



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2016

Vol. 24, No. 2

Pruning with Lilian Jackman, Sunday, April 17th

Lilian's new newsletter says: "After your early spring rake-up, tackle the pruning. If you have bushes and trees in your yard, most likely they will benefit from a yearly pruning before the leaves emerge. This allows you to access the form and health of the plant without the distraction of foliage. If you can make the naked plant look sensible and attractive, then you've done a good job.

Most important is to use a good, sharp pair of bypass pruners (vs. the anvil type which mash the stem rather than making a clean cut). Most professional pruners swear by the brand Felco's: not cheap but they'll last a lifetime with reasonable care. Pruning is a learnable skill. Warm up a bit by first cutting out any dead, damaged, or crossing stems.

Then you'll need to get more specific, and consider the growth and flowering habits of the particular species. Fruiting shrubs and trees require special care to ensure a good harvest. Books and online tutorials abound to teach you how to prune. After some study and some practice you will begin to notice the common rules, and the exceptions too.

This [Wilder Hill Gardens](#) pruning tutorial will be a great introduction to this time-honored art. We'll assess the condition of the woody plants, and prune them. You will be gaining the skills and knowledge to keep your own plants in top condition. Before you walk away from your well-pruned shrubs or trees, consider a top-dressing of compost or composted manure. This is recommended yearly for fruiting shrubs, including blueberries, currants, gooseberries, and elderberries."

Gardener, scholar, landscape designer, philosopher, and artist are ways one might describe Lilian R. Jackman, the owner of Wilder Hill



Wilder Hill Gardens: Lilian and Indonesian-inspired Stupas

Gardens for the past 25 years. With dirty hands and knees, you are likely to find her among the plants, applying a blend of sound science learned at the University of Connecticut and intuition born of many years in the field and travels abroad. Sunday's participants are offered a 20% discount on plants purchased on site. Plants for sale include flowering shrubs, small fruits, select trees including Asian pears, perennial flowers, herbs and annuals. *Take Rt. 2 to Shelburne Falls. Cross the bridge into Buckland and take a hard left along the river on Conway Street. The road turns right, then left. Two miles from the railroad tracks, take a right onto Wilder Hill Road. Take an immediate left onto South Shirkshire Road. 1.4 miles on the right (#351): look for the sign & barn with the blue roof.*

Sweet Sixteen: Grants Awarded to Benefit Area Children

A total of 16 grant proposals were read this year, and a total of \$2,483.55 was awarded. Grant proposals were submitted from 16 different groups, in 13 different towns in Franklin County. The money was spread out to offer as much support to as many children as possible. We are very aware of the difficulties in financing these projects, and we hope that these small grants will help to keep community projects moving forward for many years to come.



1. Academy at Charlemont
2. Buckland-Shelburne ES
3. Colrain Central School (2)
4. Discovery School @ 4 Corners
5. Hillcrest ES, Turners Falls
6. Leverett Elementary School
7. Pearl Rhodes ES, Leyden
8. Pioneer Valley Regional School
9. Rowe Elementary School (2)
10. Sanderson Academy, Ashfield (2)
11. Turners Falls High School
12. Warwick Community School
13. Wheeler Library, Orange

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are generally the third Thursday of each month.

Wednesday, April 6, 6:00 p.m. Kevin Gardner "Stone Wall Building" Greenfield Public Library in the LeVanway meeting room. ([First Wed Lecture Series](#) at the library.)

Sunday, April 17, 2:00 p.m. Pruning workshop for members at Wilder Hill Gardens, 251 Shirkshire Rd, Conway, MA. 20% discount on plants. Dress appropriately.

Friday, April 22, Steering Committee Meeting with Potluck, 40 High St, Greenfield. Send items for the agenda to: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 30, Annual Expo at Five Acre Farm, Northfield, MA

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Extravaganza! Vendors! (Note new hours)

Looking Back: 1991

It is thanks to Margareta Athey and a group of friends, who were dismayed by the dissolution of the original Greenfield Garden Club, that the "new" Greenfield Garden Club came to be! Our first meeting was held on May 23, 1991. At which time members volunteered or were nominated for positions. Those voted in were:

Margareta Athey – President
Richard Willard – Vice President
Libby Lass – Recording Secretary
Janice McGuane – Corres. Secretary
Susan Johnson – Treasurer

The traffic island downtown was planted and was "no longer an eyesore."

A float was entered into the Fair Parade and won 1st prize and \$60.

The very first Roundhouse exhibit won first place (\$60) AND a Cushman!

There was a Harvest Sale, organized by Ken Doerpholz in October.

Crafts were made to sell at the Phoenix Craft Fair in November.

Irises & bulbs were planted at Trap Plain.

Deborah Wheeler (NE & American Iris Societies) was the club's first speaker in October.

September potluck at Margareta Athey's.

Holiday party at the home of Eileen McHugh.

President's Report

from Laura Schlaikjer

I hope you can join us in Conway for the April pruning event. Lilian had a sold out workshop at the recent Master Gardener's Symposium, and is very knowledgeable in the art of pruning. The offer of 20% off on plants is icing on the cake. Please make plans to join us at her place on April 17th at 2pm.

We are gearing up for a small change to the Extravaganza, which is the week before Tovah's visit. We'll be staying at the St. James' Episcopal Church property on Federal St, and we will work to expand our vendor offerings. There is room for about 30, and we plan to fill them up! We will shift the hours this year, from 8-1 to 9-2. This will give us as well as our vendors more time to set up and extend our sale at the other end. Please let us know if there is a vendor you think would be perfect for this event. We have quite a few booked and hope to bring in a nice range of offerings. In case of rain we will reserve space indoors.

Five Acre Farm is holding their Expo on Saturday, April 30th this year. Every year we are looking for a few volunteers to represent the garden club at this event. Every year I seem to have a conflict, and this year I will be a chaperone with the Pioneer Band Trip to Toronto! If anyone is interested in manning a booth for a part of the day, please contact the club asap. If 4 people volunteer, we could have a team of 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. There's a lot to see and do while you are there!



The [First Wednesday Speaker Series](#) welcomes Kevin Gardner, a builder and restorer of traditional New England stone walls, **Wednesday, April 6 at 6pm** in the LeVanway Room of Greenfield Public Library.

Why are we so fascinated with stone walls? Kevin Gardner, author of *The Granite Kiss*, will explain how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time and their significance to the famous New England landscape. Along the way, Kevin will construct Gardner will construct a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket. Kevin Gardner is a stone wall builder with Owen Associates, a small family business in New Hampshire that designs, constructs, repairs, and restores traditional New England-style stone walls. Gardner has participated in major restoration projects and training workshops at Canterbury Shaker Village, Acadia National Park, and many other historic sites in New England. He is also an actor, director and teacher of theatre.

This is a free program, open to the public and sponsored by the Friends of Greenfield Public Library.

Officers 2016:

President:

Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594
depalma_3@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Dolly Gagnon 774-4031
Dolly.gagnon75@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Jean Wall 773-9069
jeanwall1@verizon.net

Recording Secretary:

Linda Smith 772-0675
Lhsmith22@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary:

Deborah Loomer 863-9421
daloomer@yahoo.com



Rowe Elementary School Pre-K students planting seeds.

Tovah Martin Event Update

Sunday, June 5th

1PM Lecture: "The New Terrarium."

2PM Book-signing and refreshments. World Eye will be on hand with copies of Tovah's books.

3PM: Terrarium Workshop

Workshop will be limited to 30 participants. Reserve your tickets now. We already have people asking for them! Members pay \$20 for the lecture alone or \$40 for the lecture and workshop together. We are not selling the workshop by itself. Non-members are \$25 and \$50.

Volunteers needed to help with publicity! We will need contributions of nice dessert finger foods – cookies, cakes, bars – for the reception and book-signing between the lecture and workshop.

One Pan Mexican Quinoa Casserole

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 jalapeno, minced (optional)
- 1 cup quinoa
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5 oz) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 cup corn kernels
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 avocado, halved, seeded, peeled and diced
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add garlic and jalapeno, and cook, stirring frequently, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in quinoa, vegetable broth, beans, tomatoes, corn, chili powder and cumin; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer until quinoa is cooked through, about 20 minutes. Stir in avocado, lime juice and cilantro. Serve immediately.



In Memoriam

We fondly remember Agnes Theresa (Robinson) Atkinson (91), club member and mother of member Terry Atkinson, who passed away peacefully on 2/22/16. Agnes was a member of the club since moving to Greenfield from Natick about 5 years ago. Despite mobility issues, Agnes attended as many GGC events as she could, recently joining the club at the annual meeting this past January.



Visiting hours: Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home, 87 Franklin St, Greenfield, MA, 6-8 PM on Friday, April 1st. A **memorial service** will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave Greenfield at 11 AM on Saturday, April 2nd.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of March 28, 2016..... \$4,134.39

Income (March) \$386.17
Dues, Interest, Annual Mtg, Programs

Expenses (March) \$2,546.98
Newsletter, Programs, Domain Name, Grants

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to:

Jean Wall

413-773-9069

40 High Street

Greenfield MA 01301



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.

Backyard Birds – 15 Strong Ave., Northampton
10% off regularly prices items except thistle birdseed

Baystate Perennial Farm
36 State Road (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

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

Five Acre Farm – 110 Hinsdale Rd., Northfield
10% off regular priced plants

Glenbrook Gardens
56 Glenbrook Drive, Greenfield
10% off regular priced plants and products

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

O'Brien Nurserymen – 40 Wells Road, Granby, CT
10% off plants

Silver Garden Daylilies – 23 Picket Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

Sugarloaf Nursery – 25 Amherst Road, Sunderland
10% off regular priced plants

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

Any vendors interested in offering our gardeners a discount, please contact the Steering Committee.