



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2019

Vol. 27 No. 1

Spring President's Report 2019 – *Laura Schlaikjer*

Spring is officially here, and so is our first newsletter of the year! I hope you will read through and carefully consider joining one of the several committees that have formed to help the club move forward, attract new members, and be a leader in the gardening community. The need is there, as can be seen by the large number of grants that came in this year (16!), several of which were from new groups. The Recorder had a nice article on the winners, and a list can be found on our website. It was also posted on our Facebook page. Please, if a grant recipient is in your town, make the time to visit them and congratulate them on their successes gardening with children. If you take photos of the gardens (not the children, due to privacy issues), please send them to the club email with a short description of your visit, and we can feature them on our website and in a future newsletter. (greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com)

So, please, as we kick off another year, come to one of the upcoming meetings, especially if you were not able to attend the annual meeting. What we need first and foremost are IDEAS, and the more, the merrier! New bylaws will keep us running smoothly, program ideas will fill the monthly calendars and keep us visible in the community, and fundraising ideas will keep our coffers full for the next grant cycle and other projects. Remember, many hands make light work! We hope to see you very soon!

Annual Meeting Report *Reinvigorate, Reignite, Reimagine*

The annual meeting held on Sunday March 17 at the Jon Zon Community Center in Greenfield, was a fabulous meeting! Laura and the steering committee arranged for a wonderful facilitator, Phyllis Labanowski, to help us determine if we wanted to continue as a club, which we did, and then allowed the groups time to focus on what is important to the newly invigorated group!

Then 2019 Slate of officers were elected including some new positions. Those positions will be formally included in the by laws when the by laws are reviewed and updated this spring.

President: *Laura Schlaikjer*

Vice Presidents: *Marsha Stone and Jan Adam*

Treasurer: *Joanne Burns*

Combined Recording and Corresponding Secretary: *Annette Kilminster*

At Large Members: *Richard Willard, Dottie Janke, Pam Lester*



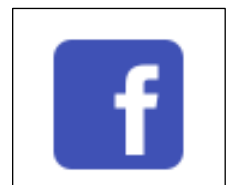
To keep the club moving forward three committees were established and steering committee members took ownership for getting the initial meetings set up. At those meetings, the members will establish the process that works for them with reports back to the steering committee. Everyone is very excited to get this moving!!



The club has a Facebook Page and a Website!!

Facebook: Greenfield Garden Club

Website: www.TheGreenfieldGardenClub.org



The Program Committee – *Joanne Burns*
Wednesday April 10 6:30 Greenfield's
Market, upper level, Main St Greenfield.
To begin planning programs for this year.

Bylaws Committee– *Marsha Stone*
Monday April 15, 5pm Pot Luck, 5:30
meeting at 41 Meadow Lane, Greenfield
Please review current bylaws and
proposed bylaws – available at
www.TheGreenfieldGardenClub.org

Fund Raising Committee – *Jan Adam*
Wednesday April 17 6:30 at 252 Davis St.
Greenfield.
Kick off to determine if we can have the
Extravaganza this year and if so, plan it!
Once that is completed, the Garden Tour
will be discussed.

Steering Committee – *Marsha Stone*
Thurs. April 25, 6pm. 41 Meadow Ln Gfld

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to
join meetings to help the club move
forward!! We need YOU!

Membership Dues

The dues have been set at \$20 per individual annually. 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.

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.

We are working on confirming what Garden Discounts we will have for 2019 that members to take advantage of. We will update in next Month's newsletter.

The Newsletter

We are also planning for a monthly newsletter Spring – Fall. Details are still being worked out! If you would like to contribute anything to the newsletter please email to Jan Adam – JanAdam12@Yahoo.com for the May Edition, please send by Friday April 26. Thank you!!

New Gardening Group - A small group of parents of Kids at the Girls Club have created a gardening committee. They are looking for some help – guidance about plants and gardening! We have invited them to join us and we are also looking to see if anyone is interested in connecting with them to help with this connection. Let us know and we'll be sure to get the connections going! Email Jan Adam – JanAdam12@yahoo.com

Peonies-- Deb Loomer

I am looking for peonies in mid-June. I am giving my daughter a bridal shower and it has a garden party theme. My mom grew peony and they have a special meaning for my daughter. I would like to see if anyone has them in their garden and would cut some for me and I will come and pick them up. If there were multiple people, I might only need 3 or 4 from each person. I need a total of around 30. Please email me if you can help! Thank you!! daloomer@yahoo.com

The Franklin County Agricultural Society Fundraiser

This Wednesday April 10 there will be a fundraiser at the People's Pint. The Agricultural Society is working to raise money to save the Fair from literally sliding off the hill! They need to raise \$500,000 to stabilize the hill. As garden club members many of us share a special bond with the Fair! Especially the Roundhouse, the parade and of course the opportunity to see friends and neighbors as the summer winds down!

The fundraiser begins at 4pm and includes raffles, plus, \$.25 for every beer sold will be donated.



There are more details on the Facebook: under *Franklin County Agricultural Society* or visit their website at:
<https://fcase.com/p/33/Fairgrounds-MudslideFundraiser>

How to sprout seeds *Pat Leuchtman*

As we see green shoots breaking through the soil we celebrate. Spring is really here. Then we start to think about what vegetables we can begin planting. First, I will admit that I now have a small house, and a very small, and wet, garden. I have also come to that time in life when I plant fewer seeds and satisfy myself by buying starts.

To keep myself from launching into the garden with seeds, or starts prematurely, I have long turned to Ron Kujawski and Jennifer Kujawski's helpful book *Week by Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook*. The key is to estimate the date of the last frost in your garden. Frost dates in even a small area can vary quite a lot so pay attention to your own microclimate.

If your last frost occurs on May 30(ish) start counting back eight weeks to March 30, right about now. If your soil is workable you can start planting seeds of peas, spinach, carrots, beets, leaf lettuce, and parsnips. You might want to stagger plantings of these vegetables to lengthen your harvesting period.

Of course, you will have prepared your soil before planting, tilling in compost, or any amendments that your soil test results have suggested. It is not too late to get a soil test from UMass Extension. Click on <http://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms> for information about services, and how to take a good soil sample. There will also be a link to the soil test form. Each routine test will cost \$20. Results come back in about 10 days.

Ron describes an interesting way of pre-sprouting seeds. Seeds should be soaked in water for a few hours. Then roll the seeds up in damp paper towels and put them in zip lock plastic bags. Be sure to label the bags so you know which seeds are which.

The seeds should sprout in just a few days. These tiny sprouts of cold tolerant veggies can be planted in a prepared row. To keep them moist while they are in the garden Ken suggests mixing 2 tablespoons of cornstarch with 1 pint of water and boiling it until it thickens into a gel. Let it cool and pour it into a plastic bag. Then gently and carefully put the fragile seedlings in the gel. Make sure the seeds are all getting covered.

Cut a small hole in the bottom of the bag and slowly squeeze the seeds out into your prepared row.

Two weeks after the average date of last frost you can put out transplants of tender veggies like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, squash and melons.

Keep your newly planted garden watered while the plants get established.

Ron Kujawski grew up on an onion farm and spent his professional life teaching and doing research in the plant sciences and horticulture. His daughter is a horticulturist.



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