



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

March 2018

Vol. 26, No. 2

March Field Trip: Lyman Estate Greenhouses

We're heading to the [Lyman Estate Greenhouses](#) for our second field trip of 2018, and we're counting on seeing the camellias in bloom (their season is 2/22 – 3/23). Many of the trees are over 100 years old, and the blossoms are of all sizes and shapes. These greenhouses are among the oldest surviving greenhouses in the U.S. There is the 1904 grape house, the 1820 camellia house, the 1940 orchid house, and the 1930 cut flower-turned-sales greenhouse where you can purchase plants, orchid-growing supplies, pottery, gardening books, and gardening gifts. They hold five large specialty plant sales during the year, but (fortunately?) our visit does not coincide with any of them! They do, however, have an expert horticultural staff onsite who can help with plant selection and culture. The greenhouses specialize in orchids, exotic houseplants, citrus fruits, camellias, and herbs. Their hours are 9:30am – 4:00pm, Tuesday – Sunday Dec. 15 – July 15, and Tuesday – Saturday July 16 – December 14.

We will carpool from Cherry Rum Plaza, with the time emailed to those who RSVP. If we can get 10 or more, we can arrange a tour for \$8pp; otherwise it's free. Please bring gas money for the driver. The group will choose any other stops, as well as where to eat lunch, with help from Marsha and Norm, who used to live in Waltham and know the area well. Please contact them if you are interested in joining us. Their phone number is 413-773-0201, and their email is mds41@comcast.net. Please let them know as soon as you can if you can come so we can plan accordingly. The address is 185 Lyman Street if you plan to meet us there. Hope to hear from you soon!



March President's Report

I hope many of you are computer-savvy and have been able to visit our website as well as our Facebook page, where we try to keep you informed and up-to-date on our activities. Recently I have had the chance to visit, due to traveling for work, the Chadwick Conservatory and Learning Gardens on the campus of Ohio State University, and the Franklin Park Conservatory, both in Columbus, OH. I also have my ticket for the [Philadelphia Flower Show](#) – A Splash of Wonder - that runs March 3 -11. I have posted some of my photos of Chadwick on our FB page, and will soon post more from the other trips to give you the armchair traveler's view of these intriguing places. There is beauty in the garden no matter the time of year or the location, indoors or out. I hope you can take time to visit new gardens in other places (come on our field trips!), and drink in the heady smells of hyacinths and daffodils at the local flower and bulb shows. I hope that plans for your summer gardens are taking shape thanks to the seed catalogues that arrived early in the year. I look forward to seeing you at our next club events!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3 – 18: Bulb Shows at both Mt Holyoke and Smith Colleges

Saturday, March 11: Field Trip to the Lyman Estate in Waltham, MA

Tuesday, March 13: 6:00pm Steering ctte mtg, 40 High St, Greenfield

March 14-18: Boston Flower Show

Saturday, March 17: 8:45 – 2:15 Western MA Master Gardener Spring Symposium (*see article at right.*)

Greenfield Barrel Committee Update

Jan and Steve Adam

Thanks to all the members who sent notes and ideas and attended our initial meeting. We have put together a proposal for the Steering Committee to review and hopefully approve.

We want to restart small, and have requested an initial amount of \$400 to fund four new barrels and their related expenses. This program will be a partnership between The Greenfield Garden Club, The Community Planters and The Business Community all to benefit our town. The Club will provide the barrels and materials, including a small amount toward plants, The Community Planters agree to plant and weed and dead head the barrels and The Business Owners will support the watering effort.

We have already begun planning communication, outreach and signage. Once we have funding, we can really get started. We are excited to get moving as quickly as possible, since our goal is to have the barrels in place by Memorial Day, along with identified Community Planters and Business Owners in place.

We will announce the next meeting via email as soon as we have funding approved. Please continue to send thoughts and suggestions and watch for an email update. We thank you for your renewed interest in this wonderful program!

Western Mass Master Gardener's Spring Symposium "Your Living Landscape"

Saturday, March 17
Frontier Regional High School
South Deerfield, MA
8:45AM – 2:15PM
Keynote: Henry Homeyer

Henry is "The Gardening Guy", freelance writer, author, garden designer, organic gardening educator, and consultant based in Cornish, NH; visit www.gardening-guy.com), and his topic is: ***Sculpting the Living Landscape.***

The cost for the day is \$35, which includes **16 workshop topics** to choose from in two concurrent sessions, the keynote address, and morning coffee and snack.

For more details about the individual workshops and a registration form, visit <http://wmmga.org>.

Officers 2018:

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Consider the Willow!

When I think "willow," I think of huge weeping willow trees, or those furry little catkins on pussy willows that are snipped off in the spring to make indoor arrangements. While visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show this year, my mother asked me to pick up a bunch of fantail pussy willows so that she could root them. There were so many great varieties I was hard-put to stop with just the fantails, but the thought of getting them all on the plane slowed me right down! In poking around the Web, I found a great site called [The Wonderful World of Willows/The Vermont Willow Nursery](#). Wow! They have oodles and oodles of willows for sale, around 400 to be exact. They probably have the largest collection of Salix in North America. They trade Salix cuttings with top Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in North America, and visit England every year to see what developments have been made in willow uses. (Willows are banned from entering or leaving the US, or there would be even more varieties!) Check out their collections – Showy Pussy Willows, Willows for Bees, Native Willows, Fine and Coarse Willow Collections (think baskets), Willows for Winter, and Willows for Small Gardens. Needless to say, they taking Spring orders right now. One of their hottest sellers? The [Pink Pussy Willow – Salix gracilistyla 'Mt Adso.'](#) They also list the willows by usage. They have lists of willows that are best for living structures as well as furniture; best willows for hedges, screens, and windbreaks (I think they must have coined the word 'fedge," a combo of fence and hedge); best willows for basketry; and best willows with colored stems for cutting or winter color. Their website has a whole page on constructing fedges, and another on coppicing and pollarding. Both pages are full of helpful photographs. In fact, their site is loaded with photos. Each variety is accompanied by photos of the various stages of the catkins, the leaves, the structure, how they look in both the winter and the summer. After reading their webpages, I am very interested in adding a few willows to our property. Fortunately, it appears that if my husband mows them over 'accidentally' they will be coppiced and will grow back!

Starting seeds this year? Peaceful Valley Farm has these suggestions for you:

Growing your veggie garden from seed is a great way to grow a more diverse selection of plants. Now that your seedlings have germinated, make sure they stay warm enough, especially tender summer annuals like peppers and eggplant. Make sure they have a good source of light, natural or artificial. If you planted multiple seeds in one cell, you can thin them out with snips.

Once the seedlings have their first true set of leaves, you can start fertilizing with a weak solution (1/4 strength) of low nitrogen liquid fertilizer (Peaceful Valley sells one called Liquid Fish), combined with a kelp solution (also diluted ¼ to ½ strength).

Once the seedlings outgrow their original containers, move them up into larger pots. Transplant outside when temps are right.



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 6, 2018\$6, 809.09
Income\$0.19
Interest
Expenses \$172.24
Annual Meeting; Extravaganza

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

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)
269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden related

Silver Garden Daylilies – 23 Picket Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

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

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.