



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

March 2021

Vol. 29, No. 3

## A Grand (Virtual) Tour with Deb Loomer

Save the date: **Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.**

RSVP to receive the zoom link:

[greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com)

Club member Deb Loomer is a hodophile – from the Greek meaning “lover of roads,” i.e. she loves to travel, and she has the photos to prove it! Deb is putting together a slide show with commentary

for us, highlighting many of the impressive gardens she has visited. At the top right you see [Atlanta Botanical](#), and bottom right is [Longwood Gardens](#), in PA. A more complete list with links to the many gardens can be found on our website, so you can explore them a bit in advance of our meeting if you have the time and inclination! We

will visit gardens across the US as well as in England, France, and South Africa. I am sure we all are feeling “itchy feet” right about now too, so what better way to think about our next trip, or at the very least the new gardening season, than with this feast for the eyes. RSVP today!



## March President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*



We have entered into the final days of winter, and will soon be in the arms of Spring. Days are noticeably longer, and soon we will ‘spring ahead’ and feel amazed at how light it is at 6pm. Then 7pm. Many people are getting their Covid immunizations, and herd immunity inches ever closer. Grow lights are powering up and potting soil is lovingly accepting seeds ripe with promise. For those for whom spring is their favorite season, hearts are gladdened daily with changes in birdsong and the quality of the light at dawn and again at dusk. Snow and ice are receding. Sap is flowing. Buds are swelling. Mud makes the dirt road I live on a rutted mess, but it will soon dry out and be coaxed back into place by the town highway crew. I am stacking wood for the next heating season. There is still time to attend virtual events in the evenings – and you will find many opportunities in these pages. I hope these virtual options are here to stay! Happy Spring!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 1-14:** [Berkshire Botanical Bulb Show](#) – timed entry

**March 4:** 4pm – Smith College Bulb Show opening [lecture](#)

**March 6-21:** Smith College [Virtual Bulb Show](#)

**March 16:** 7pm - [Sustaining Healthy Foodwebs](#)/Greening Greenfield

**March 25:** 7pm – **GGC March monthly meeting** - Botanical Gardens Tour via zoom with Deb Loomer. Slides and commentary

**Ends March 31:** [Yarnstorm](#) at Tower Hill Botanical

*Plant and your spouse plants with you. Weed and you weed alone.*

*~ Jean Jacques Rousseau*

### Some Seed Suppliers of Interest to Members

[Wild Garden Seed](#) - an organic seed farm in the Pacific Northwest, established in 1994, owned and operated by Frank and Karen Morton. They are known for farm-original varieties of many salad greens, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

[Fruition Seeds](#) – a small family farm passionately cultivating over 300 varieties of certified organic vegetables, herbs and flowers to surround us all with beauty and abundance in short seasons. In the heart of the Finger Lakes of western NY.

[Select Seeds](#) – an extensive and curated collection of high quality flower seeds and plants, specializing in heirloom flowers fragrant flowers, open-pollinated annuals, bee-friendly flower seeds and plants, flowering vines, and rare annuals and perennials. Family owned and operated since 1987.

[Siskiyou Seeds](#) – a bio-regional seed hub that produces most of the open-pollinated & Heirloom seeds they sell on their home farm in SW Oregon using organic practices and Biodynamic methods. They also work with a network of certified organic family farms throughout the West to bring you high quality, vigorous, well adapted and unique varieties of vegetables, flowers, herbs and grains. “Thank you for your interest in this seed work that we hold sacred and necessary for these times and the collective benefit of humanity.”

**GGC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021** Please keep your club membership current by sending in your dues. \$20 per person, or \$25 per household. Please make checks payable to: Greenfield Garden Club; and send them to the club treasurer, Joanne Burns, at 14 Freeman St, Greenfield, MA 01301. Thank you!

Free! – pre-register and get the zoom links for the following talks:

### **Gardens of the Scottish Highlands**

Thursday, March 11 7pm – 8:30pm

<https://gblibraries.org/event/gardens-of-scotland/>

**Stunning Spring Perennials** with Joan Butler Thursday, March 11 at 6pm:

<http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/O/OXFORD/ekp.cfm?curOrg=OXFORD&curHelp=>

**OR**, no registration required here: Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM

<https://lincolnpl.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/stunning-spring-perennials-2/>

### **Birdscaping: Home Sweet Habitat**

Tuesday, March 16 at 7pm

[http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/xp\\_newpopevent.cfm?zeeOrg=EGPL&EventID=6627704&sw=1366](http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/xp_newpopevent.cfm?zeeOrg=EGPL&EventID=6627704&sw=1366)

### **Designing Shady Retreats**

Tuesday, March 30 @7pm

<https://www.penningtonlibrary.org/event/designing-shady-retreats/>

### **Officers 2021:**

#### **President/Newsletter/Website:**

Laura Schlaikjer

#### **Vice President:**

Marsha Stone

#### **Treasurer:**

Joanne Burns

#### **Recording Secretary:**

Annette Kilminster

#### **Corresponding Secretary:**

Eva Carrier

#### **At Large Members:**

Vacant

**(Looking for 2 volunteers!)**

## **"A Fresh Start, A New Year in the Garden."**

*A virtual gardening symposium offered to the public*

*Hosted by the N.H. Master Gardener Alumni Association*

**Friday, March 19 to Saturday, March 20**

On Friday, UNH professor [Serita Frey](#) will present ways to enhance soil health. She'll share highlights from her [award-winning research](#). [Doug Tallamy](#), reknowned author of "Nature's Best Hope" and "Bringing Nature Home" will share how to use yards to [enhance natural ecosystems](#).

On Saturday, garden designer [Jana Milbocker](#), author of "The Garden Tourist's New England," and lecturer [Joan Butler](#) will speak about spring ephemerals, such as spring beauty, trout lily and marsh marigold. The symposium concludes with [Page Dickey](#) discussing sections of her book "Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again."

Books by these authors and other garden related books are available at [Main Street Bookends](#) - Tell them you're attending the NH Master Gardener Symposium and you'll receive a 20% discount on your books.

The N.H. Master Gardener Alumni Association will hold a Silent Auction of garden related items from March 15 to March 21. [Preview items now and place bids](#) starting March 15.

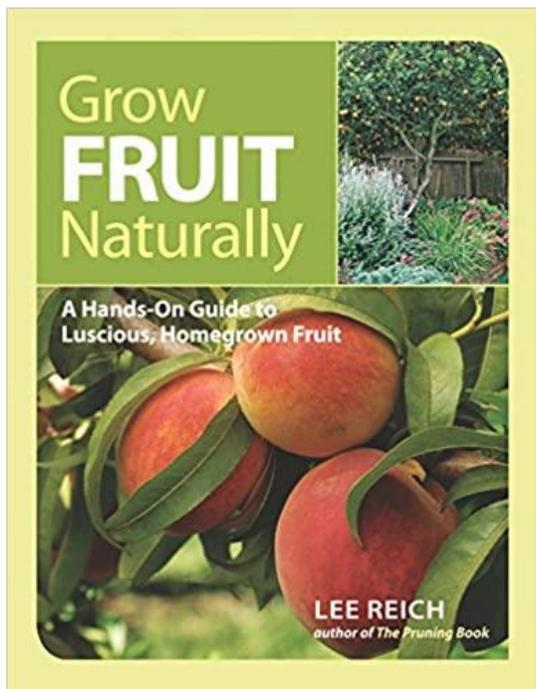
All proceeds from the symposium and auction will help support [UNH Extension Master Gardener](#) projects including educational and community gardens, garden education outreach and food insecurity throughout the state.

**Cost:** \$30/day or \$50 for both days

**REGISTER**

### **Revitalize and Reuse Old Potting Soil**

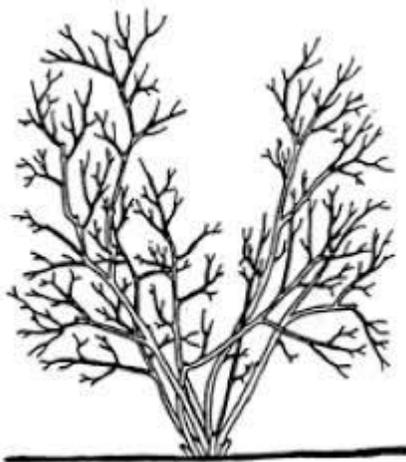
Can you reuse potting soil year to year? Yes! Waste not – want not! Fresh potting soil fertility lasts for a few years, so if you keep up with an application of water-soluble fertilizer during a future growing season, you should be ok. You can also refresh potting soil 50-50 with new potting soil, and keep up with the water-soluble fertilizer as needed. Another tactic is to add some finely screen compost in a 3:1 ratio, compost to soil. You can let this "new" soil rest for a few weeks before planting, to let the compost start to break down and reinvigorate the soil. In order to up the minerals in your compost-enriched potting soil, you can add a handful or two of azomite and kelp meal (minerals, trace minerals and other elements), as well as some slow-release fertilizer (bacteria, fungi, etc.) to inoculate the soil. If you have large ornamental pots, you can also use the older soil fill up the space at the bottom and add newer soil at the top where the roots will be. If you'd like to watch this in a video format, click [here](#). Scott uses a Gorilla Cart for mixing, which can mix large batches, and makes it nice and mobile too.



Looking to sharpen up your small fruit skills? Check out the 2012 book from Lee Reich, [Grow Fruit Naturally](#), shown at the left. Also of interest is his 2009 book, [Landscaping with Fruit](#), which will help turn your yard into an edible paradise! Lee has been interviewed many times by Margaret Roach, and has been featured in the NY Times, Organic Gardening, and Martha Stewart Living. So, whether you already have fruits of various types on your property, or whether you are thinking about adding them, these 2 books will prove extremely helpful. One of the fruits that does quite well in our area is the highbush blueberry, or *Vaccinium corymbosum*. Lowbush does well too, but they are harder to protect from 4-footed or winged marauders. Right now is the time to prune your bushes to keep your plant no older than 6-8 years. We learned this from our visit to Quonquont Farm as well, and they have a [short video](#) on blueberry pruning on their Facebook page.

Young berry bushes should be pruned lightly in order to create an overall structure that will bear fruit for several years. Starting when your plants are about 7 years old, in late winter, prune out the oldest stem/s (about an inch thick) right to the ground. This will encourage basal buds to grow, replacing the older canes. (New growth from stumps produce weaker canes that are more prone to disease.) This will enhance crop production since blueberries produce fruit on younger wood. You also want to open up the interior of the shrub to allow for increased ventilation (reduce fruit rot) and sunlight (for ripening and good flavor). You can also remove weak or damaged branches at this time. Prune so that your plant has a good mix of older, younger, and middle-aged canes (these are the best-producing canes). Younger and older canes will have less fruit as they are just coming into or leaving max fruiting capacity, while those middle-aged canes will be the most productive. Young bushes generally require less pruning, while mature bushes require more selective pruning to maintain desired shape, plant structure, and productivity. (Ideally each pruned plant will have 6-12 canes)

1. Size up the bush and plan your approach (aim for narrow at the base, open in the center, and a balance of multi-aged canes throughout the bush.)
2. Remove all diseased and broken canes, or those growing too close to the ground.
3. Remove any canes that are 8 years or older.
4. Remove all but the 2-4 of the most robust new canes that were produced the previous year.



Do you have an overgrown patch that needs rejuvenation? The process is roughly the same. Remove any diseased or broken branches. Depending on the number of canes, remove the oldest 2 or 3 of them to open up the plant structure. The base should be tighter than the middle and upper portions (vase shape). All branches that are touching or crossing should be removed. In some case, a complete overhaul (cutting it all down to the ground) is in order, but this will eliminate any fruit production for several years. This will result in a rejuvenated and productive bush that you can then maintain on an annual basis.

A good blueberry [pruning video](#) from University of Maine Cooperative Extension. (Thanks to UMASS Center For Agriculture for info on this page.)

# Massachusetts Pollinator Network

*speaker series fundraiser*

Thursday, March 11 at 7 PM

**Kill Your Lawn!** With Dan Jaffe Wilder, Ecological Horticulturalist, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 17 at 7PM

**The Pollinator Garden** With Kim Smith, Landscape Designer and Filmmaker

Thursday, March 25 at 6PM

**Ecological Seed Restoration for Pollinator Health**

With Sefra Alexandra, Ecotype Project lead, CT NOFA

Learn more and register at:

**[masspollinatornetwork.org](http://masspollinatornetwork.org)**



Background image: *Taxomerus syrphid* fly, photo credit: Dan Jaffe Wilder

It's **Maple Sugar Season!** Looking for some fun recipes to try using your **LOCAL** Maple Syrup? Try [PureMaplefromCanada.com/recipes](http://PureMaplefromCanada.com/recipes) for some fun ideas. Even though it looks strange, I made Bananarama Pancakes and they were delicious with some Nutella spread on top, and all it requires is mashed ripe banana, flour, egg, and maple syrup! You could also check out [Mass Maple Producers' recipes](http://MassMapleProducers.com/recipes), and NH Maple Producers' Recipes <https://nhmapleproducers.com/pure-nh-maple/pure-nh-maple-recipes/>.

**Sustaining Healthy Food Webs with Keystone Plant Species** with Meredith Gallogly, *Grow Native Massachusetts* **March 16 at 7:00PM**

What do **Birds, Insects, and Plants** have in common? One cannot survive without the other. They are all necessary to sustain a healthy food web.

In a free virtual talk, Meredith Gallogly, Manager of Programs at **Grow Native Massachusetts**, will take a deep dive into the ecological links between birds, caterpillars, and native plants, and what we can do to support this system and add beauty to our yards and communities.

Gallogly's talk supports Greening Greenfield's new campaign called **70% Native Plants: trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants count!**, which was inspired by Dr. Desiree Narango's research that found that to find the over 6,000 caterpillars that Chickadees need to raise their young, that 70% of the plant foliage within 50-yards of their nest must be native to the area.

"Caterpillars, the larval stage of butterflies and moths, play an outsized role in our ecosystem, because they are nutritious, soft, and edible." Says Gallogly. "Some native plants are called keystone plants because they play a huge role in sustaining healthy food webs. Caterpillars eat these plants, which gather nutrients via photosynthesis, and then birds eat the caterpillars, moving all that energy up the food chain."

Gallogly will highlight the top readily-available keystone plants of the northeast for a variety of landscape conditions and scales. She will also offer tips on establishing and managing these plants, to help everyone steward the land in their communities and their backyards.

"Learning about butterflies, moths, and birds has completely changed what I choose to plant in my yard and community," said Nancy Hazard, of Greening Greenfield. "While milkweed is necessary for monarch's to survive, trees and shrubs native to our area play an outsized role in hosting butterflies and moths, so trees and shrubs are where chickadees find the majority of food for their young." (continued next column)

Restoring natural habitat is a major focus of Greening Greenfield's efforts, which aim to work toward a more sustainable Greenfield. Plants are critically important not only to the many creatures that share our planet with us, but also nature is the only way we can draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it to lessen the severity of the climate crisis. **What you plant in your yard and community matters!**

Meredith Gallogly, an avid plant observer, holds a Biological Sciences degree from Smith College. She manages **Grow Native Massachusetts'** educational programs such as workshops, walks, their eNews, and an annual plant sale in the Boston area.

**Register today!**

**FYI – Meredith Gallogly's talk will be posted on Greening Greenfield web site after the event.**

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Balance</b> as of January 15, 2021 .....	\$7,673.50
<b>Income</b> .....	\$.20
<i>Interest</i> \$0.20	
<b>Expenses</b> .....	\$0.00
<i>None this month</i>	
<b>Balance</b> as of February 15, 2021 .....	\$7,673.70

*All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to the club Treasurer:  
Joanne Burns, 14 Freeman St  
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**  
[greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com)*

Margaret Roach's excellent [Monthly Garden Chores:](https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/)  
<https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/>

**April NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

**Sunday, March 28th**  
[greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**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