



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2020

Vol. 28, No. 2

April Meeting at Nasami Farm has been Cancelled

Our first monthly event scheduled for Saturday, April 18, at Nasami Farm, has been cancelled due to social distancing. We will work to put it back in the line-up when things improve. Here is an update from their website:

As we all take steps to slow the spread of the coronavirus, it will come as no surprise that we must postpone the late-April opening date of the Garden Shop at Nasami Farm. We cannot yet announce a new opening date with certainty, so please check back often.

We've heard from many of you that you can't wait to get back into your gardens and start planting. So, until we can help you in person at our Garden Shops at Nasami Farm & Garden in the Woods, we have a few ways to help you select and get plants while respecting guidelines for physical distancing. For details, visit our [Buy Native Plants](#) page.



When it opens, the Nasami Farm [Garden Shop](#), will offer an extraordinary variety of native plants during the growing season, and a significantly expanded seed collection and list of species. Download the 2020 Plant Availability List and accompanying list of prices on our [Buy Native Plants](#) page. The lists apply to Garden Shops at both of their locations, Nasami Farm in Whately & Garden in the Woods (Framingham).

April President's Report

Where to start? April Fools Day passed without much fanfare as there was too much else going on that still seems so surreal. On the positive side, I am learning how to navigate electronically more than ever! Your steering committee had its first ever Zoom meeting, and we had a blast! I taught myself how to add a virtual background, and I now appear to be attending meetings from the Harvard Museums' glass flowers collection, or the spring gardens at Dumbarton Oaks! I encourage you to get creative and try to have fun in this time of great stress. I have also wandered online through Brooklyn Botanical, watched Cirque du Soleil, and listened to artists performing in their own homes. The downside is way too much screen time! I encourage you to get outside as much as possible while the weather is cool but sunny. Get up close and personal with the early bloomers in your yard. Enjoy your neighbors from a distance. Stay well, and we hope to see you in person soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 18, 1pm – Nasami Farm CANCELLED

Monday, April 27, 6 pm – Steering Cttee , 41 Meadow Ln, Gfld

Margaret Roach's [Monthly Garden Chores:](https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/)
<https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/>

Leaves and Blossoms Along the Way

If you're John Muir you want trees to live among. If you're Emily, a garden will do.

Try to find the right place for yourself. If you can't find it, at least dream of it.

When one is alone and lonely, the body gladly lingers in the wind or the rain, or splashes into the cold river, or pushes through the ice-crusted snow.
Anything that touches.

God, or the gods, are invisible, quite understandable. But holiness is visible, entirely.

Some words will never leave God's mouth, no matter how hard you listen.

In all the works of Beethoven, you will not find a single lie.

All important ideas must include the trees, the mountains, and the rivers.

To understand many things you must reach out of your own condition.

For how many years did I wander slowly through the forest.. What wonder and glory I would have missed had I ever been in a hurry!

Beauty can both shout and whisper, and still it explains nothing.

The point is, you're you, and that's for keeps.

~ Mary Oliver ~

GRANT COMMITTEE

The Grant Committee met by email, due to Taylor's Tavern being closed to in-restaurant guests on March 19th. After a lengthy discussion, we have decided to table the 7 grants until the fall at the earliest, especially since so many projects would have been carried out this spring in schools that are no longer in session. You could tell that the pandemic was taking its toll, since this is half the number of grants that we usually receive. Since our treasury is down from this time last year, this was probably a good thing as we would not have been able to award the \$2,000 to \$3,000 we normally do. We had hoped to infuse the treasury with added funds from our 2 fundraisers this year, but we will have to get creative to be able to hold them in the current environment (see related articles). We'll give updates in a future newsletter.

Officers 2020:

President and Newsletter Editor:

Laura Schlaikjer

Vice President:

Marsha Stone

Treasurer:

Joanne Burns

Recording Secretary:

Annette Kilminster

Corresponding Secretary:

Eva Carrier

At Large Members:

Richard Willard

(Looking for 2 more volunteers!)

Greenfield Gardens Committee

by Wisty Rorabacher

A small group of mostly Greenfield residents, mostly retired folks, and all with strong community spirits have been enthusiastically gardening throughout our community in places you have probably passed by but paid little attention to. Energy Park, the Community/Senior Center, at the east end of Wilson's parking lot, behind the Community Center, and the pitiful-looking strip across from Mesa Verde.

The rewards of gardening together have inspired this playful group to seek even more projects. Most immediately, we are working collaboratively with Carole Collins, Town Department of Energy and Sustainability, in an attempt to secure a grant from AARP to help fund a native wildflower garden along Fisk Avenue, across from Mesa Verde. Our goal is to make that strip pitiful no more!



This group of masterful gardeners assembled over a 10-year period quite by accident. Their reasons for coming together were various. Some wanted to help create a public park adjacent to the old NESEA building. Some wanted to find a meaningful way to participate in a new community having moved here from out-of-state. Others wanted to make use of an established expertise such as designing pollinator gardens or knowing how to grow plants as a certified Master Gardener. Still others wanted to share in the camaraderie of working with people who can be relied on to show up and to simply care.

To this day, only those who want to help, do. Only those who want to help on a given day show up on that day. On any given day, some people love working hard, some spend their time visiting and looking. But we all love the joy of showing one another what has been discovered or accomplished by the end of the morning or afternoon work session.

Together we have learned that just like we all have different names, we all have different ways of gardening and different plants we love. There is room for all - *(continued next page)*

all the people, all the ways of doing, all the effort invested. And there is room for more, more plants, more gardens, more projects and lots more people participating. Actually, the number of people participating is key. In a sincere effort to keep gardening joyful, we attempt to do only what seems reasonable given the amount of time we are each willing to commit.

Our biggest ongoing project is care of the gardens at Energy Park. We each have our own areas where we are able to make our own decisions. We freely help one another when help is requested, or simply when we want to work close enough to also be able to visit. Last summer, five of us began revitalizing the garden strip on Fisk Ave., across from Mesa Verde and the Solar Store. Amy, owner of Mesa Verde, and Claire, owner of the Solar Store, were thrilled with the results, and now want to encourage other business and storeowners to intentionally plant up and down Main Street. They are also eager to plant herbs and vegetables along with native pollinators in the Fisk Ave. garden. Amy has specifically requested lots of cherry tomatoes of different sorts to use in the restaurant.

If you are even remotely curious about whether you would enjoy spending time with this group of community-minded folks, please contact:

Wisty Rorabacher

wistjud@gmail.com

Cell 479-422-4420

Please be assured that making a contact does not equal making a commitment!



Club Member Pat Leuchtman helping at the John Zon Community Center

EXTRAVAGANZA! What's the scoop?!

Plant sales are being cancelled right and left. The Bridge of Flowers plant sale in Shelburne is cancelled. The Amherst Plant Sale is cancelled. The Berkshire Botanical Plant Sale is cancelled. What is a poor gardener to do?!

We are looking for ways to run our plant sale on May 23rd, and we need your help and suggestions. First choice: Hold it as planned at the Jon Zon Center. Plan B: figure out a way to hold a hybrid online/pick-up sale. We would still need your support in plant donations, advertising, labeling plants, etc. Can you help us? Please call or email the club with your interest. We can pull together a Zoom meeting to brainstorm. Leave a message for Laura at 413-522-0901, or at greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.

LEAP YEAR ANNUAL MEETING of 2020

This is the the first year we will not have a "real" annual meeting. Darn that corona virus pandemic. Who knew?! We will send out a ballot and annual reports by email (or by mail if we do not have your email) for you to return to us. Please continue to support us by paying dues, which enables you to vote. We have decided to hold the next annual meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021. This gives us time to move the meeting if weather is foul or a pandemic returns to keep us socially distant yet again. The Whately Inn will move our deposit to that date, and we will keep Jack Manix as our speaker. It will be deja-vu all over again (sort-of!). (We thank those who donated their annual meeting refunds back to the club – THANK YOU!!)

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED for [Hepatica Nobilis var. obtusa](#)

Annette Kilminster's sharp eyes have spotted what she terms Hepatica Americana, a true harbinger of spring, on a recent walk in Barton's Cove. This is an early spring wildflower, usually with lavender flowers and 3-lobed leaves that persist throughout the winter. You will find it in moist soils in semi-shade. Stay alert!!



Our **Garden Club Garden Tour** for 2020 is set for **Saturday July 11**, with a rain date of Sunday, July 12th. We have nine interesting and beautiful gardens, all located here in Greenfield. Depending on the resolution of the pandemic, we hope to have the go ahead from state and local officials to move forward!

Calling all volunteer weeders and co-hosts - interested? Call Norm at 413-773-0201 or email me at: nhms41@comcast.net.

Looking forward to being together again while enjoying old friends and the beauty of nature (even if we are still six feet apart!).

Membership for 2020

Club Treasurer Joanne Burns would like to remind folks that despite a delayed and then cancelled annual meeting, we still depend upon your renewed membership to keep the club running smoothly. Single membership is \$20, and a family is \$25. Please mail your check to Joanne at 14 Freeman Dr, Greenfield, MA 01301. She will mail you your card so you can present it for discounts. (Greenfield Farmers Cooperative is still open!!)

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of February 15, 2020\$4,549.80

Income\$0.10

Interest (\$0.10)

Expenses\$0.00

Balance as of February 15, 2019\$4,549.90

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to the club Treasurer:

Joanne Burns
14 Freeman Street
Greenfield MA 01301

May NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Monday, April 27

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

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