



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

November 2016

Vol. 24, No. 7

Make Your Own Wreaths and Kissing Balls

It's that time of year again, when we can unwind with friends in a cool greenhouse replete with the smell of fresh greens and with a cup of hot cider on the table in front of us (or a glass of wine!) as we take wire and bunches of greens and other natural decorations and attach them to a metal frame (provided by the club). Whether you are a newbie or a veteran, there will be plenty of help available and ideas to share.

Kissing balls take some time to complete, so please RSVP and then come right at 6pm to get started. Wreath-makers should try to come early too, to stake out a seat at one of the tables. Stacey has yards of ribbon, and will gladly make your wreath a very professional bow for a few dollars. She also has other decorations for sale, but please feel free to bring what works best for the design you have in mind.

Directions: From the center of Greenfield, it's about 5 miles and 10 minutes straight down routes 5&10. After the Deerfield Country Store on your left, start looking for the Bridal Barn and Tux Shoppe on your right. Once you pass that, start to slow down. Just past Wells Cross Rd on your right, the greenhouse is 3 structures (houses) down on the right. Pull in the gravel drive and park towards the back, near the greenhouse. We look forward to another successful holiday event!



Kissing Ball: Pucker-up!

Thursday, November 17 at 6:00pm

Chapley Gardens Greenhouse, Stacey Chapley proprietor
397 Greenfield Rd, Deerfield, MA

Fee: \$10 per wreath, or \$20 per kissing ball, paid to Stacey.

RSVP required for kissing balls, helpful for wreaths. (Need at least 10 people to justify turning on the heat!)

Bring: gloves, folding chair, snippers to cut greens, florist wire, unusual greens, or natural decorations from your yard (think holly, winterberry, grasses, cones, seed heads, a bird's nest, etc.). Also, please bring a snack to share – sweet or savory. Items like cookies, brownies, donuts, cheese, crackers, veggies/dip, and wine are encouraged. Cider will be provided. Wear old clothes in layers as the greenhouse will be cool.

Take the Time to Take Care of Your Tools

I just got my garlic planted – thankfully the day was mild! I finally took in a shovel that has been standing in the garden for weeks, and the handle was rough in my hands. I hadn't done it any favors! Time to make sure all of your tools are clean (wash and dry if necessary) for winter storage. A barbeque grill brush works well to get dirt out of rakes or stirrup hoes. Spray metal parts with a vegetable-based cooking spray to prevent rust. Wipe and rub around with a soft, clean rag. (Vegetable-based sprays will not contaminate your soil when you use your tools next spring.) A spray like Felco's biodegradable lubricant is good to keep moving parts working smoothly. For my shovel's rough handle? Use a sanding sponge (wash and reuse) to get your handles smooth. After

sanding, rub the handle with a natural-based oil with a clean rag. Read the label of the oil, and make sure you take care of that rag so it doesn't spontaneously combust. Sharpen your shovel with a Bastard File at a 45 degree angle – don't go overboard! Spray this raw edge with vegetable spray. Sharpen snips and loppers – blade side only, 4 to 5 times with a forward motion, following factory-set edge. Wear gloves! Check for loose parts and tighten, or order replacements. Spray with Felco spray and wipe it in. (you should be doing this after each use!) Want to see this information in a video? Use the following link:

<http://www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening/videos/sharpening-tools-pruners-loppers-shovels-more>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday/Sunday, November 5 & 6: Cider Days (www.ciderdays.org)

Sunday, November 6: 1:00pm – we need volunteers to meet at Trap Plain to tidy up and plant daffodils supplied by the club.

Thursday, November 17: 6:00 pm Wreath-Making, Chapley Gardens

Tuesday, November 29, 6:00 pm: Steering Committee Meeting with Potluck, 40 High St, Greenfield. Send items for the agenda to:
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 4: 4:30pm – 7:30 pm Annual Holiday Party

January: Annual Meeting in progress – stay tuned!

President's Report

from Laura Schlaikjer

Items for the 2017 calendar are starting to take shape! We are working hard to bring you another year of events to make your membership worthwhile! One big change we are considering is making the Garden Tour an every other year event, alternating with the Franklin County Land Trust Garden Tour, which has lately gone from a 2 day event to a one day event, and come into direct conflict with our tour. Since 2017 is their next tour, we are planning on advertising heavily that we are moving to the new schedule. In its place will be a bus trip. To that end we have retained a bus for a trip to NYC next June 24 (see Field Trip article). This change will give the tour team a longer time to prepare for the next tour. We know this also takes out one of our 2 fundraisers, so we are thinking of having a well-known speaker come every other year in its place. This year, we are talking with Ellen Ecker Ogden (see separate article) to come and hold a lecture and workshop. We think St James' church will be a good choice for a central location with plenty of area parking. I'll be bringing this up at the annual meeting, but please be sure to email me if you have any ideas or concerns. See you at Chapley's on November 17th!

Annual Holiday Party to Cap Off Successful Year of Events

Please pencil us in on your calendar, and join us to toast the season! We plan to meet on **Sunday, December 4th, from 4:30 – 7:30** in the afternoon. Our hosts this year are Eric and Jeanne Greene, and their home is located at **40 Church St in Greenfield**. Those of you who worked or went on this year's Garden Tour will know this house as stop number 1! Parking is available on all area side streets. The club will provide wine, cider and punch, and guests are asked to bring a savory or sweet item to share with the group. Those who would like to bring their favorite beverage are welcome to do so. We will also run our Yankee Swap. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift in the \$15 range. Rules will be agreed upon before starting. This annual event is always a barrel of fun!

Looking Back: 1996

Janice McGuane – President
Priscilla Collins – Vice President
Fran Bourassa – Treasurer
Muriel Robbins – Corresponding Secretary
Nelda Smith & Linda Tyler – Recording Secretaries

Annual Meeting & Dinner held at Famous Bill's Restaurant with speaker Peter Flynn from Baystate Perennials. "An Eclectic Selection of Perennials."

Topics that also came up in 1996: Explore changing the name to better reflect the club; establish a grant in the amount of \$250 for a local teacher; the Winter Carnival was dropped as a fundraiser.

Field Trips: Boston Flower Show; Smith Flower Show; Keene Bulb Show; Garden in the Woods; Tower Hill; Berkshire Flower Farm.

Guest Speakers: Deborah Wheeler – Fox Brook Iris Garden, Colrain; Steve Malsch – Demo on Flower Arranging; Nina Newington – The Secret Gardener, a lecture on old fashioned roses.

Community Activities: Bowl for Kids' Sake; Trap Plain gardens; 4th Annual Garden Tour; Franklin County Fair float and Roundhouse display (Both won 1st prizes); Community Meal; the very first Extravaganza!!; Adopt-a-Barrel Contest and Holiday Greens; Poets Seat Tower clean-up; The Valley Gardener; GGC Harvest Fair; Classic Day; Garden planting at Nelcworth/Teen Ctr/ Elem. Schools.

Workshops: Fall wreathes, Centerpieces
Many parties and Potlucks (!)
In Memorium for Ken Doerpholz, June 1996

Officers 2016:

President:

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greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Dolly Gagnon 774-4031
Dolly.gagnon75@gmail.com

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

Field Trip!!!

Put **Saturday, June 24th** on your calendar now! We are sponsoring a bus trip to the **New York Botanical Gardens**, where **Dale Chihuly** is having his first major glass installation in 10 years. The dramatic vistas of the NYBG will be a showcase for Chihuly's dramatic works of art with their organic shapes in brilliant colors. New hand-blown glass sculptures created specifically for NYBG will complement the of the garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, itself considered a work of glass art. Other sites for the artist's creations throughout the 250 acre landscape include the Conservatory Courtyard pools, the Lillian and Amy Goldman Fountain of Life, the Leon Levy Visitor Center, the Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum, and the native Plant Garden. These one-of-a-kind installations will highlight the connections of artwork to the natural world. For more details on the gardens and the exhibit, and to see photos from the 2006 collaboration, please visit the NYBG's website:

<http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2017/chihuly.php>.

There are only 56 places on the bus. Please RSVP with a check for \$74 (made out to Greenfield Garden Club) to our treasurer (see box at right). If we fill the bus, you will be refunded \$5. If we do not meet a certain number of participants for this price, the club will make up the difference. Please reserve ASAP as we will open this event to the public early in 2017.



Ellen Ecker Ogden:

Cook, Gardener & Author



We are working on a date in late April to welcome Ellen, who is from Manchester, VT, to our neck of the woods with a combined lecture and workshop. We are hoping to hold it in the St James' Parish Hall in Greenfield, with its large airy hall and readily available parking. This will be a ticketed fundraiser for the club.

Ellen is a cookbook author and co-founder of The Cook's Garden seed catalogue. Her presentation: "The Art of Growing Food" is based on her most recent book, The Complete Kitchen Garden, featuring themed garden designs with recipes, for cooks who love to garden. Read more about her at: www.ellenogden.com

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of November 2, 2016\$6,577.28

Income\$0.16

Interest

Expenses \$15.91

Newsletter

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.