



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

January 2023

Vol. 31, No. 1

January – A Time for Introspection and Renewal

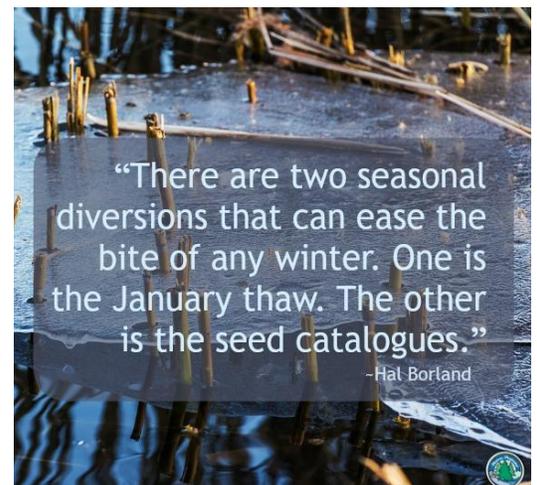
It's time to start looking at the calendar and planning a road trip or maybe a class this coming year. The [Philadelphia Flower Show](#) (March 4-12) has returned indoors after 2 years outside. 'The Garden Electric!' is the 2023 theme. (Tix are \$43.50) Philadelphia is a great place to visit, and you can get there easily by train. The [Connecticut Flower & Garden Show](#) (February 23-26) theme is 'Gateway to Spring.' It is the only remaining large-scale flower show in our area. Advance tickets (\$17) are on sale now. The [Capital Region Flower & Garden Expo](#) takes place March 24-26 in Troy, NY. Advance tickets are \$11/day. This is a perfect opportunity to spend the night in Troy and then visit the shops downtown before departing. Their Saturday Farmers Market has high marks.



The club's **Annual Meeting** will be held **Sunday, February 19th** at Champney's Restaurant in Old Deerfield. (Snow date will be Monday 2/20, which is a holiday.) Our lunch speaker will be the dynamic Paulina Borrego of the UMass Seed Library! (Please refer to last month's newsletter for in-depth info on the seed library.) The official mailing will be sent out soon, so be sure to save the date and plan to join us for a lovely meal and a great presentation. We are lucky to have so many great speakers in Western Mass.

January President's Report ~ Laura Schlaikjer

Welcome to the quiet month of January, when we are usually relegated indoors by the winter chill, although there is still no frost in the ground up here in Leyden, and a white Christmas was again elusive due to rain. I hope you are getting ready to order seeds and planning your spring gardens. Check out the many garden offerings in the region – some of which are described in this newsletter. There will not be a January GGC meeting to give us all a chance to relax and regroup. You will see that we will have our annual meeting next month, and one of the questions that may come up is the name of the club. Some members want it to be more inclusive of folks that do not live in Greenfield. Please think about this and be ready to discuss. On page 4 you can read about a recent name change and link to their page to read about their process. Enjoy the month, and I hope to see you at an upcoming flower show! ~ Laura



UPCOMING EVENTS

January – no scheduled monthly meeting

Jan 12 - 5pm GGC Steering committee

Jan 14-15 - NOFA Annual Winter Conference with online option

Jan 21, 10 am-1 pm – Winter Farmer's Market, 16 Court Square, Greenfield

Feb 19, Sunday – save the date – GGC Annual Meeting

*Eat Food. Not too much. Mostly plants. ~ Michael Pollan's
In Defense of Food, An Eater's Manifesto*

Franklin County Community Meals Update

We have been engaging individuals in our new volunteer model at our Greenfield community meal site. When local organizations, clubs, or businesses are not available to volunteer, then Lynn, our Co-Site Coordinator, oversees menu planning and operations in the kitchen.

We're looking to add to our team of volunteers supporting Lynn's work.

There are many dates available to help out. Please sign up at volunteersignup.org/FWDDA. Questions? do not hesitate to call our Program Coordinator, Melanie, at 413-325-6631 or send her a text message!

The kitchen shifts are split in two. The first is from 2:00 to 4:45 pm, where you'd be helping Lynn prepare the meal and move into the packaging phase. Or you can sign up from 3:45 - 5:45 pm to bring a "second wind" into the kitchen and help with packaging and cleanup!

It takes a community to feed a community. Come and join our Greenfield kitchen team!

Wishing you a happy and safe new year,
Melanie Highlander

Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden**

Chores on her website:

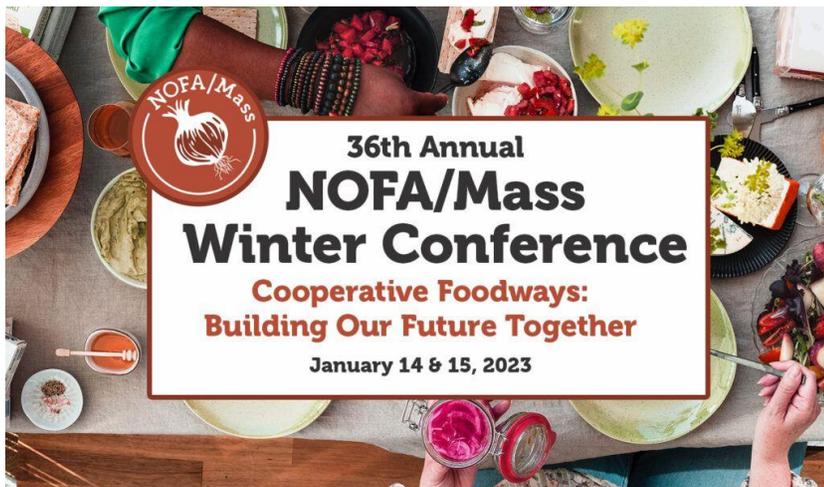
<https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/>

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Becky George, our Club Treasurer, will be happy to accept your membership check for 2023. Individuals are \$20 and families are \$25.

There will be a place in the Annual Meeting Invitation to include your dues, or you can choose to send it in separately. Becky's address is 61 Madison Cir, Greenfield, MA 01301. We thank you in advance for your continued support. Remember that memberships make a nice gift!

**BECOME
A MEMBER**



Officers 2022:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website:

Laura Schlaikjer

Vice President:

Marsha Stone

Treasurer:

Becky George

Recording Secretary:

Annette Kilminster

Corresponding Secretary:

Eva Carrier

At Large Member/s:

Nicki Shipman, Pamela Lester

A few photos taken at the Holiday Party in early December. Thank you to our hostess Becky George for welcoming club members to her home. There was much merriment, enjoyment of the victuals and beverages, and the annual Yankee Swap was another success. If you would like to host the gathering in December 2023 (or possibly early January 2024), please let a member of the Steering Committee know.



Tower Hill Botanic Garden has changed its name to [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#). Their new name reflects their goal of helping people all over New England make joyful connections with plants. They have grown over the past few years into a regional destination, not just a local one. Be sure to check out their [events](#) calendar to see what's new this season. Equidistant in the opposite direction is the [Berkshire Botanical Garden](#). They also have new programming for 2023. Be sure to check out their videos, podcast, workshops, lectures, and many interesting articles. Support one or both of these 2 local botanic gardens with an annual membership.

Interested in becoming a beekeeper?

Join Ang Roell of They Keep Bees for their 5 session [Winter Beginner's Bee Course](#) that starts January 18th. The course will cover everything from bee biology, mite management, and seasonal hive management in video, audio, and demonstration-based courses. Instructional videos, resources and links are shared weekly via email, Google Doc, and Discord. The instructor is available via Discord and email for real time questions, and participants can also choose to connect via Discord with one another. This program is meant for anyone ages 14+ who is beginning their beekeeping journey. Five sessions. \$200 (If you identify as Black or Indigenous you can opt to use the coupon code "FREE4U" to access this course for free.)

JANUARY RECIPE: [Sheet Pan Chow Mein](#)

From: *Smitten Kitchen* (Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 bell pepper, any color, finely sliced
- 1 carrot, peeled, finely sliced diagonally
- 1 head broccoli in florets (or broccolini in 1-2" pieces)
- Kosher salt
- Olive oil or other neutral oil
- A 250 gram (8.8oz) package dried, thin egg noodles (chow mein noodles)
- 1 small can baby corn, drained
- 6 oz asparagus, sugar snaps or snow peas, trimmed & cut in 1 – 2 inch segments
- 1 medium shallot or 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- 2 TB toasted sesame seeds, to finish
- 1 TB toasted sesame oil



DIRECTIONS: Heat oven to 425F. On a large baking sheet, toss the pepper, carrot, and broccoli with a splash of oil and season with salt. Roast for 10 minutes, till vegetables begin to soften. Meanwhile, make noodles. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add egg noodles and cook till al dente, 4-5 minutes. Drain and cool under cold running water, drain well again and pat dry with a clean tea towel. Combine Soy Seasoning ingredients in a small bowl. Remove tray from oven, push vegetables to the side and add noodles, corn and asparagus or peas. Drizzle noodles with sesame oil, season with salt and stir well to coat. Return tray to oven and bake for another 15-18 minutes, until noodles are crispy on bottom and top (we are looking for a combo of crispy and non-crispy noodles). Remove tray from oven and drizzle the soy seasoning on and toss well. Scatter shallots and sesame seeds over the top and serve.

Soy Seasoning Sauce

- 1 TB toasted sesame oil
- 3 TB soy sauce, tamari, or coconut aminos
- 1 TB vegetarian stir-fry sauce (Oyster or Hoisin) (optional)
- ¼ tsp ground white pepper
- 1 small clove garlic, grated or minced

The Gardener's Supply 2023 Winter/Spring Education Series

Hosted at the Burlington (VT) Garden Center. Attendees can attend either in-person or virtually using zoom. Please select the ticket according to how you plan on attending.

January 28 | 9:30-11:00am

Houseplants 101 with **Ellen Bortner** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

Learn all about common houseplants and how to care for them from our houseplant expert.

February 4 | 9:30-11:00am

Soil & Mulches with **Charlie Nardozi** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

Learn about the basics of soil content and structure using some simple home tests and soil building through adding organic materials and using the no-dig gardening techniques. You'll also learn about using various organic mulches in the garden with a focus on the advantages and disadvantages of different wood types of mulches.

February 11 | 9:30-11:00am **VIRTUAL ONLY**

Perennial Collector's Treasure Chest with **Kerry Mendez** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

This talk is for 'plantaholics' seeking unusual, fun, outrageous, or underused perennials that will have heads turning and onlookers mumbling "What is that?" As an avid collector, I've walked many miles in my muck boots to find some unique plants that transform ho-hum gardens into eye-popping, extraordinary ones.

February 18 | 9:30-11:00am

Seed Starting with **Cedar Schiewetz** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

Starting your own seeds in winter can be fun, economical and good for your mental health. There's nothing like seeing green seedlings popping up indoors with snow outside. Cedar will talk about all the basics of seed starting including when to start your seeds, seed starting problems, and how to transition seedlings outdoors in spring.

February 25 | 9:30-11:00am

Vegetable Gardening Basics with **Angela deBettencourt** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

Whether you are a novice or pro, there will be helpful information in our Vegetable Gardening Basic class.

March 11 | 9:30-11:00am

Closer to Nature with **Silvia Jope** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

Interested in creating a garden that is a haven for people and wildlife alike? That is energy wise, multifunctioning and designed for beauty and biodiversity? In this seminar for environmentally-minded folks of all experience levels you will learn the basic principles and steps behind landscape planning while approaching it through the lens of ecology, sustainability and energy efficiency.

March 18 | 9:30-11:00am

Native Landscaping with **Jacob Holzberg-Pill** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

From their eye-catching beauty to their show-stopping flavor native plants make a wonderful addition to our gardens and yards. These incredible species also support crucial biodiversity for wildlife and pollinators with food and habitat. Natural plant communities are often more resilient and require less maintenance than other landscapes. There is a perfect native species for every niche in your diverse planting plan.

March 25 | 9:30-11:00am

Building an Outdoor Room with **Paul Simon** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

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April 1 | 9:30-11:00am **IN PERSON ONLY** (in VT)

Pruning with **Charlie Nardozi** (\$15) [Purchase Tickets](#)

Learn about the proper equipment, timing and techniques to care for your trees and shrubs. Weather

View on the Catskill - Early Autumn (1836-37) by Thomas Cole



Different photos come up on my computer on start-up, but this one and its description really struck a nerve. Let's all try to do what we can to restore/preserve as much of the natural beauty of our area as we can.

"This painting is a kind of elegy for a landscape that had already vanished. Thomas Cole was a renowned American Landscape artist by the time this oil painting was completed in 1837. [View on the Catskill-Early Autumn](#)' depicts what the area looked like prior to that year, before railroad construction took out a large number of trees and reshaped the landscape. Cole explored this theme of civilization's destructive effect on nature before, most notably in his series of five monumental canvases – [The Course of Empire](#). Cole believed that losing pastoral, pristine regions of the country meant losing some of our soul. This feeling was shared by fellow painters in the Hudson River School, an art movement he helped launch. "View on the Catskill-Early Autumn' is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum in New York City."



We are sad to see that club member **Herdis Eriksson** (1955 – 2022) passed away on December 13th. Please click on [this link](#) to read her full obituary. Many of you will remember that Herdis' gardens were on the Tour in 2020. She was born in the seaside fishing village of Grindavik, Iceland, and as a

proud immigrant, arrived in Holyoke with her parents in 1965. A celebration of her life will be held in early 2023. Donations in her memory can be sent to either Safe Passage (<https://safepass.org>) or the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (<https://www.foodbankwma.org>) Herdis will be missed by many.



"IN A WAY WINTER IS THE REAL SPRING – THE TIME WHEN THE INNER THINGS HAPPEN, THE RESURGENCE OF NATURE."

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

www.thehappygardeninglife.com

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Oct 15, 2022\$7,816.95
Income\$20.19
Interest \$0.19; membership \$20
Expenses \$82.00
Balance as of Nov 16, 2022\$7,755.14
\$50 Food Bank of WMA; \$10 Gill Town Hall rental; \$22.00 stamps; pumpkin for Greenfield Library

*All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
 c/o Becky George, 61 Madison Cir
 Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com*

February NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, January 29th
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 with membership

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