



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2023

Vol. 31, No. 5

Naumkeag Blooms and Extravaganza Booms

Sunday, May 7 Day Trip to Naumkeag

A group of members have made plans to spend this day in the Berkshires, viewing the lovely blooms planted all over the 8 acres of the Naumkeag estate in Stockbridge, MA, lunching on a picnic blanket weather permitting, and possibly viewing Berkshire Botanical in the afternoon, which is free on its opening day. This is always a lovely trip, and even though May 7th is currently sold out for Naumkeag, there are plenty of other days with ticket availability to choose from. The Stevens-Coolidge House also has a bulb show, and tickets for both locations can be found on the [Trustees website](#).

May 27 – 27th Annual Extravaganza

Our plant sale returns this year with fanfare! In addition to plants from members' gardens, we will have a drawing, a bake sale, and a garden-themed tag sale. We have also roughly 10 vendors who will be setting up their tents for the sale. The Western MA Master Gardeners will be on site with their pH soil testing for a \$2 donation. Please look for the emails that describe the ways that you can participate to help make this the best Extravaganza ever! If we want a robust Grant Program, we need a robust fundraising program. More information is included in this newsletter. Please come to the sale too!

May President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Welcome to the Merrie Month of May! The weather is hot/cold, dry/rainy. I hope your bulbs did not bloom and wither in a single day! We have 2 events this month, the trip to Naumkeag and our major fundraiser, the Extravaganza. We hope that you can support the latter in any way you can, including shopping there to support our vendors. We need to raise money so we can give it back to the community, such as through our new grant program. Color copies of the flyer are now available on Linda Tyler's front porch (23 Hastings St) for pick-up. Please post in as many places as possible! We have a new perk of GGC membership! (See pg 8.) The Club has a year-long membership to [The Garden Conservancy](#)! Enjoy 50% off all Open Garden Day tix and other member pricing. Explore the site now! An email will be sent to members describing membership. See you at our May events! ~ Laura



John Rough works on Bonsai tree at our April 20th Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30, Sunday, 3-5pm – Bonsai Hands-On Workshop

May 3, 5:15pm – Steering Committee meeting

May 6, 8:30 – 11:30 – tree planting in Greenfield

May 7 – all day – trip to Naumkeag and Berkshire Botanical

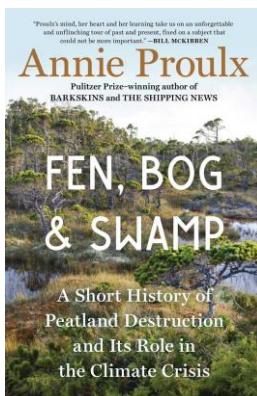
May 26, 4-6pm - drop off plants, baked goods and tag sale items

May 27, 8:30am – 12:30pm - **EXTRAVAGANZA!**

I love Spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden ~ Ruth Stout



May 11, 12, and 13 are the feast days of Saints Mamertus, Pancras, and Gervais (Servatius). These three are known as the **Three Chilly Saints** not because they were cold during their lifetimes, but because these days are traditionally the coldest of the month. English and French folklore (and later American) held that these days would bring a late frost. In Germany, they were called the Icemaner, or Icemen Days, and people believed it was never safe to plant until the Icemen were gone. Another bit of folklore claimed, “Who shears his sheep before St. Gervatius’s Day loves more his wool than his sheep.” (Old Farmers Almanac)



FEN, BOG, and SWAMP: Greenfield Public Library’s bi-monthly virtual book discussion, **Thursday, May 11th at 7pm**, will take a deep dive into the history of our wetlands and what their systematic destruction means for the planet. Books are available at the library in all formats. Register and receive the zoom link, email librarian@greenfieldpubliclibrary.org

Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden**

Chores on her website:

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

Give the gift of Membership!

Becky George, our Club Treasurer, will be happy to accept your membership check for 2023. Individuals are \$20 and families are \$25. Becky's address is 61 Madison Cir, Greenfield, MA 01301. We thank you in advance for your continued support. Remember that memberships make a nice gift!

(Please contact the club if your annual member card has not arrived in the mail.)



Officers 2023:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website:

Laura Schlaikjer

Vice President:

Marsha Stone

Treasurer:

Becky George

Recording Secretary:

Pamela McBride

Corresponding Secretary:

Eva Carrier

At Large Member/s: Nicki Shipman; maybe YOU?!



OPEN GARDENS ~ SATURDAY, JUNE 3 ~ 10 - 4

The gardens of **Margaret Roach** (above right in Copake Lake, NY) along with those of **Peter Bevacqua and Stephen King** (above left in Claverack, NY) are open to the public on June 3rd. Tickets (\$11.24 per person per garden including fees) are on sale in 3, 2-hour blocks: 10-12, 12-2, and 2-4. [Broken Arrow Nursery](#) will be at Margaret's selling plants, and gently used gardening and cookbooks will be for sale at Peter's garden. You can order nursery plants ahead and they will bring your order with them. Visit [Margaret's site](#) to get ticket links and learn about the many workshops also on offer both Saturday and Sunday. (See below.)

THE WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE WEEKEND ~ JUNE 3-4, 2023

Over 20 events are on offer the weekend of June 3-4 in the rolling hills of the aptly named Hillside, NY, where the Hudson Valley meets the Berkshires. It's barely over two hours from Greenfield by car. Stay overnight in the area! In addition to the two garden tours described above, many other workshops are available. Some of the topics: Understanding Soils, Geologic History Walk on Taconic Ridge, Herb-Infused Cooking with David Wurth, Intro to Punch Needle Rug Hooking, Flower arranging with Peonies and June Blooms, Master Composting, Make a Desert Terrarium, Houseplant Care and Propagation, Coopering: The Process and Cultural Heritage of an Ancient Trade, Chinese Dumpling and Armenian Street Food Cooking workshops, An Intro to Tapestry Weaving and Learn to Knit workshops, Tiny Hearts Farm Tour and Summer Flower Crowns. There's sure to be a workshop for everyone! You can find full descriptions at this [link](#). Click [here](#) to learn about the HWA sponsors.



Side benefits of mowing less, year-round

Save water while increasing drought tolerance: taller grass tends to have deeper roots and less water evaporates from the soil.

Reduce air and noise pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment

Better conditions for other invertebrates like lacewings and fireflies. They prefer longer grass.

Lawns cover 40 million acres, or 2%, of land in the US, making them the [single largest irrigated crop we grow](#). Lawns are mowed, raked, fertilized, weeded, chemically treated, and watered—sucking up time, money, and other resources. Lawns provide little benefit to wildlife, and are often harmful. Grass-only lawns lack floral resources and nesting sites for bees and are often treated with pesticides that harm bees and other invertebrates. When we think of habitat loss, we tend to imagine bulldozers and rutted dirt, but acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site. Re-thinking the American lawn can take a variety of forms from reducing mowing frequency or area mown to permanently converting lawn to a more diverse and natural landscape.

Why mow less in the spring? The start of the growing season is a critical time for hungry, newly emerged native bees. Floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing it to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, your lawn can provide nectar and pollen to help your bee neighbors thrive. Mowing less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife including bees and other pollinators. One way to reduce mowing is by participating in No Mow April, No Mow May, or Low Mow Spring.

Bees need more than long grass. Mowing less is one small step to help bees and it isn't enough to save the bees. The best way we can protect the over 3,600 species of bees in the US is to:

1. Plant a variety of native plants that bloom consistently throughout the growing season,
2. Provide natural nesting sites: 70% of bees are ground nesting, 90% are solitary nesting,
3. Reduce or eliminate pesticides use, and
4. Spread the word: Educate friends, neighbors, and elected officials about pollinator conservation.

Bees need more than weeds. Just allowing weeds to grow is better than no flowers, but the typical lawn weeds may not be the best for bees, or the best neighbors to other flowers. Dandelions, for example, have pollen that is low in protein (poor nutrition for bees) and is known to suppress other flowers. You can go beyond reduced mowing by changing your lawn to include more flowering species. A “bee lawn” may include white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and other low-growing flowering plants such as creeping thyme (*Thymus* spp.), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), and others. Some plants, such as native violets (*Viola* spp.), may already be present and should be encouraged as they are valuable host plants for fritillary butterflies. For more information about creating a flowering lawn please see the [resources at the end of this web page](#).

Put up a habitat sign to educate passersby. Get free downloadable signs in English and Spanish for No Mow May, No Mow April, and Low Mow Spring (at the bottom of this page), or you can receive a pollinator habitat sign as a thank you for your donation through the Xerces Society's [Gift Center](#). You can also make your own sign!

EXTRAVAGANZA

SAVE THE DATE!!!

THURSDAY, MAY 27TH ~ 8:30 – 12:30PM ~ RAIN OR SHINE

JOHN ZON COMMUNITY CENTER

35 PLEASANT ST, GREENFIELD, MA

We are returning this year with the club's annual Extravaganza, and true to its name, we are making it more than just a plant sale. We have the following groups lined up to attend, and it would be great if you could come to support them!

Western MA Master Gardeners – soil pH testing (\$2) and gardening Q&A

Black Jungle – exotic and unusual plants

Sue Carlson Vintage Fabrics – fiber artist using vintage fabrics

Karen's Krafty Corner – fiber artist using modern fabrics

Checkerspot Farm – native plants and native plant "concert" t-shirts

Martha Thompson – unusual perennials and annuals

Sarah Adam – paintings on tile

Iron Arts – forged metal decorations for the garden

Rise Above – famous Greenfield baked goods

Sweet Lucy's – Bernardston bakery (donating scones, muffins, brownies)

Ed Johnson – tasty Leyden Maple Syrup

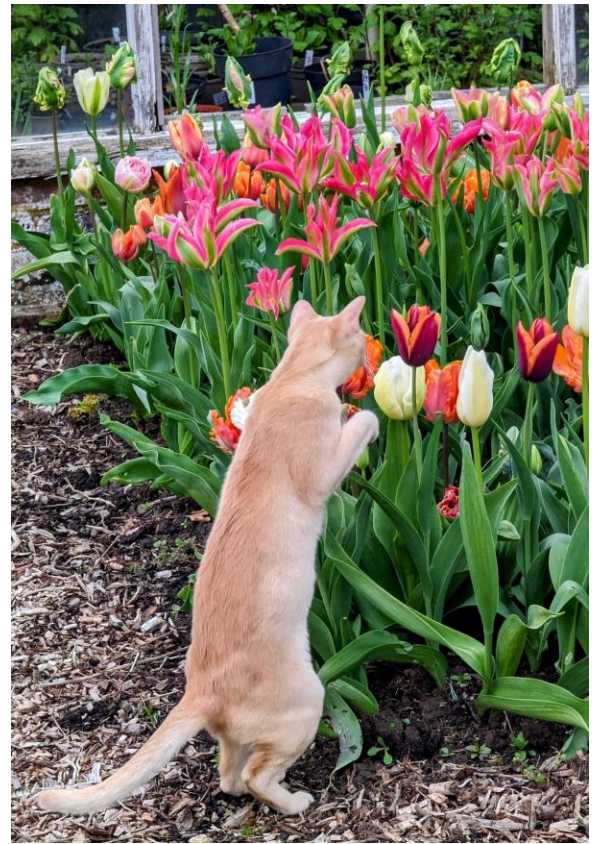
Nanette Rolstad – quilling artist (see photo above of her quilled flower magnets)



VOLUNTEERS: YOU!!! We need you to help in any way you can – Friday at drop-off 4-6pm, or Saturday (7am on) moving plants, tag sale items, and baked goods to the front, setting up tables, and helping the vendors. We need to know if you can bake for the sale. We will be selling coffee too. Will you be potting up plants to sell? Email the club for professional labels. Please send an email to the club letting us know when and how you can help. THANK YOU!!!



Meet Oscar, who should be the Greenfield Garden Club's new mascot! He is a Burmese cat, not quite a year old, who belongs to Laura's brother in England. He gets to enjoy the flowers much earlier than we do! He is very intelligent, inquisitive, and affectionate. I thought you would enjoy a page dedicated to this very photogenic cat. If you are ever in Kent, you should visit him!



**GREENFIELD GARDEN CLUB'S
27th Annual Plant Sale**

EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday May 27, 2023

8:30am – 12:30pm

**John Zon Community Center
35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield, MA**

Rain or Shine

Perennials, Herbs, Annuals, Shrubs, Trees



- Houseplants
- Dahlia, Canna, & Calla Bulbs
- Morning Coffee & Baked Goods
- Drawing & Tag Sale

**Plus: Special Plant & Craft Vendors*
Soil pH Tests 9-11 with Master
Gardeners \$2 (bring soil sample)**

**Black Jungle, Checkerspot Farm; Sue Carlson Vintage Fabric Designs; Rise Above Bakery;
Karen's Krafty Corner; Iron Arts, Sarah Adam, Martha Thompson & many more!*

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



REMEMBER to bring in your reusable bags!

Paper bags will cost 10¢
each starting April 30.

STOP & SHOP announces their plan to start charging for shopping bags. As part of their commitment to reduce waste, they will no longer provide free bags at check-out. Instead, they are encouraging folks to bring their own reusable bags into the store with them. Ten cents doesn't seem like much of a deterrent, but at least it's a start! Now let's see if we can get them to work on the excess packing in the rest of the store!

MAY RECIPE:

TOFFEE TURTLE SQUARES – good for the Extravaganza Bake Sale!!

Makes 4 dozen ~ from [Taste of Home](#)

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 cup plus 3 TBSP softened butter, divided
- 1½ cups coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 ½ cups semisweet chocolate chips

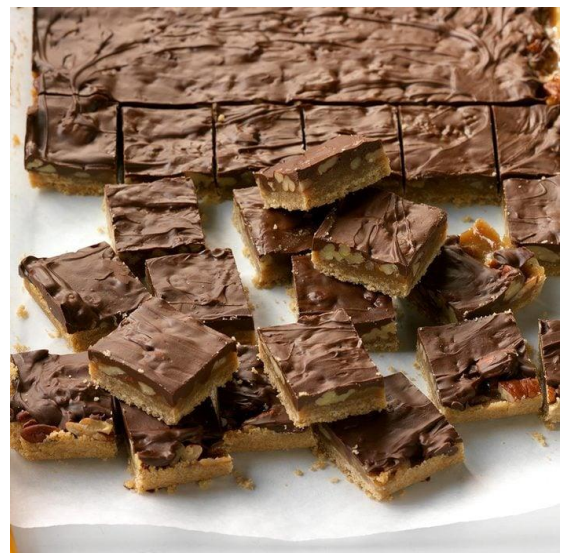
DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350F. Line a 13 x 9 baking pan with parchment, letting the ends extend up the sides.

Beat flour, 1 cup brown sugar, and ½ cup butter until well-blended (mixture will be dry and crumbly). Firmly press into prepared pan. Sprinkle pecans over the flour/sugar mixture.

In a small saucepan, combine remaining brown sugar and remaining butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Boil until sugar is dissolved, stirring constantly, about 1 minute. Carefully pour mixture over pecans. Bake until bubbly and edges start to brown, 15-20 minutes.

Remove from oven. Immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips. Let stand until chocolate begins to melt; spread evenly. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Lifting with parchment, remove from the pan. Cut into squares.



THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP

The club has purchased a Club Membership, which will give all members a great discount on programming as well as access to their members-only events, their newsletter, and a digital subscription to Better Homes and Gardens. Enjoy Open Garden Days (OGD), lectures, films and great gardening articles. There are 4 OGD in [Williamstown, MA](#) on July 15th – let's get a group together to go see them! Make sure you explore their website and look for the email re: membership.

[O'BRIEN NURSERY OPEN GARDEN DAYS MAY 2023](#)

May 5, 6 & 7 – Enticing [Epimediums](#) – Explore our Expanded Choices

May 12, 13 & 14 – Diverse, Dynamic, and Deliciously Fragrant [Daphnes](#)

May 19, 20 & 21 – Intriguing [Iris](#); Dwarf, German, Crested, Species

May 26, 27, 28 & 29 – [Dicentra](#) – more Bleeding Hearts than ever before.

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)

O'Brien Nursery - 40 Wells Rd - Granby, CT 06035 - 860-653-0163

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD TREE PLANTING



When: May 6, 2023 from 8:30 to 11:30

Where: Corner of Pierce and Davis Streets

Details: Greenfield Tree Committee members will lead the planting of twenty-plus trees (oak, honeylocust, redbud and more) in the neighborhood. Bring gloves & a shovel if you can. Many hands make light work.



Growing, planting and tending trees for human and environmental health

Stay up to date on our events:

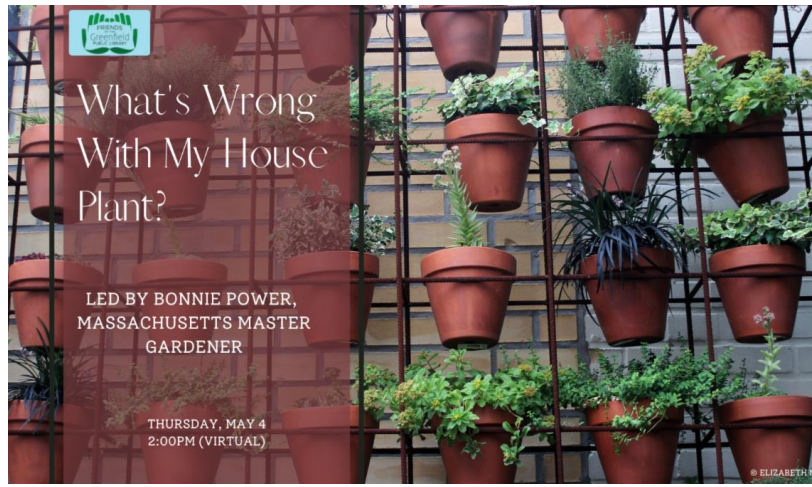


questions: greenfieldtreecommittee@yahoo.com
social: www.facebook.com/Greenfieldtree
web/sign up: www.greenfieldtreecommittee.org/contact

Thursday, May 18 at 2pm via Zoom



One sure sign of spring is the sound of singing frogs. Why do frogs sing, and how can we identify their calls? Frogs can be very sensitive to pollution and climate change and can be a strong indicator of how healthy an environment is. Learn the different frogs found in Massachusetts, as well as how to identify them by their calls. Wrap up with information on "Frog-watch," a community science project in which individuals can monitor populations by documenting their sounds. Led by Alex Dohan, Statewide Education Department Coordinator at Mass Audubon. Register [here](#). (It will be recorded.)



As with our outdoor gardens, many things can go wrong when you grow plants indoors. Learn the factors that make for happy houseplants, including light, water, and soil...and how to provide them. Common houseplant pests and diseases are also on the agenda, as well as how to treat them. Led by Bonnie Power, a Massachusetts Master Gardener since 2016 and a serious outdoor/indoor gardener most of her life. Curious and research-oriented by nature, she has many horticultural interests and areas of expertise. Bonnie holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Zoology, which informs her perspective on the management of garden insects; she is also an administrator for a "sick houseplant" group on Facebook. She spent the past year as manager of the MMGA Soil pH Testing team and while she has passed this on to a new manager, she continues as a member of the team. Bonnie also volunteers at Garden in the Woods, a Native Plant Trust botanical garden in Framingham, where she is a guide. She learned to grow vegetables as a child from her father, and flowers and houseplants from her mother. At home in Marlborough, Bonnie grows a variety of vegetables and ornamentals (with a bias for natives).

Sponsored by the Friends of the Tewksbury Library with support from the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library.

NOTE: This program will NOT be recorded.

Register [here](#) for this 2pm program on Thursday, May 4 that is shared by the Tewksbury Public Library.



**GARDENS ARE NOT MADE
BY SITTING IN THE SHADE**
Rudyard Kipling (1865 - 1936)



May flowers always line your path and
sunshine light your day. May songbirds
serenade you every step along the way.
Irish Blessing

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 15, 2023.....\$7,232.45
Income\$253.18
Interest \$0.18; \$250 membership; \$3 donation
Expenses \$0.00
No expenses this month
Balance as of April 16, 2023.....\$7,485.63

*All financial matters and membership dues should
be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 61 Madison Cir
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com*

**JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Monday, May 29th
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 with membership

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