



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2021

Vol. 29, No. 5

Extra! Extra! The 2021 Extravaganza is Here!!

GREENFIELD GARDEN CLUB'S
26th Annual Plant Sale

EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday May 29, 2021

8:30am – 12:30pm

John Zon Community Center

Corner of Davis & Pleasant Streets

Greenfield, MA

Rain or Shine



Plants from Local Gardeners

- Perennials
- Annuals
- Herbs
- Houseplants
- Dahlia, Canna, Calla, & Others

Customers: please wear masks and keep physically distant from each other!

All proceeds to support the many community projects of the Greenfield Garden Club

The Extravaganza is nearly here! If you have not already done so, please start potting up extra plants from your gardens to donate. Does your iris clump need to be divided? Did you start some extra annuals or veggies that you can share? Did you discover that your forsythia rooted a branch or two? Are you trying to slim down on your houseplants? Does anyone have rhubarb to share? How about double bloodroot? We will gladly take them in order to raise funds for the next cycle of community grants and giving. We are looking for quality over quantity, and it would be very much appreciated if you could label your plants. If you know the bloom color – even better! When we price plants the Friday before, we do not want to have to spend time trying to ID a plant. If you know your plants ahead of time, and can email the club, we can print up laminated labels. **Bring plants on Friday, May 28, 4 - 6pm, to the Jon Zon Center.**

May President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

May has arrived – and the upcoming Extravaganza is starting to make its presence known! We will be needing a nice selection of plants again this year – you are all so great on delivering on this plea every year! Please take the time to read through the article on invasive jumping worms on the next page. It is not clear that jumping worms have made it to Franklin County, but their arrival may signal the end of the local plant sale or swap as we know it. / Members of the GGC cleaned up the gardens at the library – did you catch the Recorder photo on April 26th? / We look forward to our June event as Nasami Farm – our first in-person monthly meeting since the pandemic began over a year ago. Pencil in the date: Thursday, June 24th at 5pm. We are hoping we'll have the chance to make purchases while we are there. I assume we will be outside, but please bring a mask in case we need to be in close proximity to each other inside greenhouses. Looking forward to seeing you all soon! ~ *Laura*



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9: Mother's Day. Enjoy a garden with loved ones!

May 28: 5:00 – 7:00pm plant drop off at Jon Zon Center

May 29: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Extravaganza Plant Sale

*Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, and
summer's lease hath all too short a date.*

- William Shakespeare

Invasive Jumping Worms – What We Need to Know

UNH Extension, March 6, 2020 (Excerpt) Jumping worms (*Amyntas* spp.), also called crazy worms or snake worms, are smooth, glossy brown or grayish and they move more like a snake rather than crawling. Jumping worm eggs hatch in the April/May and will continually grow, from 1 inch up to 8 inches long, until the soil freezes and kills the adults. The narrow band around the worm, called the clitellum, goes completely around its body (unlike earthworms), is usually white to gray colored, and is smooth to the body. This clitellum is also closer to the worm's head than with the typical European earthworm you are familiar. Our familiar earthworms also have a raised clitellum that does not go completely around the body. The jumping worms hatch from eggs laid in the fall, which are in protected cocoons. These cocoons are very small and difficult to see with the naked eye.

University Cooperative Extension services throughout the country are continuing research on possible control strategies for these jumping worms, but as gardeners, it is important to identify ways to minimize their spread and contain them. These worms are invasive and cause harm to the soil, unlike other common earthworm species. Jumping worms feed voraciously on the soil organic matter and excrete material that appears grainy, like coffee grounds, which changes the soil chemistry and decreases nutrient availability. This may at times create soil conditions that favor invasive plant species over native plants.

When dividing plants in the late winter or early spring ahead of a spring plant sale or swap, jumping worms may not be present yet. However, that doesn't mean eggs aren't in the soil. When dividing plants in the fall, the jumping worms should be their largest and more easily seen. However, they may have already laid their eggs, which again are difficult to see. As a general rule of thumb, don't share plants, tools, or equipment if you know you have jumping worms.

The problem is that some gardeners may have jumping worms but not realize it. These tips can be used by any gardener and/or garden club to ensure they're not unknowingly spreading jumping worms.

After dividing the plants, bare root the plants and rinse the roots in water to remove any remaining soil. Removing the soil from the roots not only removes any cocoons, but also pests and weeds. Rinsing the roots will also hydrate the plant while you are potting. When removing soil, be careful as this also may remove small root hairs that are the most active part of the roots. Plants that are flowering will be under more stress when transplanting.

The cocoons are about the size of soil particles and rinsing will reduce the probability of transferring the cocoons with the plants. The rinse water may have cocoons, so be cognizant of what you do with the water you've used to rinse the roots. Allowing the water to evaporate, and then using boiling water to rinse the container, should kill the cocoons. Though researchers have found that the cocoon protected eggs are temperature sensitive, a chemical that will kill the eggs has not yet been identified. Another method is to strain the water through cheese cloth or tee shirt and then bag the filtered matter. (Continued next column →)

(continued) Consider the medium you are using to repot the plants. For small numbers of repots, consider a soilless potting mix. For large scale production, be knowledgeable of the potting mix origination. Research has found the cocoons to be killed at 104 degrees F for 3 days, and in compost that has reached 140 degrees. Be wary of home-made compost as most does not reach the required temperature to kill the cocoons. Use new pots if possible. This should assure that no cocoons exist. If using new pots is not possible, use cleaned pots (as free of soil as possible) that have been not used for at least two years, because it has been found that the cocoon protected eggs may remain viable for at least that amount of time.

Store potted plants for swaps/sales in an area that is off the soil (pallets) to prevent jumping worms from getting into pots. If using a non-permeable fabric like plastic, keep pots away from the edges.

Additionally, buy only mulch and compost that have been treated to kill stowaways. Buy bare-root whenever possible.

For this reason, the Amherst Garden Club has decided not to hold a plant sale this year. The idea of repotting everything was overwhelming. The GGC will print up leaflets and distribute them at the Extravaganza. Could this mean the end of annual garden plant sales in the valley??

Q&A from UMASS: click [here](#).

[Atlantic Monthly article](#).

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:

Nicki Shipman

(Looking for 2 volunteers)

MOSAIC A BIRDBATH OR STEPPING STONE



Workshops with mosaic artist Rhonda Wainshilbaum at 46 River Rd. Leyden, Ma.

May 9,16,23, or June 6 &13,2-5 pm

\$45 for a stepping stone, \$50.00 for a bird bath, (depending on size) includes all materials. (Please let me know which item you want). Although everything you need is provided, bring colorful ceramic crockery, (especially plates and tiles), mirror, beads, stones, glass globs, shells, jewelry, knick knacks, and small found objects, etc, to use or share, if you already have it. There will be a myriad of clay chards to choose from and more here. Social distancing and masks. Space is limited. No experience is necessary. Preregistration is required. rhondawain@verizon.net or 413-624-5175



Companion planting has a long history of use by gardeners, but the explanation of why it works has been filled with folklore and conjecture. [*Plant Partners*](#) delivers a research-based rationale for this ever-popular growing technique, offering gardeners dozens of ways they can use scientifically tested plant partnerships to benefit the garden as a whole. Through an enhanced understanding of how plants interact with and influence each other, this guide suggests specific plant combinations that growers can use to improve soil health and weed control, decrease pest damage, and increase biodiversity, resulting in real and measurable impacts in the garden. *2021 AHS Book Award Winner*

E.B. White wrote this poem for The New Yorker in 1948. It was used as the introduction to Bromfield's book *Malabar Farm*.

**Malabar Farm is the farm for me,
It's got what it takes to a large degree;
Beauty, alfalfa, constant movement,
And a terrible rash of soil improvement.
Far from orthodox in its tillage,
Populous as many a village,
Stuff being planted and stuff being written,
Fields growing lush that were once unfitted,
Bromfield land, whether low or high land,
Has more going on that Coney Island.**

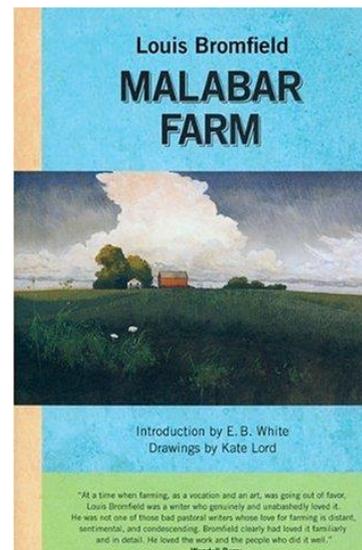
**Malabar Farm is the farm for me,
A place of unbridled activity.
A farm is always in some kind of tizzy
But Bromfield's farm is really busy.
Strangers arriving by every train,
Bromfield terracing against the rain,
Catamounts crying, mowers mowing,
Guest rooms full to overflowing.
Boxers in every room of the house,
Cows being milked to Brahms and Strauss.
Kids arriving by van and pung,
Bromfield up to his eyes in dung,
Sailors, trumpeters, mystics, actors,
All of them wanting to drive the tractors...
Play producers jousting the bards,
Boxers fighting with Saint Bernards...
Almost every Malabar day,
Sees birth and growth, sees death, decay;
Summer ending, leaves a-falling,
Lecture dates, long distance calling.**

**When Bromfield went to Pleasant Valley
The soil was as hard as a bowling alley;
He sprinkled lime and he seeded clover,
And when it came up he turned it over.
From far and wide folks came to view
The things that a writing man will do.
The more he'd fertilize the field
The more impressive were his yields,
And every time fields grew fitter
Bromfield would add another critter,
The critter would add manure despite 'im.**

**And so it went ad infinitum.
It proves that a novelist on his toes
Can make a valley bloom like a rose.**

**I think the world might well have a look
At Louis Bromfield's latest book;
A man doesn't have to be omniscient
To see that he's right--our soil's deficient.
We've robbed and despoiled this lovely earth
Of all that our children need from birth,
And it's true that the strength of the human
race
Is drawn from the elements known as
"trace,"
And though his husbandry's far from quiet
Bromfield had the guts to try it.
A book like his is a very great boon,
And what he's done, I'd like to doon.**

I have Pat Leuchtman to thank for discovering this poem (written the year my husband was born!). She had recently mentioned it in her blog, Common-weeder, on Earth Day, April 22nd. I was intrigued, and a fan of EB White, and decided to learn more. If you too would like to learn more about Louis Bromfield, Malabar Farm, and its place in history, follow this link: <http://www.learning-living.com/2015/06/pleasant-valley-my-ninety-acres-louis.html>



GGC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021 Please keep your club membership current by sending in your dues. \$20 per person, or \$25 per household. Memberships make a nice gift for the gardener in your life! 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!

History of American Gardening

with Jane Roy Brown

Thursday, May 13 Noon to 1:30pm

FREE through Greenfield Community College

American home gardening was born during the late 19th and the early 20th centuries, during a period of social reform known as the Progressive era. Several trends brought gardening and garden clubs into being: The first white, middle-class suburbs began to sprout along the railroad and streetcar lines that brought workers—mostly white men—to jobs in the rapidly growing cities. Motivated by the Progressive ideal of self-improvement, these new suburban housewives seized on gardening as the ultimate self-improving pastime: “medicine for the soul,” as one garden magazine put it. And for the first time, they had space around their new suburban homes to try it out. As the gardening movement spread across the country, it also enlarged the white female sphere of influence from the domestic yard to the city streetscape long before suffrage.

About our Presenter: JANE ROY BROWN is an award-winning writer, editor, and landscape historian who lives in Conway, Massachusetts. Jane works part-time as director of educational outreach at the Library of American Landscape History, which publishes books and organizes exhibitions about American landscape history, based in Amherst, Massachusetts. Independently, she leads a workshop series for women called The Heart of Story: Women Writing Stories of Their Lives. To register, use this link:

<https://noncredit.gcc.mass.edu/workshops/history-of-american-gardening/>

All about Flowers: James Vick’s Nineteenth-Century Seed Company

By Thomas J. Mickey, with a foreword by Charles A. Birnbaum

204 pages, 58 color illustrations

\$26.95 trade paperback, ISBN 9780804012294

Published in May 2021 by Swallow Press, an imprint of Ohio University Press James Vick and his flower seed company, once based in Rochester (later purchased by Burpee), were highly influential in setting trends in U.S. floriculture. Thomas Mickey’s story is part biography about James Vick and part business history, looking in particular at Vick’s innovative and personalized marketing methods that combined beautiful seed catalogs with well-written copy that seduced the American public. Mickey’s previous book, *America’s Romance with the English Garden* (2013), took a similar tack to 19th century garden marketing and how it influenced the U.S. landscape.

NEW PUBLICATION SALE: Get 35% off—use promo code **OUGARDEN** on the Ohio University Press website shopping cart to get this further discounted price plus free U.S. shipping. Enter promo code OUGARDEN in the Order Summary field and click “Apply Code” to get the book for only \$17.50.

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

<https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/>

More Ohio University Press Discounts offered to the Greenfield Garden Club

Use the **OUGARDEN** promo code to get 25% off other gardening books from Ohio University Press:

[*America’s Romance with the English Garden*](#), by Thomas J. Mickey

[*Visions of Loveliness: Great Flower Breeders of the Past*](#), by Judith M. Taylor

[*An Abundance of Flowers: More Great Flower Breeders of the Past*](#), by Judith M. Taylor

[*The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants*](#), by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz

[*Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees: Gardening Alternatives to Nonnative Species, an Illustrated Guide*](#), by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz

[*Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest*](#), by Scott Zanon

[*Saving Seeds, Preserving Taste: Heirloom Seed Savers in Appalachia*](#), by Bill Best

Treasurer’s Report

Balance as of March 15, 2021..... \$8,228.91

Income \$270.21

Dues: \$270; Interest \$0.21;

Expenses \$50.00

Two gift cards for Extravaganza Drawing

Balance as of April 15, 2021 \$8,449.12

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)

May NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Sunday, May 30th

[**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