



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2017

Vol. 25, No. 3

## Extravaganza to Feature Pollinator Plants



*Geum triflorum*: Prairie Smoke Flower

**Monarda punctata** (Spotted Bee Balm): Preferring sandy soils, this is an eccentric beauty in form and color with complex blossoms topping 2 foot stems in hues of pinkish-purple, green, beige, and maroon.

**Monarda fistulosa** (Wild Bergamot): Also called Bee Balm, this plant is a favorite of butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

**Liatris aspera** (Button Blazing Star): Also called Rough Blazing Star, it is another powerful pollinator magnet.

**Baptisia tinctoria** (Small Yellow Wild Indigo): When most other Baptisias are done blooming, this one is in full flower. This is a nice, shrub-like perennial for the landscape.

Not on our order but pictured at left is the lovely Prairie Smoke Flower. The silky, flowing style of the fruiting stage creates a gauzy effect resembling smoke hovering close to the ground.

Club members will be meeting on the third Thursday – May 25 – at 6pm at the home of Richard Willard (23 Pickett Ln, Greenfield) to help pot up the plants that we specially ordered from **Prairie Moon Nursery** in Winona, MN. The plants we selected were chosen for their pollinator interest as either host or food plants. Here are the 6 varieties on order:

**Geranium maculatum** (Wild Geranium): Native to much of eastern N. America, Wild Geranium never disappoints. Found mostly in the woodlands in the wild, it does just as well in full sun.

**Asclepias tuberosa** (Butterfly Weed): Great for sunny, dry locations, it's vivid orange color, low mounded profile, and ability to attract and sustain butterflies makes this a favorite.

The Prairie Moon website tells us that most of the “wildflower” mixes created to meet popular demand are, in fact, not good for wildlife or the environment. Most contain Asian or European flowers which crowd out plants that are truly native to North America. This degrades the environment and displaces the native sources of food and shelter upon which birds, butterflies and other wildlife depend. Flowers to avoid include Oxeye Daisy, Dame's Rocket, Bouncing Bet and Queen Ann's Lace, to name a few. Better choices are *authentic* native wildflowers, grasses and trees. Look up Prairie Moon and see the lovely native, neonicotinoid-free plants they grow for sale. Add your name to their email list for exclusive offers. See you on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> for potting and packaging help!

## President's Report for May

As I write, there is frost on the back deck – a chilly morning in early May! Some of the houseplants I had already tossed outside had to take shelter in the back of my car overnight. The rest had to huddle on the front porch where they should have been protected from a direct hit. I hope that is the last deep temperature drop until the fall! The peaches are in full bloom and the orchard is awash in pink! Since the urge to purchase is strong now, please take advantage of all the plant sales in our communities, some of which are mentioned in the Upcomig Events box. It will be hard to hold on to your cash this time of year. Did you see those gorgeous yellow-flowering magnolias at Agway? Hard to resist! I hope if you hear about any special sales you will email Linda Tyler so she can send out an alert to all club members. If you know of anyone who is downsizing their

garden or taking out an unwanted plant, please let the club know so that we might come over to pot it (or them) up for the Extravaganza. I hope that you will be able to donate in some fashion to the Extravaganza, as without a tour this year, we have no other way to raise funds for our grant program. Please tell your friends and neighbors and put up a poster or two. We want our crafters and other vendors to feel supported as well. We still have seats to sell on the bus tour to NYC. Right now the club is losing money on the trip, so please tell your friends near and far – we'll send you the flyer if you ask! Speaking of flyers, the poster for the Extravaganza is ready and there should be some on Linda's front porch. Help yourself and tack a few up around town. See you at the next club events!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Monday, May 15:** 5 pm – Trap Plain work party. Rain date: Wed 5/17

**Saturday, May 13:** 8 am – 2pm; St James & Andrew's Plant Sale, Greenfield

**Sat/Sun 5/13-14:** Wilder Hill Spring Dig Sale 9-5 both days. Conway

**Saturday, May 20:** 8:30am-2:30pm; Garden Club of Amherst Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 20:** 9 am-noon; Springfield Garden Club Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 20:** 9 am-noon; Bridge of Flowers Plant Sale, Shelburne

**Thursday, May 25:** 6 pm; potting party for the Extravaganza – see page 1

**Friday, May 26:** 6 pm; Drop off labelled plants or tag sale items

**Saturday, May 27:** 8am – 1pm; Extravaganza!

### EXTRAVAGANZA: Saturday, May 27, 8am – 1pm



#### Door to Door Pickup Service for Your Tag Sale Items!

This article is worth repeating  
from the April newsletter!

Do you have any gardening items  
that you are not using any-more?

Do you have any statues, plant  
stands, tools, or pots that need a  
new home? Do you have any  
gardening decor for the house?

Gardening books? Please  
consider donating them to the  
Extravaganza. To make it even  
easier, Deb Loomer will pick them  
up right at your house on

Thursday, May 25th or Friday,  
May 26th between 3:00 pm and  
7:00 pm. Please email her at:  
daloomer@yahoo.com and give  
her your address. If you would  
like to price your items ahead of  
time - that would be greatly  
appreciated. Who doesn't love a  
bargain!! (Please do not include  
small used plastic pots and trays.)

#### Gift Donations Needed!

Linda Tyler will once again be  
overseeing the many lovely  
drawings that visitors to the  
Extravaganza can purchase tickets  
for, and hope they are the lucky  
winners. Linda is looking for  
donations of new items for these  
drawings. They do not necessarily  
need to be garden related. If you  
have something you wish to donate,  
please let her know! You can  
contact her by email at:

[davidptyler@comcast.net](mailto:davidptyler@comcast.net). It is  
helpful to be able to organize the  
gifts well before the morning of the  
event. It will make her life much  
easier!

#### PLANTS, PLANTS & more PLANTS!

**Keep digging, dividing, and  
potting up your plants so we  
have a nice selection to offer for  
sale. Remember, this is our only  
fundraiser this year so we have  
to make it count! Potting now  
means they will look perkier the  
day of the sale.**

#### TRAP PLAIN MAKEOVER

Richard Willard is the steward of  
our work at Trap Plain, and he is  
calling together the first of the  
year's work bee's to dig up the  
current plants, pick their roots  
free of weeds, sift out the weed  
roots from the garden beds, and  
replant.

The first work party will take  
place on **Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5  
pm.** (Rain date Wednesday the  
17<sup>th</sup>) Please bring gloves, trowels  
and your favorite gardening  
shovel. Richard will provide the  
screen for sifting, and direction  
for the group (is that a plant or a  
weed?!) We will also start to  
dismantle the overly large  
compost pile behind the large  
rock. Can't get on your knees to  
work? Bring a rake and help tidy  
up the grassy areas. Like to  
prune? Bring a pair of snippers  
and see if the shrubbery needs a  
haircut to bring out it's inner  
beauty. Many hands make light  
work – please set aside this date  
and volunteer!

#### **Officers 2017:**

##### **President:**

Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594  
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

##### **Vice President:**

Marsha Stone 773-0201  
mds41@comcast.net

##### **Treasurer:**

Jean Wall 773-9069  
jeanwall1313@gmail.com

##### **Recording Secretary:**

Linda Smith 772-0675  
Lhsmith22@comcast.net

##### **Corresponding Secretary:**

Deborah Loomer 863-9421  
daloomer@yahoo.com

## GOT MULCH?

No? So much the better! Woody mulches are highly over-rated and are not really good for the garden. (Don't even think about putting a mulch volcano around a tree!) "There are not a lot of biological processes going on there," says Rick Darke, co-author with Doug Tallamy of the book: [Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Diversity in the Home Garden](#). He recommends replacing it with living mulches. The [White Wood Aster](#) (zones 3-8) is a shade plant that he calls a living, weed-suppressing ground cover that is deer-proof, durable and versatile. For areas of dry shade, he mentions [Christmas Fern](#). Darke says "Use it to define pathways. It's a fern with seasonality; in the spring the new fronds are chartreuse." It's a medium-sized fern that remains green in winter (fronds lie flat), is highly textural, and deer-proof. Another real winner is Mountain Mint, of which Darke recommends [Pycnanthemum muticum](#) for new plantings to crowd out weeds and invasives. The foliage is gray and topped in summer with white blooms. Grown in partial shade or sunny conditions, it provides a striking and aromatic block of color and texture when massed. Darke says it's a fabulous plant for pollen and nectar services: loaded with butterflies and all kinds of hymenoptera. Their book is also a "manifesto for increasing the diversity of the plants we grow. With a sufficiently rich mixture of plant species comes an interconnected world of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects." Whereas the home garden was once thought of as a corridor between habitats, ever-increasing fragmentation means they must now become habitats themselves. If you are familiar with either writer, you will no doubt enjoy their collaboration. Pick up a copy at your local bookseller!



## CHOCOLATE VINEGAR CAKE

### Cake:

3/4 cup butter, room temperature  
2 cups sugar  
1 egg  
2 1/2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 cup cocoa powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 1/2 cups water  
2 scant tablespoons white vinegar  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium mixing bowl, beat together butter, sugar and egg. In another bowl, combine flour, baking soda, cocoa powder, and salt. Stir to combine. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the butter-sugar mixture and then add vanilla, water, and vinegar. Mix well until combined. Grease a 9 x 13 baking tin and spread batter into an even layer. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes.

### Frosting:

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar  
1/4 cup butter, room temperature  
1/3 cup cocoa powder  
1/4 cup brewed coffee  
Combine all ingredients and spread over cooled cake.

Serve with a spoonful of fresh raspberries!

## Treasurer's Report

**Balance** as of May 3, 2017 .....\$5,854.49

**Income** .....\$522.18

*Bus Tour, Dues, Interest*

**Expenses** ..... \$254.47

*Energy Park, Programs*

*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

**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.*