



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

August - September 2017

Vol. 25, No. 6

September Potluck in Elise's Elysian Landscape



Elise's Gardens in Late Summer, with the New Arbor at the Right.

August is a month for vacations, and we hope you enjoy your trips to the beach or the mountains – or are enjoying your staycation in your own back yard! On **Wednesday, September 20th**, we are going back to our roots with a potluck meeting in the lovely gardens of Elise Schlaikjer at 528 Leyden Road in Greenfield. Much has changed since you last saw this remarkable garden on last year's garden tour. The plantings by the road are filling in nicely, and the oriental bridge has been repaired since a large branch grazed it a few years ago in a micro-burst. There is a new arbor at the entrance to the path to the labyrinth, and more trees and shrubs have been added to the back perimeter. Elise's back deck is also full of potted plants, and even a small water feature. It will be an idyllic place to have a potluck dinner!

There is seating on the deck for about 10 people, so please bring a folding chair if you have one. We are not assigning dishes, so please bring what pleases you – a salad, a main dish, or a dessert. The club will supply lemonade – if you prefer something stronger, you are welcome to bring that as well! We will probably tour the gardens as we arrive, and then get down to the business of eating and conversing. In case of showers, please bring an umbrella to tour the gardens, and the eating will move indoors. Parking can be in the driveway as well as on the street by her fence. Feel free to carpool! Elise has asked that folks RSVP so we can have a general idea of how many people to expect. Please RSVP: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com, or leave a message with Laura at 413-774-4594.

August President's Report

Welcome to the combined August/September newsletter! This is vacation month, and then there's the Franklin County Fair arriving right on its heels in early September. Once we make it through that week, we will be more than ready to relax at Elise's gardens for the September potluck. Bring a dish you've been meaning to try out and we'll be happy to give you feedback! Then in October, we will be learning how to put our favorite photos into a photo book with Deb Loomer, who has the method down pat! I'm not sure about you, but I've been meaning to try that for a while but don't have the time to learn the ins and outs on my own. Did you see any great local gardens this summer? Let us know, as planning has started for next year's tour. We are also looking for suggestions for the 2019 bus trip. Where would you like to go on a one day trip? Take time to enjoy the fruits of your gardening labors!

Prolific Purslane

I am trying to stay on top of the weeds in the veggie garden this year, but I am leaving many of the Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) babies. This fleshy "weed" has more omega-3 fatty acids in its leaves than fish oils. It is also an excellent source of vitamins A, C, B-complex, minerals and its pigments are high in anti-oxidants. I see that you can even buy 2 specialty types of Purslane through Johnny's Seeds – [Goldberg Golden](#) and [Gruner Red](#). I imagine you would only have to buy it once, as there are 500 seeds in a packet, and if they perform like their wild cousin, they will produce their own seeds (Johnny's says 67,000 seeds per ounce) and be viable in the soil for 40 years! Of course, you will be picking it before it goes to seed, right?!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Remember – there is no monthly no meeting in August – it's vacation time!

Monday, August 14: 5:30pm – Trap Plain work bee

Sunday, September 3: Fair Booth work party. Call Laura for time/location.

Tuesday, September 5: 6:00 – 9:00 pm - Fair Booth set-up

Wednesday, September 6: 3:00 – 9:00 pm – Fair Booth Set-up

Franklin County Fair: “The Gateway to Fun” Celebrating 100 years of the Main Gate. Thursday – Sunday, September 7-10

Monday, September 11: 4:00 – 7:00 pm - Dismantle Fair Booth

Wednesday, September 20: 6:00 pm Potluck Meeting, Greenfield

Tuesday, September 26: 6pm Steering Committee mtg – 40 High St Gnflld

PHOTO BOOK WORKSHOP COMING IN OCTOBER!

Think: what do you do with all your garden pictures? Are they stored on your computer, or phone - never to be seen again? If they are, then the October garden club meeting is for you. Deb Loomer will be presenting a hands-on workshop at her house on Wednesday, October 18th for those people who want to learn how to make a photobook, like those that are offered on Groupon for a reduced price. She will go over a step by step process using the Shutterfly site to show you how you can make a book of your garden photos, but then personalize it. Then you can pick the book up from your coffee table in the middle of January and dream big about next year's garden. If you have not already done so, start taking some pictures in your garden of your flowers or your landscape. What worked right in the garden and what you might want to change for next year. Take a picture of that container garden which finally had the perfect flowers in it. You will need to bring your laptop or iPad with the pictures already loaded. Deb is a laptop person, but she is pretty sure she can help people who have iPads. We will sign on to the internet and go from there. She will also let you know about other sites you can use and what their advantages and disadvantages are. If you have other pictures that are not garden related, feel free to come and work on that project. Hopefully by the time you leave you will be well on your way to a finished project. She has done over 50 books using multiple web sites and will tell you the process is easy once you get the hang of it. Deb is not tech savvy using cell phones to use in the project, but she will practice a few times before the day. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm and will last 1 1/2 hours. You can stay as late as you like if you want to try and complete your project. Her address is 21 Highland Rd., Gill, MA. A GPS will get you to her house. It is across the road from Barton's Cove Campground. You cannot see her house from Route 2 as it is up in the woods, but that is the approximate location. If you know you will be staying later, come up the driveway and park up top. If you think you will need to leave earlier, then park at the bottom in the parking area or along the side of the road. There is no traffic on the road.

TRAP PLAIN PART IV

We were back down to 3 people helping Richard Willard at our July Trap Plain work bee. We made significant reductions in the size of the main bed, and will be weeding it as best as we can. Please stop by and weed for an hour if you can. Trap Plain was a pet project of Dolly Gagnon, please consider helping out in her memory!

The next work party will take place on **Monday, August 14th at 5:30 pm. (Rain date – – will be Tuesday August 22nd)** Please bring gloves, trowels and your favorite gardening shovel. We are doing mostly weeding at this point. We might want to plant grass seed where we are giving back the space to the lawn. Anyone have leftover seed to share?



Officers 2017:

President:

Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Marsha Stone 773-0201
mds41@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Jean Wall 773-9069
jeanwall1313@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Linda Smith 772-0675
Lhsmith22@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary:

Deborah Loomer 863-9421
daloomer@yahoo.com

The Fair is Coming! The Fair is Coming!

We are looking for donations to this year's Fair Booth. If you have a planter or a potted plant that is in fantastic condition (or will be when we are finished trimming out bug holes and brown spots!) and can loan it to us for the duration of the fair, we'd love to have you send us a photo of it. That way we can tell you if you should bring it on Tuesday 9/5 around 6PM. Does anyone have a potted clematis or other potted plant with some height? We need height. We are also looking for a light-weight door or a screen door, and a single window to hang on the wall to give the appearance of a house. Maybe a hang-on-the-house mailbox? Do you have any other garden-related items with a Victorian flair? We are going to put the Victorian Bike Planter in the scene, and sell drawing tickets for it elsewhere in the Roundhouse. We could use gardening gloves, tools, a long rectangular basket with a handle, and anything else you have that you don't mind lending to us. You can come and get your items on loan on Monday, 9/11, between 4:00 and 7:00 pm, although we are usually finished dismantling it much more quickly than we put it together! Please send photos of possible items to the club email address: greenfieldgardenclub.org. If you do not use email, please contact Linda Tyler (413-522-1686) or Laura Schlaikjer (413-522-0901) on their cell phones. This is a simple way to help the club, and to feel proud of the group's accomplishments in arranging an attractive booth display. Winning a blue ribbon also helps our treasury with the \$150 prize that comes with it!



From Blossoms

From blossoms comes
this brown paper bag of peaches
we bought from the joy
at the bend in the road where we turned toward
signs painted *Peaches*.

From laden boughs, from hands,
from sweet fellowship in the bins,
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,
comes the familiar dust of summer, dust we eat.

O, to take what we love inside,
to carry within us an orchard, to eat
not only the skin, but the shade,
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold
the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into
the round jubilation of peach.

There are days we live
as if death were nowhere
in the background; from joy
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.

~ Li-Young Lee ~



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 1, 2017\$6,137.89
Income\$0.17
Interest
Expenses \$40.00
Trap Plain planter
*All financial matters and membership dues should
be directed to the club Treasurer:*

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.