



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

September 2015

Vol. 23, No. 8

Monet's Giverny comes to Greenfield!

September has arrived and with it the start of school and the 167th Franklin County Fair, September 10–13. We will be getting our creative juices flowing with our annual entry at the Round House. This year, we will be creating a mini-version of Giverny – Claude Monet's gardens – complete with unfinished canvas. We will be building our scene around a water feature graciously loaned to us, along with plant material, from Stacey Chapley.

Besides needing more plants – think purples to pinks for our color scheme, we need: moss, thyme, a small artist's easel (we have a table top version, but are looking for a free-standing one), garden decorations, painter's palette, paints, and brushes. If you have something that might look great – a smock, a straw hat, a walking cane, some other unusual prop – please bring them along. It's great to have a choice of items to draw from even though we are not able to use everything. Please label any donations with your name so they can be returned to you safely after the fair draws to a close.



For those able to work to create this masterpiece, hours are Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 6–9 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 3–9 p.m. Dismantling and clean-up will be Monday, Sept. 14 from 4–7 p.m., although we are a speedy crew and usually finish early! And please come and view the finished work and all the other fabulous Round House entries when you visit the Fair. See you there!

Should we move our showcase gardens to Energy Park?

The Garden Club is considering an invitation to move our alliance from Trap Plain to downtown Greenfield's Energy Park. We have been invited by Greening Greenfield to two tidy-up sessions at the Energy Park on Sunday afternoons in September and October. This will be a great time to get to know the park better, as well as meeting members of Greening Greenfield.

Dates and times coming soon. Suggested tools to bring are gloves and a rake. Come and discover what makes the Energy Park a good place for town-wide events and possibly a better showcase for the Greenfield Garden Club.

Learn to ferment foods for health and zing on Sept. 17

Once you have recovered from the sticky treats at the Franklin County Fair, make time to come to our September meeting to learn about tummy-friendly fermented foods!

Our meeting will be a nutrition and cooking class on Thursday, Sept. 17, starting at 6 p.m. in the kitchen at 119 Main Street, Greenfield, MA.

Our guide for the evening will be Angela Roell. From her, we'll learn the benefits of incorporating lacto-fermented foods into our diets. For example, good gut bacteria can help improve digestion, boost immunity, and even help keep you lean. You may already be eating fermented foods: sauerkraut, tempeh, miso,

yogurt, kefir, kombucha, and kimchi.

The main goal of this workshop is for us to learn step-by-step how to make a simple sauerkraut/kimchi at home. Participants will leave this workshop with the confidence to continue to explore lacto-fermented foods and a trouble-shooting hand-out for experimenting at home.

Angela Roell is a food preservation enthusiast and beekeeper who resides in Franklin County. She is co-owner of Yard Birds Farm in Montague, where she manages all elements of food preservation for the farmstead, tends bees, and is currently experimenting with foods preserved in honey.

President's Report

Books, apples, garlic: It must be autumn!

From Laura Schlaikjer

Cooler weather is not quite here yet, and I guess I am ambivalent about that! It's nice to have a warm spell to extend summer a bit longer. Only the calendar tells us it's just about Fall – kids are back to school with new clothes and binders and pencils. Hard to believe my son is already a senior at Pioneer! Pumpkins, spiny gourds, flowering kale, and mums decorate all the local supermarket sidewalks.

If you hadn't noticed, there's been a bumper crop of apples this year. I see so many on local trees that I think it will be a great year for cider. I'm hoping that Shoestring Farm in Colrain will get out their cider press and invite folks to come up and press their apples (hint, hint!). The 21st annual Cider Days are coming up on November 7 & 8 this year, and I understand that tickets are already on sale: <http://www.ciderdays.org/>. I would definitely

mark your calendars now for this two-day event, and buy tickets early for the cider salons and Locavore Harvest Supper as they always sell out. Always. They have many free workshops, cooking demonstrations, and other family-friendly events, too, so make sure you check out their website for all the details!

Also don't forget the 17th Annual Garlic and Arts Festival taking place on September 26 & 27 in Orange, MA. \$5 per adult for one day, or \$8 for both days. 10AM – 5PM, rain or shine. There will be over 100 booths this year featuring regional artists, farmers, and community organizations. There will as always be music, dance, demos, and garlic games. Need I mention the food vendors? Find out more information here: <http://garlicandarts.org/>.

See you at one of these events, and hopefully at the Fair starting September 10th!

Gather ye rosebuds (& seed pods, driftwood, etc.) while ye may



Our Club will hold its annual wreath-making night on Thursday, Nov. 19. Now is a good time to think about collecting materials to decorate your wreath: seed pods, nuts, cones, interesting branches and roots. Gather extra to share with others if you can.

You might try drying flowers. Gardeners have had success with amaranth, artemisia, astilbe, celosia, coneflower, gomphrena, herbs, hydrangea, lavender, lunaria, rose buds, salvia, sea holly, statice, strawflower, and yarrow. Experiment with what's still blooming in your garden.

Drying flowers is easy. The main challenge is mold. Cut flowers on a dry day. Strip leaves from stems. Bunch several stems together with twist-tie or rubber band, and hang upside-down in a dry, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight.

A quick-dry method is to place the flowers in the trunk of your car parked in the sun for a day or two, until the petals are crisp.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are the third Thursday of each month.

Franklin County Fair: Set-up Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 6–9 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 3–9 p.m. Clean-up will be Monday, Sept. 14 beginning at 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. **Food Fermentation Workshop** with Angela Roell.

Tuesday, Sept 22, 6:00 p.m. Steering Committee meeting, Jean Wall's home, 40 High St., Greenfield

Sunday, Sept. 20, time TBA, Greenfield Energy Park clean-up

Wednesday, Sept. 23, Autumnal equinox

Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:00 p.m. Club's craft night: Decoupage glass plates with fabric. Greenfield.

► **THINK 2016!** We're beginning to set the schedule for next year's monthly meetings. What are your ideas for gardens to visit, topics for education programs, and craft projects? Send your suggestions to greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Officers 2015

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Garden chores for September

Prepare for the long winter months when you'll want to dream about next season's garden. Take garden notes and photographs now: What worked well this year? What problem areas do you want to fix?

Annuals, Perennials, and Bulbs

After soil temperatures drop below 60 degrees, plant spring-flowering bulbs: daffodils, hyacinths, Siberian squill, dwarf iris, anemone and crocus. (Wait until October to plant tulips.) Add bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole. If moles and voles like to snack on your bulbs, consider making a wire mesh cage to plant them in: <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/news/2013/planting-and-protecting-fall-bulbs>

Dig and divide crowded perennials. Move to a new area of your garden. Or pot them up, sink them in a bed to overwinter, and then pull them out, already potted, for the Extravaganza in spring!

Add color with pansies, ornamental kale and cabbage and fall-blooming chrysanthemums.

After first frost, tender bulbs like dahlias should be dug up, carefully brushed off, and stored in a cool, dark area.

Vegetable Gardens

Once the tops of onions have withered, lift the bulbs and dry them in a warm, sunny location for about 10 days, then store in a cool, dark, dry place.

Some root crops, such as carrots and parsnips, can be left in the ground and dug up as needed. Apply enough mulch to keep the ground from freezing.

After you have finished harvesting your summer vegetables, seed cover crops to dig under next spring. These nitrogen-producing plants will provide good organic matter for your garden next spring and help to control erosion over the winter. UMass offers this advice on choosing cover crops: <https://nevegetable.org/cultural-practices/cover-crops-and-green-manures>

Lawn

Fall is the most important time to feed your lawn. Summer's hot, dry days stressed the grass, which now needs an extra boost to grow strong roots for the winter. Mow with blades set on highest position to allow lush growth to support those roots. Lawn perfectionists can re-seed bare patches and rake out thatch.

Caring for your House Plants

Bring in houseplants before the nights get too cool. Inspect for aphids, daddy long-legs, mealy-bugs, scale and other unwanted hitchhikers. Remove damaged areas, and prune to shape. Re-pot only if they have outgrown their current pots, as growth slows down this time of year. <http://www.greatbiggreenhouse.com/expert-advice/gardening-tips-and-information/indoor-plant-info/house-plant-care--bringing-plants-in-for-the-fall.aspx>

[With my eyes closed] what can I tell of my garden and of this nurturing valley by inhaling their richness on the moist morning air? Which plants can I smell? What soil? What creatures? What can I hear? Listen . . . First I hear birds in the trees, ducks foraging nearby, distant noise of traffic. I listen closer. I hear a bug munching a plant about a foot above the ground and eight feet away. Later I will go and look to see who is chewing so noisily. I hear a slight rustle under the mulch – a mouse probably, I think. . . . Opening my eyes, looking around at the lush new greenness of the garden framed by blue sky and deep green mountains, I know I belong to this place. We – gardener and garden – we belong together. We are meant for each other. We need each other. We are most fully ourselves only with each other. I belong here, here in this place, here in this time, here in this garden, here in this right fertile valley in this magnificent bountiful gentle generous land.

– Carol Deppe
The Resilient Gardener

Chocolate Zucchini Cake

Submitted by Linda Tyler

2 ½ c. flour	¾ c. butter	3 c. grated zucchini
½ c. cocoa	2 c. sugar	1 Tbsp. Grated orange zest (optional)
2 ½ tsp. baking powder	3 eggs	
1 ½ tsp. baking soda	½ c. milk	
1 tsp. cinnamon	2 tsp. vanilla	

Oven: 350°. Mix together flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda, and cinnamon. In a separate bowl cream butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add eggs, milk, and vanilla. Stir in dry ingredients until combined. Fold in zucchini. Pour into greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes. Allow to cool in pan for 15 minutes before removing.

This cake is very moist so frosting or glaze is optional.

Optional Glaze

1 ¼ c. sifted confectionary sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, ¼ scant c. orange juice
Mix sugar and vanilla. Slowly add juice until to a drizzle consistency.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of Aug. 30, 2015 \$5,754.74

Income (August) \$ 73.14

Dues, Interest, Programs

Expenses (August) \$ 134.56

Newsletter, Programs, Community Dinner

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 priced 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.