



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

June 2015

Vol. 23, No. 5

Call for members to shine at Garden Tour on June 27

23rd Annual Garden Tour – June 27, 2015

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$12 per person

Our Club's 23rd Annual Garden Tour will feature eight beautiful gardens in Greenfield, Bernardston, and Leyden. There is a wonderful variety among them! Encourage your friends and relatives to support our Club and come on the tour.

Tickets will be for sale from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Trap Plain, which is at the junction of Federal and Silver Streets in Greenfield. We have a bright sunny day on order, and there will be much beauty to behold as well as good food and drink and marvelous raffle items.

Volunteers needed for the Tour

Contact Jeanne Canteen: jeanne6040@gmail.com, (413) 774-6605.

Weeders: We will need folks to help weed a host garden if requested.

Co-hosts: Co-hosting means staying a pre-arranged length of time at a host garden to support the host, answer questions, and direct people to and from the other gardens. This gives a host time to take a break, eat lunch, run a quick errand if need be.

Food Donations: We also need lots of donated savory and sweet food items for the refreshment stop. Savories are great for the morning, and sweets are tempting fare for the afternoon.

Raffle Donations: Linda Tyler is looking for quality garden-related gifts for the raffle. Please call her at (413) 522-1686.

Publicity: Intensive advertising is in order! Posters will, as usual, be on Linda Tyler's front porch at 23 Hastings Street. Please feel free to put them up in as many places as you can. We have some stiff competition that day with the Franklin Land Trust Farm and Garden Tour in Ashfield. We need to get the word out about our own tour!

Last but not least, please come on Saturday the 27th, buy a ticket, and go on the tour. Bring a friend! We need members to show their support for this event by attending the Tour on Saturday if they can. Think of it as a cash mob for the Garden Club! Vote your support by attending Saturday!

Those whose gardens were on the tour, along with those who weeded, cohosted, or were on the Garden Tour Committee, will be doing the tour on Sunday. Want to join us on Sunday? Sign up to weed or co-host! We'd love to have you.

Spread the word – our host gardeners are eager to show off all their hard work!

Join Club's private tour of historic Lesure Farm

Our June meeting features a visit to Julie Fisher's Lesure Farm in Ashfield with inspiring perennial beds, arbors, and vegetable gardens.

Gather at Cherry Rum Plaza by 5:20 p.m. to carpool for the 40-minute drive up to Ashfield. Those who are driving separately, plan to arrive by 6 p.m. Park at the foot of the driveway.

Julie bought the well-known Lesure Farm – circa 1805 – about 8 years ago. She has been reclaiming the vegetable garden and installing arbors and perennial beds ever since.

There are photos on our [Club's webpage](#) as well as on our Facebook page to whet your appetite! This is a great chance to see a beautiful garden and see photos of the previous generations of owners in the small and intimate setting of our own private visit. We have also been invited to stroll the mown path in the very large hayfield and commune with nature and the bobolinks!

Julie's gardens are also featured on the Franklin Land Trust Farm and Garden Tour this year.

This tour is free and open to the public, so invite all you know who would enjoy visiting such a noteworthy and inspiring farm!

DIRECTIONS: The address is 770 Watson Spruce Corner Road, Ashfield, MA. Coming from Greenfield, take Rt. 2 to 112 toward Ashfield. Past the blinking light on 112 where you'd turn left to go into the village, continue straight until you come to Rt. 116 headed toward Plainfield. Take this right. Go a few twisty miles until you come to your first right, Watson Spruce Corner Rd. Go about a mile. You'll go through a wooded section first, then emerge into an open setting of hay fields. At this point you can look up the hill you are climbing and see the old farmhouse presiding over the view. You'll pass South Face Farm, a maple syrup place on the left. Turn in the next driveway on the right and park at the foot of the drive. If needed, drop off those with mobility issues first.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are the third Thursday of each month.

Thursday, June 18, 6:00 p.m. Tour the Gardens of Julie Fisher in Ashfield, pictured above. Carpool from Cherry Rum leaves at 5:20 p.m.

Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden Club's 23rd Annual Garden Tour
See article on page 1.

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

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

President's Report

from Laura Schlaikjer

First and foremost, I'd like to thank everyone who helped in some way to make this year's Extravaganza the success that it was. Our earnings should be around \$1,200 after expenses, which pays for our grants to children's education programs and our own year-round schedule of events.

I'd especially like to thank those members who potted up and dropped off plants for the sale – we had an exceptional selection. Jane Markowski invited members to come and dig plants in a bed she is reverting to lawn, so we had a nice selection of mature peonies and daylilies to sell, among other plants. I heard requests for things like rhubarb and shrubs or young trees, so remember that for next year if you have any of those items in your yard. We still have a few organically-grown coleus and sage and thyme plants for sale from Spatcher Farm – if interested, please email the club. We're asking for \$2/plant.

I would also like to thank the vendors who came and gave the sale more variety. I know that foot traffic could have been better for them, but that should improve as it becomes better known that they are there. We do like our new location at St. James' Episcopal Church on Church and Federal Streets in Greenfield, and have some ideas to make it even better next year.

Thank you also to those who dropped off Tag Sale items. There is always such a great selection and so many great finds! It's a magnet for our plant shoppers who also like a bargain on a nice pot, or hose, or book!

So thank you all for a very solid showing. Spread the word so we attract even more shoppers next year!

Take a Last Look at the Roses at the End of the Road

The Annual Rose Viewing at Pat and Henry Leuchtman's garden in Heath will be held on Sunday, June 28, from 1–4 p.m. This Garden Open Today event has been a regular marker on Pat's garden schedule for over 20 years.

When the Leuchtman's moved to Heath at the end of 1979, Pat's first garden chore in 1980 was planting *Passionate Nymph's Thigh*, an antique rose. Since then she has planted nearly 150 roses – half of which survived.

"I think of the Rose Viewing as a garden party, complete with cookies and lemonade, but an event where visitors can see some of the hardy and disease-free roses that can be grown in our area," Pat said. She has described life in Heath among the roses in her book, *The Roses at the End of the Road*, available at the World Eye.

Pat and her husband will be leaving Heath and the Rose Walk this summer for a new house and garden in Greenfield.

Officers 2015

President:

Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594
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Jeanne Canteen 774-6605
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Elise Schlaikjer 773-1683
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Couscous Salad

This salad was a hit at a recent Steering Committee meeting!

Couscous

- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 1 Tbsp. curry powder
- 1 cup uncooked couscous
- 1/3 cup golden raisins

Salad and Dressing

- 2 cup torn lettuce leaves
- 2 large plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup minced red onion
- 1/3 cup chopped tart apple
- 1 large yellow bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 Tbsp. virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
- 3 Tbsp. rice vinegar or fresh lemon juice
- Cilantro for garnish

In medium saucepan bring stock and curry powder to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in couscous and raisins. Cover and let stand until all liquid has been absorbed (about 15 minutes). Transfer to bowl and let cool.

In large bowl combine lettuce, tomato, onion, apple, pepper. In a small bowl whisk together oil, yogurt, and vinegar or lemon juice. Pour over salad. Toss gently. Arrange salad on a plate and top with couscous. Garnish with cilantro.

What to do in the garden in June – our busiest month!

Compiled by Dolly Gagnon

Here are a few June gardening tasks and projects that you can do to help keep your garden looking its best for the rest of the season.

Annuals and Perennials

- Pinch back annuals such as fuchsias, geraniums, cosmos, or any other plants that might be getting leggy.
- Pinch chrysanthemums to encourage them to be bushier and have more blossoms. Pinch them again, every 6 inches or so, as they grow.
- This is an excellent month to pick up a few new perennials to plant in your garden.
- Check your roses for mildew, aphid, black-spot or other disease problems or insect infestations. Fertilize roses each month through the summer. Prune them after blooming.
- Deadhead annuals to encourage continued flowering.
- Sow seeds for ornamental kale and flowering cabbage for colorful plants in fall.

Fruit and Vegetable Gardening

- Plant any of the warm weather vegetables: corn, beans, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, etc., as soon as possible.
- Tap tomato plants to encourage good pollination; water every day and start feeding them weekly once fruits set.
- Protect your fruit from the birds with netting.
- After natural fruit drop in late June, thin fruits on apple, pear, peach and apricot trees carefully to produce larger, better fruit.
- Mound the soil up around potato plants.
- Plant broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower for fall harvest.

Houseplant Care

- Houseplants can be moved outside to a shady, protected spot.
- Watch for insect or disease damage and take necessary steps to control the problem.
- Warmer and drier weather means it is necessary to water and mist your houseplants more often.
- Feed your houseplants with half the recommended strength of a good soluble houseplant fertilizer.

Around the Garden

- Change the water in your bird bath regularly. Standing water will become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of June 1, 2015.....\$4,723.37

Income (May).....\$1,539.66
Dues, Donation, Interest, Extravaganza

Expenses (May).....\$741.54
Newsletter, Programs, Grant, Extravaganza

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Jean Wall at 773-9069 or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

Last month's newsletter omitted one program that would welcome donations from your vegetable garden: Second Helping at St. James Episcopal Church on Federal St., Greenfield, which has been serving a free meal every Monday night for 14 years. Thanks to Elise Schlaikjer for letting us know!

The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.

—Vita Sackville-West (1892–1962)



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.