



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2016

Vol. 24, No. 3

A Garden Partnership in the Making?

Say hello to Georg and Angela Burwick. They are the new owners/proprietors of the Brandt House Inn located at 29 Highland Avenue in Greenfield. Georg recently gave Laura Schlaikjer and Deb Loomer a tour of the house and back property while discussing his thoughts of entering into a partnership with the club.

Georg discussed how the Brandt House might be able to offer more to the community through the use of their garden space. They will be reimagining and investing in their lawn and garden space this year, and wanted to see if the Greenfield Garden Club would like to become involved with this effort. They are looking at expanding and revitalizing the Brandt House zen garden (which he feels is currently is not very zen), and would like to offer it as a space open to our interpretation. They would like to then rededicate it to the Greenfield Garden Club and make it open and accessible to not only their guests, but also to the community at large via the right of way that crosses that part of the property.

In addition, they would like to offer the Brandt House as a place where our organization can hold meetings and events at no cost to us. Our Tovah Martin event will take place both inside (lecture) and outside (terrarium workshop) on the spacious deck. If it's nice, the book-signing can be on the terrace. They are excited about the prospect of future collaborations with us. This is an interesting invitation, and the steering committee would really like to know your thoughts on how this might work. Please send your reflections to the club via email: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.



The Zen Garden at the Brandt House, Early Spring

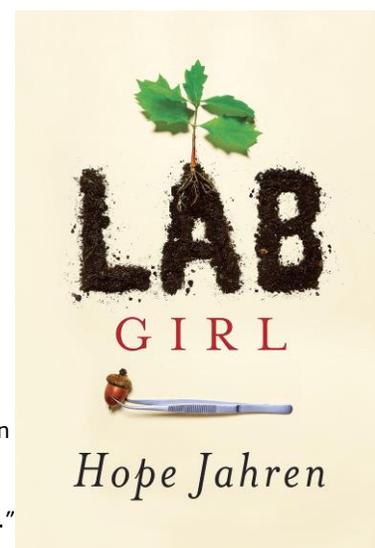


Lab Girl: Run to Your Nearest Library for a Copy!



Elle Magazine: [‘Lab Girl’ Is a Fierce, Uplifting, Must-Read Memoir](#) — “Hope Jahren is the rare breed of scientist who is both an accomplished geobiologist—she’s won three Fulbrights and has built as many labs in as many states—and a fantastic writer. In her engrossing new memoir, *Lab Girl*, Jahren is alternately funny and moving, whether she’s writing about deciduous trees, her marriage, her lab partner or her childhood.”

New York Times: [‘Lab Girl,’ Hope Jahren’s Road Map to the Secret Life of Plants](#) — “By crosscutting between chapters about the life cycle of trees and flowers and other green things, and chapters about her own coming-of-age as a scientist, Ms. Jahren underscores the similarities between humans and plants — tenacity, inventiveness, an ability to adapt — but, more emphatically, the radical otherness of plants: their dependence on sunshine, their inability to move or travel as we do, the redundancy and flexibility of their tissues (‘a root can become a stem if need be, and vice versa’).”



UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are generally the third Thursday of each month.

Wednesday, May 18, 6:30pm: Steering Committee Meeting with Potluck, 40 High St, Greenfield. Send items for the agenda to: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Thursday, May 19: THERE IS NO MAY MEETING - RECONVENE IN JUNE.

Friday, May 27, 6-7pm Drop off for plants and tag sale items for the Extravaganza at St James' Episcopal Church, 8 Church St, Greenfield.

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Extravaganza! Vendors! (Note new hours)

Sunday, June 5, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lecture, Book-signing and terrarium workshop with Tovah Martin at the Brandt House.

Looking Back: 1992

Janice McGuane – President
Richard Willard – Vice President
Lynn Dufraigne – Recording Secretary
Charlene Palmer – Corres. Secretary
Ken Doerpholz – Treasurer

The Roundhouse exhibit won first place and the Cushman Award - again!

Charlene Palmer and other organizers of the 1st Greenfield Fall Festival and Street Fair transformed downtown into an autumn harvest with corn stalks, indian corn, pumpkins and mums Columbus Day Weekend.

Successful Fall Harvest Festival Booth, led by Janice McGuane, sold cider, gourds, natural arrangements, indian corn and GGC mugs.

Thanks to Marty McGuane and contributors, a monthly newsletter was made available to members for the first time.

Jim and Sandy Brodie put together a video featuring highlights of the GGC for 1992.

Joanne Moylan and Richard Willard led an evergreen wreath-making workshop in November. Wreaths were given to the library along with a holiday poinsettia.

Speakers in 1992: Elsa Bakalar (Annual Mtg); Brian McGowan (Blue Meadow Farm); Christopher Darow (Ollallie Daylilies); Steve Malsch (Fairview Gardens); Caroline Wheeler (Wheelview Farm); Jeanne Sisson (Ridge Runner Farm); Lisa Falkenthal (Annie's Garden Store).

President's Report

from Laura Schlaikjer

I have to apologize for the tardiness of this month's newsletter. I chaperoned a band trip to Toronto at the end of April, and I have been involved with the college application process, college visiting, and scholarship applications for my son. I am happy to report that he has decided to attend the University of Vermont Rubenstein College of Environment and Natural Resources. I am proud of all his achievements, and will be happy when this school year is over and we have a breather before college starts up in the fall. There are many students at Pioneer who have a strong interest in the environment, and I find that very heartening in this day of climate change, water shortages, fracking and gas pipelines, GMO foods, and other challenges. I was interested to see that the class of 2020 at UVM will be reading the same book over the summer to discuss on campus in the fall, along with a visit from the author, Elizabeth Kolbert, who I see lives in Williamstown, MA. The book is *The Sixth Extinction*, and I just bought our copy at the World Eye, as I would like to read it too. I'll readily admit that I like to curl up in bed with a good mystery, but this feels like a book that should be read, despite what I fear will be outlined in its pages. I've added an article to the newsletter about this book as well as *Lab Girl*, another book that looks like an excellent read. It may not be winter, but a good book is a great companion no matter the time of year!

You will have noticed that there is no monthly meeting for May. With the Extravaganza, the Tovah event, and the Garden Tour all coming up quickly, along with many other time-consuming non-club events, we thought you wouldn't miss it. We hope to plan some fun craft event, like glue batik or the hypertufa balls for June. We may also have art teacher and potter, Rhonda Wainshilbaum, do a mosaic bird bath event for us. Stay tuned! Please support your club's upcoming events to the best of your ability!

Tovah Martin Event Update

Sunday, June 5 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Ticket sales: Member pricing for this event is a great deal! Please put in your reservation today to treasurer Jean Wall. Her contact info is at the right.

Bakers Needed!! Contributions of nice dessert finger foods – cookies, cakes, bars – for the reception and book-signing between the lecture and workshop are being solicited. Please let us know what you can bring as we'd hate to have to go out and purchase baked goods. We want this event to be self-funding! Call Laura at 413-774-4594 or email greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com. Thank you for helping even if you are not able to join us at the event itself.

Officers 2016:

President:

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Lhsmith22@comcast.net

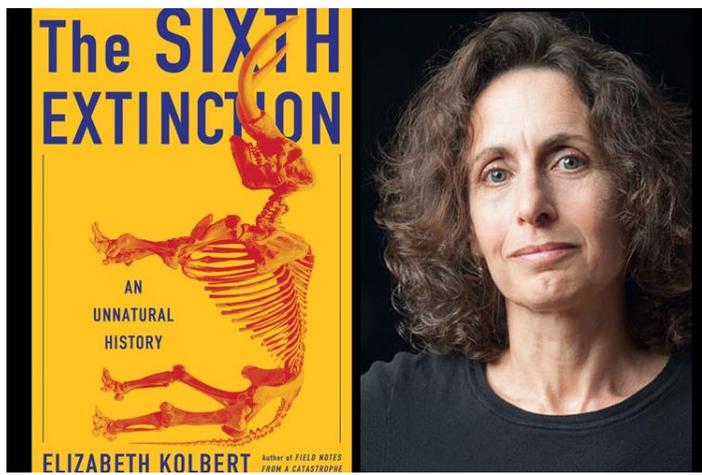
Corresponding Secretary:

Deborah Loomer 863-9421
daloomer@yahoo.com

GARDENING TIP

Let your imagination run wild with container plantings. Treat them as small canvases that allow you to play with colors and textures. Try going with a bold color for excitement or a monochromatic theme for a refined look. Use them to decorate the patio or front porch, or position them amid shrubs in a mixed border or between foundation plantings. Remember to feed regularly with a 15-30-15 fertilizer and keep them well watered during the hot months.

(Courtesy White Flower Farm)



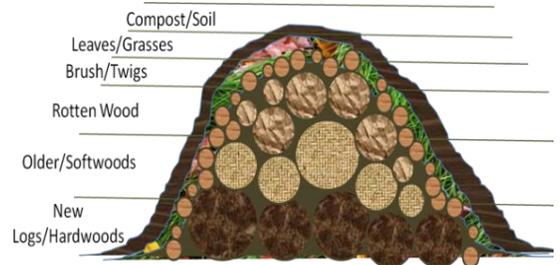
Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, description of the fascinating species that have already been lost, and the history of extinction as a concept, Kolbert provides a moving and comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. She shows that the sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy, compelling us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human. (<http://us.macmillan.com/thesixthextinction->

Hugelkulture: A Swedish Dessert?

Actually, Hugelkulture (hoo gul culture) means Hill Planting or Hill Mound. This raised bed technique starts with a shallow ditch where you place, from bottom to top, hardwood logs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, straw, carboard, non-petroleum-based newspaper, manure, compost – whatever other biomass you have available, and then top with soil and plant your crop. Narrower and taller mounds compact less from pressure over time and means more surface area for planting and easier harvesting.

Even though eh beds will be a nitrogen suck for the first year, just add more nitrogen fertilizer to compensate, or add nitrogen-fixing crops or crops with low nitrogen needs. When the wood starts to decay, nitrogen andnd other nutrients will be released for 20 years or more! Beds are water sponges, absorbing water and releasing it as needed. Mounds have great soil aeration, and are carbon sinks. More info on a Google search!

Time Stacking with Hugelkulture



Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of April 30, 2016 \$3,922.46

Income (March) \$.16

Interest

Expenses (March) \$212.09

Newsletter, Programs, Postage

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 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

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.