add rice and return the heat to a low simmer, cover with lid, and cook for 15 minutes, until rice is tender. Use two forks to shred the chicken into bite-sized pieces and return to the soup to warm. Adjust seasonings to taste. Ladle soup into bowls and finish with some herbs, lemon zest, red pepper flakes (or harissa) and serve. Note: Rice continues to expand in sup so the longer you have the soup siting, the more porridge-y it will seem.

Laura's note – my family and I love this recipe. We are learning to like harissa and a dollop squeezed on top and then stirred in with the herbs and lemon is delicious!

Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

"Bursting into Spring"

Thursday, February 22 through Sunday, February 25, 2024

Seminar Schedules, Speakers, & Topics

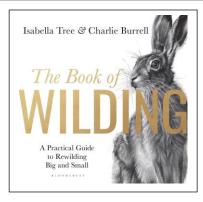
The **42**nd **Connecticut Flower and Garden Show** is back at the **Hartford Convention Center,** 100 Columbus Blvd, with its beautiful displays, many vendors, and educational seminars. Come and banish your mid-winter stress and doldrums while elevating your mood with this advance taste of spring. **Hours**: Thursday from 10am – 7pm; Friday and Saturday from 10am – 8pm; and Sunday from 10am – 5pm. **Discounted tickets** are on sale NOW on their website. General Admission: Adults are \$17 plus a \$1.28 processing fee. Children 5-12 will be \$5 plus a .98 fee. **Tickets at the door** will be \$20 (\$20.70 with a credit card) for adults and \$5 (\$5.18 with a credit card) for children. Children under 5 will be free.

As soon as attendees enter the exhibition hall, they will be greeted by almost 2 dozen live gardens in full bloom designed by professional landscape designers and non-profit organizations, including naturalistic, low-maintenance, native, containers, vegetables, organic, herb, and pollinator gardens. Over 80 hours of seminars and demonstrations are scheduled, presented by more than 20 horticulturalists, landscapers, and industry professionals, and all are free with admission. Click the link above to see the full list for each day. The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's annual **Standard Flower Show** will amass 12,500 square feet of beautiful design, horticulture, botanical arts and photography competition with entries from members across the state – all themed "Bursting into Spring."

Over 300 booths will showcase displays, activities, and shopping: artisans, handcrafted gifts, fresh flowers, plants, garden ornaments, metalwork sculptures, herbs, seeds, fertilizers, soils, patio furniture, and lawn/garden tools, books, and equipment, and much more. Bring a ½ cup of garden soil for free testing at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center booth.

Parking: Daily parking in the convention center garage: \$9/day (or \$3 first hour and \$2 for each additional hour). Thursday & Friday ONLY: Free parking and shuttle at Propark South Surface Lot, 63-89 Capitol Ave (& Hudson St) in Hartford (several blocks south of the convention center). Saturday and Sunday ONLY: \$5 all-day parking in the Front Street North and South Garages (across the street from the convention center). (Email the club if you are interested in forming a carpool to go to the show.)

Jana Millbocker of Enchanted Gardens is presenting in person at the CT Flower and Garden Show (see previous page) on 2/22 – Designing Sunny Perennial Gardens (12:30pm) and then Pots with Pizzaz (3:30pm). She also has two free zoom lectures scheduled at east coast libraries: 2/21 The Garden Tourist's Charleston, and 2/27 The Garden Tourist's Northeast. Click on the links to see about registering if you are interested.



The Book of Wilding is a hand book for how we can all help restore nature. It is ambitious, visionary, and pragmatic. The book has grown out of Isabella Tree's mission to help rewild Britain, Europe, and the rest of the

world by sharing knowledge from her pioneering project in Sussex, England. Rewilding is a spectrum. Whether we have a garden, a pond, or a window box, there is no space too small. It is learning how to contribute to a living landscape, the life-support system that will save our planet from calamity and deliver us a prosperous and sustainable future. Deeply researched and beautifully illustrated, the book explains how every one of us can play a part in rewilding our world. It is both a practical guide and a call to action. Above all, it is a manifesto of hope. Isabella Tree is an awardwinning journalist and author of five books. Her first bestselling book, Wilding tells the story of the daring wildlife experiment she began in 2000: rewilding her and her husband Sir Charlie Burrell's 3,500 acres of unprofitable farmland at Knepp Estate in West Sussex, UK. In less than twenty years their degraded land has become a functioning ecosystem again, wildlife has rocketed, and numerous endangered species have made Knepp their home. What has happened at Knepp challenges conventional ideas about nature, wildlife, and how we manage and envisage our land. It reveals the potential for the landscapes of the future. Isabella also writes for The Guardian, National Geographic Magazine, and Granta.



Treasurer's Report for December

Balance as of Oct 15, 2023	\$8.075.72
Income Interest \$0.20; membership: \$45	\$45.20
Expenses	\$499.69
Holiday party catering Balance as of Nov 15, 2023	\$7,621.23

Treasurer's Report for January

Balance as of Nov 15, 2023	\$7.621.23
Income Interest \$0.17	\$0.17
Expenses	\$354.95
Holiday Party \$54.95; Annual Meetin	ng deposit \$300
Balance as of Dec 16, 2023	\$7,266.45

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

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Monday, February 26th 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

Shelburne Farm and Garden NEW!!!

355 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne 10% off anything garden-related

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