



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

July 2015

Vol. 23, No. 6

Snap your 'Flower Power' in free photo class July 25

Garden Club members and their guests are invited to a free two-hour workshop on "Flower Photography" on Saturday, July 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Greenfield. The workshop will be taught by Beth Reynolds of Base Camp Photo.

You don't need a fancy camera to participate. Beth says to bring whatever camera you have: your cell phone, a point-and-shoot camera, or your DSLR. (Note this stunning photo of a peony she took with her humble cell phone.) Her goal is to get us to see flowers in a new way and learn how to make the best use of the camera you have – and, she adds, "to capture the beauty of all your hard work in the summer garden."

Beth will have some flowers set up for demonstration and encourages participants to bring some of their own flowers as well. You will get a tip sheet to take with you that includes camera settings, helpful websites, and a list of favorite artists who photograph flowers and fauna.

The workshop will take place at Base Camp Photo, 22 Riddell Street, Greenfield. Parking is free on the street, at the medical center across the street, and a few onsite.

Registration is recommended by calling Laura Schlaikjer at 413-774-4594 or by emailing greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com. But if you wake up on July 25 with a creative urge, please feel free to drop in.

Beth holds an MFA in photography from The Hartford Art



'Peony.' Photo by Beth Reynolds, taken with a cell phone.

School and has been teaching photography at the college level for nearly two decades – most recently at Greenfield Community College. You may have seen her photographs published in the *Greenfield Recorder* and other newspapers and fine-arts books (three to her credit so far, all focused on difficult and socially-relevant issues). Above all, she is a clear and inspiring teacher. We look forward to learning together!

Be inspired by Jono Neiger's sustainable gardens

The Club's July program is a private garden tour at the home of well-known permaculture designer and educator Jono Neiger on Thursday, July 16.

Join the Club's carpool leaving Cherry Rum plaza in Greenfield at 5:30 p.m., or meet us at Hickory Gardens, 163 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett. (Rattlesnake Gutter Road is off North Leverett Road, and Jono warns us not to drive in from the east side of Rattlesnake Gutter as the road is cut off.)

Jono Neiger, his wife Kemper Carlsen, and son Forest have built and manage Hickory Gardens, a three-acre, permaculture-inspired homestead in North Leverett. Their diverse garden ele-

ments include a terraced garden, a pond fed by roof rainwater, a forest garden, perennial crops, and chickens.

Their passive solar home has been a long-term renovation project and features rainwater collection, composting toilet, and a new addition using the best in energy-efficient design. Numerous woodland plantings and regenerative land management have yielded an abundance of habitat for wildlife on the land as well as tree crops and medicinal herbs.

A public forest garden at the nearby food co-op property was designed and implemented by Jono and is cared for with neighborhood help.

It will be an inspiration and a privilege to see Jono's personal gardens.

He is on the faculty of the Conway School of Landscape Planning and Design and offers workshops, college courses, and workshops throughout the northeast and southeast on ecological design, permaculture, sustainable water use, and conservation. His many accolades and leadership roles include his service as the founding Board President of the Permaculture Institute of the Northeast.

You can learn more about his business, Regenerative Design Group, at regenerativedesigngroup.dreamhosters.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are the third Thursday of each month.

Thursday, July 16, 6:00 p.m. **Visit the gardens of Jono Neiger** in Leverett. Carpool from Cherry Rum leaves at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12. Community Meal, 4:30–6:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, Court Square, Greenfield.

Thursday, August 20, 6:00 p.m. **Tour of Laughing Dog Farm** in Gill, with owner Daniel Botkin. laughingdogfarm.com

Thursday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. **Food Fermentation Workshop** with Angela Roell, co-owner of Yard Birds Farm in Williamsburg, MA. Location TBA.

President's Report

from Laura Schlaikjer

July – the middle month of summer – is here! Our two main fundraising events are behind us, and we are all looking forward to relaxing in our gardens. Or perhaps more accurately: weeding, whacking, figuring out how to vanquish the bad bugs and critters, and then – ahhh! to sit admire the colors, textures, and bounty of our well-tended gardens.

Our Garden Tour on June 27 was a splendid success: perfect weather on Saturday, good attendance (especially considering several other nearby garden tours held the same day), and the most gracious hosts who shared their gardens with us all:

- In Greenfield: Nancee Bershof; Rosie and Howard Caine
- In Bernardston: Donna Giard; Tom Mann
- In Leyden: Carolyn Curtis; Caryl Giard; Michelle Giarusso; Amy St. Clair; and yours truly Laura Schlaikjer

A big thank-you to the many members who helped with planning during the months leading up to the Tour and working on Tour day!

You can see photos of each of the Tour gardens on Facebook, so please take a look and let your inspiration continue.

Our next annual event will be the Community Meal in Greenfield on Wednesday, August 12. Our Club is seeking a coordinator (or co-coordinators) to organize our contributions to the community dinner: main and side dishes, dessert, plus flowers for the table. The time involved will be relatively minimal, and the joy at the dinner will be maximal! Please raise your hand to help in any way by emailing: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.

I hope to see many of you on July 16 for our Club's tour of Jono Neiger's gardens in Leverett! Free, private tours like this are a great way to introduce our Garden Club to others, so please consider bringing a friend, neighbor, or co-worker.



The **Daylily and Arts Festival** will be held on **Saturday, July 11** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Richard Willard's home at 23 Pickett Lane, Greenfield, MA. You are invited to view over a thousand different varieties of daylilies in the back-yard gardens and take a quiet stroll along woodland paths to the lower gardens.

Many varieties will be for sale, and there will be other vendors offering wonderful crafts and products. This festival has been going on for years but this will be the first in this new location. Contact: silvergarden@yahoo.com or 413-772-6997.

What to do in the garden in July

Remove annuals with stunted or unusual color; these are usually virus infected and the disease can spread to neighboring healthy plants.

To control disease on fruit trees, maintain a summer spray schedule.

Clean hummingbird feeders filled with nectar solution regularly to ward off mold and bacteria.

Consider drip irrigation and/or soaker hoses for watering in the flowerbed and vegetable garden.

Muskmelons and cantaloupes are ready for picking when the stem "slips" easily from the fruit with gentle pressure.

Harvest veggies as soon as they're ripe to encourage additional production.

Sharp mower blades prevent leaf blade damage and lawn stress.

Prevent diseases on susceptible rose varieties: apply fungicide every 7-10 days.

Lanky annuals need your help! Pinch them back now to encourage bushy growth and more flowers.

Officers 2015

President:

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Jeanne Canteen 774-6605
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Elise Schlaikjer 773-1683
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2015 Grant Winner Profile: Pearl Rhodes Elementary School, Leyden

Members of our Garden Club's Grant Committee were delighted last month to be guests of Judi Shilling's 1st and 2nd grade class at the Pearl Rhodes Elementary School in Leyden. The school was one of ten organizations that received funding this year from our Club's grant program.

Rhodes School received \$200 for their request "to furnish a new greenhouse with storage bins, planting shelves, and planting boxes, and to create a new kitchen herb cutting garden that will provide herbs for use in the school lunch program."

The children took us to see their new greenhouse and raised bed gardens outside the school. They were eager to tell us about their plantings, and they were particularly happy to point out that the herbs are being used by their "lunch lady" in their school lunches. Each member of the class had written a thank-you note to the Club, and each child read their letter aloud to us.

It's very rewarding to be able to get out and see what our donations are doing in the community. Congratulations to the children, faculty, and parents at Pearl Rhodes for a great gardening program.

Rowe Center seeks garden volunteers

The Rowe Center invites volunteers of all skill levels to be part of their new occasional gardening crew at the conference center in Rowe MA. Projects this year include planning a new woodland garden outside the meditation house and grooming various plantings around the campus. Garden crews can enjoy community meals while on site.

Anyone interested should contact Joan O'Brien (obrien.jm7@gmail.com or 413-339-4701). Give your contact information and ask to be put on the garden volunteer list. Doing so doesn't obligate you: you'll get an email listing work dates throughout the summer and fall and can choose if and when you can help.

You can read more about the Rowe Center and see photos of their beautiful, rustic grounds on their website, rowecenter.org.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of July 1, 2015.....	\$3,979.13
Income (June).....	\$ 749.11
<i>Dues, Interest, Tour</i>	
Expenses (June).....	\$450.40
<i>Newsletter, Programs, Tour</i>	

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 priced 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.