



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2019

Vol. 27 No. 2

Spring President's Report - *Laura Schlaikjer*

There is so much information included in this newsletter that I need to be brief! Spring has sprung, and the club with it! We are working diligently on all fronts, from fundraising, to programs, to a new draft of the bylaws that will come before you for a vote in July. Please do check out our Facebook page and our website for last-minute updates. It's the best way to connect with everyone in a timely manner. We are currently trying to discern how to connect with other groups in the area, and are looking for folks who attend their meetings to report back to us and see how we can support each other (Just Roots/Gnfl'd Tree Cttee/Greening Gnfl'd/Master Gardeners/Community Gardens just to name a few). Can you help? Let us know! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the May Meeting!

Annual Extravaganza Plant Sale - Jan Adam

Saturday May 25th Sale Hours: 8:30 - 12:30 Workers: 7:30 - 1:00

We are so very excited to be continuing this wonderful event!! Thanks to a great group that worked hard to plan this! To make this truly successful we need YOU! Most of all we need PLANTS!! We are asking if everyone could donate 2 plants (more is always welcome!) in order to have a good selection of quality plants! From our email inbox we have heard from many of you and are excited to have so much energy and enthusiasm about our sale! Thank you in advance for the plants!

We are looking for perennials, annuals, herbs, houseplants, bulbs – in pots at least 1 quart in size. Historically the following have been our best seller: daylilies (not field orange), Hostas, Iris, unusual perennials, rhubarb, ground covers, herbs, trees, lilacs, house plants, bulbs. Please tag the pot with the name of the plant and color of bloom if you can! Pot now so they have time to recover before the sale. Pat Leuchtman has provided additional tips in her article later in this newsletter! Thanks, Pat, for your help!

We will also have a special drawing as well as the Master Gardeners on hand for soil testing. We are also trying something new – Bags of Compost to sell.

In addition to **PLANTS**, here is how you can help!!

- **Posters!!** – Linda Tyler has posters on her porch. 23 Hastings Street in Greenfield. *Please pick up and post* when you are out! Garden Centers, Restaurants, Businesses – anywhere you think people will see it!
- **Our next meeting is Saturday May 11 at 10am** – we will plan the logistics of the sale and update the signage. The sale will be at the John Zon Community Center on the corner of Davis and Pleasant Streets in Greenfield.
- **Plant drop off will be at 252 Davis Street from 5:30 – 7pm, Friday May 24.**
- **The Day of the Sale: at John Zon Center Saturday May 25.**
 - *Set up 7:30- 8:30*
 - *Sale – 8:30- 12:30 - sell plants & drawing tickets, answer questions, socialize! 2 hours shifts*
 - *Clean up 12:30 -1:00*

Please email greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com to let us know where you can help!

The club has a Face Book Page and a Website:

Facebook: Greenfield Garden Club (Like us!)

Website: www.TheGreenfieldGardenClub.org

Are you storing any Garden Club related items? Please let Jan Adam know so that we can consolidate our belongings and free up space in your attic, garage or basement!!

May Meeting -Thursday May 16- 6pm
(Carpool 5:30 pm)

Our first program has been planned! We will be having a personal tour of the Bridge of Flowers. The Bridge of Flowers Committee will provide a history of the bridge and then we will tour the bridge and see what new plants have been added! We will begin with a brief business meeting (no more than 15 minutes) to provide the latest info and answer any questions/get feedback from the group.

You can either plan to meet at the Cherry Rum Plaza on Bernardston Road (across from Stop and Shop Gas) by 5:30, or drive on your own. We will meet on the Shelburne side (Water Street)at 6pm.

The meeting is free and open to members and non-members. Please bring a friend!



Fund Raising Committee – Jan Adam
Saturday May 11 10:00 AM at 252 Davis St.
Greenfield.

Final planning for Extravaganza!!

The Program Committee – Joanne Burns
Monday May 20 6:00 at 14 Freeman Drive Greenfield.
To continue planning programs for this year.

Steering Committee –
Thursday May 23 at 6pm. 116 Bungalow Ave,
Greenfield

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join meetings to help the club move forward!! You guessed it - we need YOU!

Bylaw Update *Marsha Stone*

The Bylaw Committee met and reviewed the current bylaws, and have submitted their revisions to the Steering Committee. Great work everyone! The Steering Committee will be reviewing and then sending out the updated version for the membership to review and then vote on. To allow sufficient review time, we are planning to have them available in June for vote at the July meeting. Thanks to everyone for their patience as we get this completed!

Membership Dues

The Steering Committee met and realized that while \$20 per individual is good, we did not intend for households to pay for each member! We have voted to set a Family/Household rate of \$25. If you have not paid for 2019, please send your check, payable to The Greenfield Garden Club and mail to Joanne Burns – 14 Freeman Drive Greenfield, MA 01301.

Please include your name, phone number, address, email address, as well as if you are interested being on a committee (see committees listed to the left) or other ways to connect with the club. Use the handy form on page 5.

If you overpaid your dues, Joanne will send you a refund check. If you underpaid (as we know there was confusion) please connect with Joanne.

Discounts!!!

Thanks to Marsha and Annette for confirming these discounts. They are continuing to reach out to others, and we will update as we get more! Be sure to show your Greenfield Garden Club membership card to take advantage of the discount.

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

LaSalle Florists

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

Mill River Farm Market

Conway Road Rte 116/5/10 South Deerfield
10% of plants during spring and fall seasons

Silver Garden Daylilies

23 Picket Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

Warm Colors Apiary

2 South Mill River Road, South Deerfield
10% off

Planting for the Extravaganza *Pat Leuchtman*

The Extravaganza is an important fund-raising event for the Greenfield Garden Club. This year we are asking that every member of the club donate at least two nicely potted up plants to the sale. We are hoping that everyone has plants that need dividing. You might even have a neighbor who needs to divide a plant or three. Be at the ready to assist.

To make divisions look healthy and inviting the potting up of plants should be done at least two weeks before the sale. Three weeks before the sale is even better. A newly dug, and possibly divided plant, is under stress. It needs time to recuperate and look its best.

A good-sized pot will reduce that stress as well. I have saved 2-quart pots from purchased plants, and sometimes collected good pots from the Hadley Garden Center's box of discarded pots of many sizes. You can call me at 773-3519 and I will be happy to share my pots. Or email me at commonweeder@gmail.com

Using good soil will also help the newly dug plant remain healthy. Very heavy soil is the most problematic because it is so dense, and the plant roots will have trouble getting the air and nutritional support they need. Some of us may have sufficient good soil in our garden, and a good finished compost pile to mix in with our potting soil. Some of us may have a bag of potting soil, with leftovers, that we use for our container plants. Whatever our resources, we should set up our newly potted plant as best we can.

Of course, we will keep our potted plants watered until we bring them to the sale. We might also consider giving them some fertilizer. I know that the Bridge of Flowers Blossom Brigade uses a bit of Osmocote, but I use a dilute solution of Neptune's Fish Fertilizer with an NPK of 2-4-1. The number 4 is for phosphorus which helps roots settle in and promote root growth and it is important for potted plants – which will soon be planted in a garden. You may have your own favorite container plant fertilizer. Use it lightly on a newly potted plant.

It is important to know what the NPK number is in any fertilizer that you use. Nitrogen will get your plants growing fast. It is the nutrient that supports leaf and stem development. P, as noted, is for Phosphorus, and K is for potassium which also supports roots, including carrots, beets and turnips, but it also helps plants resist disease.

Knowing the fertilizer to use is important. It is easier to know which fertilizer is more important in your own garden, which means you should get your soil tested. You can send a soil sample to UMass. Their website <http://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms> will give you full directions on how to take a sample and how to send it to UMass. The test results will let you know which nutrients you need to boost up. The cost is \$20.

Happily, Master Gardeners will be on hand at the Extravaganza to test our soil for soil acidity. If you have two gardens, a flower garden and a vegetable garden, take two separate samples with a clean trowel and put them in a plastic lunch bag for the test. Flowers and vegetables often need different soil acidity.

LATE BREAKING NEWS - David Sund who lives at 75 Vernon Street in Greenfield is inviting Garden Club members – and others – to come to his house and dig up plants for the sale, or for your own garden. He is holding a kind of Open Garden next Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 5:30 pm. He does ask that you call 413-376-0240 or email him at taddpsund@gmail.com to let him know that you will be there. David is a professional gardener and is full of advice and information. Bring a shovel and some pots so you can pot up the plants you choose for yourself, or the Extravaganza, right on the spot.

I visited this afternoon and took home about 10 divisions of a Hosta, several astilbe clumps, several green sedum clumps and a bag of Acidanthera bulbs and a bag of dahlia bulbs, all the same purple with a gold center. David helped me and shared his pots and his compost. I expect to be there next week with lots of 2-quart pots.



Hope to see some of you there, too.



Winter Injury of Broadleaf Evergreens (or why do parts of my rhododendron appear dead?)

Laura Schlaikjer

I am sure I am not alone in noticing severe winter damage this year on my rhododendrons – those that the deer did not eat, that is! It seems that this winter’s winds and periodic warm periods caused significant water evaporation that the roots were not able to replenish. A lack of insulating snow cover and frozen ground would prevent the roots from bringing up enough moisture to prevent the leaves from drying out too much and becoming brown and curled. I have also learned that the hybrids are not as cold hardy as species types.

Many of my rhody’s look pretty bad at this point, but I am going to check the branches to see if they are alive as they may make a comeback. A tiny scape revealing green underneath means that the branch is alive. The buds and the branches are more cold-hardy. By the end of June, any branches that appear dead and show no signs of life should be pruned out.

Prevention! I admit I did not cover any of my plants this year with burlap. Rhododendrons require 1 inch of rain per week, either naturally or through irrigation. If you are planting rhododendrons now, make sure you choose ones that are cold hardy - zones 3-5 depending on your personal microclimate. Choose an area that is partially shaded and where they will be protected from prevailing winds. Avoid dry, sandy soils, full sun, and exposed areas. Use mulch to insulate the soil and keep moisture in the root zone (at least 2 inches of wood chips or straw – taking care not to pile it up against the trunk).

My rhody right in front of our house looks great, but the one next to the garage that is less protected has major damage (see photo). This was the year I should have used burlap to help prevent wind damage – and to keep browsing deer at bay here in the hills of Leyden. So if you have suffered similar damage – don’t despair! Give your rhody some time to recover, and do more to protect it next winter.

Fundraising Committee Update

Jan Adam

As you can see, the team has been very focused on the Extravaganza, and we hope each member will contribute in some way! We are planning to start focusing on the Garden Tour planning in June for a *Tour in 2020*. We want to find gardens and give the gardeners plenty of time to plan, so we will be searching this summer for potential gardens. Please drop us a note at: GreenfieldGardenClub@yahoo.com or join an upcoming meeting! We believe that everyone knows of a beautiful garden or two, and we would love your input to put together a great tour for 2020! Thank you!

2019 Club Officers

President: Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President: Marsha Stone
Co-VP & Newsletter Editor: Jan Adam
Treasurer: Joanne Burns
Recording Secretary: Annette Kilminster
At Large Members: Dotty Janke, Pam Lester, Richard Willard

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	1/23/19	\$ 5,244.4
New Income		\$ 544.5
Expenses		\$ (3,384.2)
Ending Balance	4/15/19	\$ 2,404.6

Income: Dues, Interest

Expenses: Annual Meeting Expenses, Grant:
 Joanne Burns, Treasurer

DEADLINE: MAY 25

For the June Newsletter

Send any items of interest to members to:
[greenfieldgardenclub@](mailto:greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com)

yahoo.com



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM – PLEASE DETACH AND SEND IN WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle Membership Level: Single: \$20 Family/Household: \$25

Please mail this stub with your check made out to: **Greenfield Garden Club**, and mail to
Joanne Burns, 14 Freeman Dr., Greenfield, MA 01301

I'd like to help with the following committee/s: _____

I'm interested in learning about: _____



Greenfield Garden Club
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