



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Winter 2018

Vol. 26, No. 8

The Annual Holiday Party is a Fan Favorite!



Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 7th

6:00 – 8:00 PM

40 High Street, Greenfield, MA

You are cordially invited to the annual Holiday Party at the home of Jean Wall. It is sure to be a fun, festive evening. There is even time to attend the Greenfield Holiday Pop-Up Market at the Pushkin first (starts at 4 pm). Please bring a dish to share – we are making this more of a pot-luck/supper than just hors d'oeuvres since it's the dinner hour. There will be beverages of all sorts provided. This will also be the scene of our annual Yankee Swap. We have so much fun with this event! Everyone who would like to participate should bring a wrapped gift in the \$15 to \$20 range. Feel free to wear a holiday sweater or bling! See you Friday!

Winter President's Report 2018

Hello readers! I wanted to get off a November Newsletter, but have to settle for a Winter Edition! We had a great time at Stacey Chapley's for our annual wreath-making – as evidenced by the one to the right. This is such a wonderful event. We appreciate all the prep work that goes into it, and I thank everyone for supporting it. Next up – this Friday! – is the Annual Holiday Party. Please carve out time to join us, even if you can't be there at the start. We would love to see you and start the holiday season off to a great start. Feel free to wear your favorite holiday sweater!. The Annual Meeting is just around the corner – please see Marsha's article. We need everyone's input if we are going to continue as a club beyond this year. I hope you and your families have a wonderful and peaceful holiday season. See you at the party! -- Laura S.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm - Holiday Party with Potluck and Yankee Swap, 40 High St, Greenfield

Wednesday, January 2, 2019, 5pm - Steering committee meeting, 41 Meadow Ln, Greenfield

Sunday, January 20, 2019, 1 pm – Annual Meeting, French King

ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 20TH – 1:00 pm

(Snow date = January 27th)

French King Restaurant

Gill, MA

Please join us on Sunday, January 20th as we celebrate the beginning of our 28th year together! It is very important to have as many members as possible in attendance, as the major topic of discussion will be the future of our Club. We will have a nice meal but no speaker, as we have much to discuss. Do members want us to continue and flourish? Will some members step up to join the Steering Committee and help guide the club with future programs, field trips, speakers, fundraising, etc.?

Please come with your thoughts, hopes, and a willingness to volunteer on some level, if it's possible, to ensure that we can continue as a healthy club. It could be a short term project that you have an interest in, or it could be joining a committee to help guide us into future.

The Steering Committee has been hard at work going over the by-laws and working to make them more applicable to where the club is at this point in time. Much has changed since they were first drafted. We are going to post a copy on the website. Please take a moment to read them, so that when we go to discuss them and make changes at the annual meeting, you will have already given them some thought.

We look forward to being together Sunday, January 20th in the intimate dining area of the French King Restaurant. Please look for your invitation in the mail at the end of the year, and be sure to return it swiftly so we can plan the menu and the discussions.

-- Marsha Stone & The Steering Committee

November

- *Clyde Watson*

November comes

And November goes,

With the last red berries

And the first white snows.

With night coming early,

And dawn coming late,

And ice in the bucket

And frost by the gate.

The fires burn

And the kettles sing,

And earth sinks to rest

Until next spring.

Officers 2018:

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

Pickling your Paperwhites!

Paperwhites (*Narcissus tazetta*) are popular indoor plants for winter. Unlike other narcissus, paperwhites don't require a [chilling period](#), so [forcing them](#) is as easy as putting the bulbs in water and waiting. The fragrant flowers bloom within about 2-3 weeks of planting, for almost instant gratification.

A problem with paperwhites, as with many [bulbs planted in pots](#), is that they grow quite tall and all of their weight is at the top. Researchers in the Flowerbulb Research Program at Cornell University have come up with an unusual solution to this top heavy problem: Alcohol. When paperwhite bulbs are grown in a dilute solution of alcohol, the plants reach a height of 1/3 to 1/2 their normally expected growth - but the flowers remain normal size and last just as long. The resulting water stress on the plants is just enough to stunt their growth, but not interfere otherwise.

How to Stunt Your Paperwhites with Alcohol

[Pot your paperwhites](#) in stones and water, as you normally would. Once the roots begin growing and the green shoot on top reaches about 1-2 inches, pour off the existing water. Replace the water with a solution of 4 - 6% alcohol, as described below. You should see results in a few days. Continue to use the alcohol solution for future watering. The alcohol content needs to be less than 10%, or your plants will overdose and severe growth problems will occur. Check the bottle for the percentage alcohol. Many liquors are only labeled as "proof", not percentage of alcohol. Don't confuse the two. To determine what percentage alcohol you have, divide the proof in half. 86 proof bourbon is 43% alcohol. You can use any hard liquor (vodka, tequila, whiskey...) or rubbing alcohol. Don't use wine or beer because they are too high in sugar. You will have to do some math to get the different concentrations of alcohol down to 4-6%. To convert your booze to 5% alcohol, just divide the percentage alcohol by 5 and then subtract 1. That will tell you how many parts water to mix with your 1 part alcohol. Ex: 40 divided by 5 = 8: 8 minus 1 = 7... 7 parts water to 1 part alcohol.

A Fond Memory of our Field Trip to Mt. Auburn Cemetery this past October.



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of November 30, 2018 \$5,314.27
Income\$0.14
Interest
Expenses \$132.35
Memorial trees, postage, 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

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)
269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden related

Silver Garden Daylilies – 23 Picket Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

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

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.