



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 8

August 2012

President

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Recording Secretary

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Corresponding Secretary

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend any and all meetings!

Community Meal

Wednesday, August 8 4:30 p.m.
Serving 5:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 16 6:00
Floral Judging by Richard Willard
114 Main Street, Greenfield, MA
Please bring small arrangements or 5 stems for judging.

Trap Plain Work Bee

Tuesday, August 21 5:30p.m.
Rain Date August 22

*Program/ Steering Committee Meeting
Business will be handled via e-mail as
the committee takes the month off. If
you have any concerns or thoughts
please feel free to contact a member of
the Steering Committee.*

August Meeting

Ever wonder what makes the difference between a first place entry and a third? Well, at least in the floral department, Richard Willard can give us a few pointers. August's meeting is just in time for you to improve your chances at the fair this year. Richard Willard will be discussing flowers and judging of floral arrangements and flowers. Richard will talk about the flower arrangements and cut stems for the fair. He will give you helpful hints on how to win a ribbon. He will explain what makes the difference between a first place entry and an entry that does not place. Although a more subjective area, Richard will tell what the judge looks for in flower arrangements as well. Bring a small arrangement or cut flower stems and we can discuss about what the judge will look for. Cut flowers should all be the same variety and have 5 stems. Also, bring along your questions! The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 16 at 114 Main Street, Greenfield, MA at 6:00 p.m.

Richard Willard

Franklin County Fair Booth

The club will be installing our fair booth on Tuesday, September 6 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 7 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. We already have plans well under way for the booth. If you purchase any plants and are willing to hold off on planting them for a while or if you have any garden plants in pots that are in excellent condition that you can loan to the club for the booth please contact Linda Tyler.

President's Report

Isabel Field

The Garden Club has been busy this summer and hopefully you have taken part in some of the events provided for the membership. Recently a workshop on hyper tufa was offered and participants went home with some interesting planters to add to their gardens. Our next project is the community meal at the Second Congregational Church August 8th. Volunteers are always needed for this event for food donations, serving, flowers for the tables, and clean up. On August 16th Richard Willard will be conducting a workshop on flower arranging. This event will be at the 114 Main St. location. The club is also having a display at the round house this fall at the fair and volunteers are preparing for this. The flowerpots downtown are thriving. Please give feedback on the project and what your vision is for the future to continue to beautify downtown. Planning for 2013 has begun and the calendar is filled with workshops and events that are fun and educational. Hope to see you attend or participate in the club activities.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the September Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler davidptyler@comcast.net by Saturday, September 1, at 1:00pm.

Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

Balance as of June 30, 2012: (should be) \$5,116.70

Income: \$ 1,637.13

Interest as of 6/15: \$0.13

Expenses: \$556.19

Balance as of July 31, 2012 \$6,197.73

Income: Garden Tour tickets & drawing; In Memoriam; cash from hyper tufa event; re-pay cash set up for Tour.

Expenses: Trap Plain soil for barrels, plants to fill barrels downtown as no one came forward to help; hyper tufa materials, printing newsletter, Tour map/tickets; other tour supplies; cash set-up for Tour.

All financial matters, and Membership dues, should be directed to Laura Schlaikjer – 774-4594 or write to P.O. Box 309 Greenfield, Ma. 01302-0309

Things to Do August

Linda Tyler

August is upon us. It is always a bittersweet time for me. My garden is more of a June/July garden, so most of the flowers have gone by but the annuals and a couple of the perennials are still hanging on. The hibiscus plants are stunning, but the daylilies are a thing of the past. Meanwhile, the vegetable garden is in full swing. Although I have been enjoying the harvest of lettuce, garlic, beets, cukes and oh, don't forget the summer squash and zucchini, it is the tomatoes I look forward to the most. As of the first of the month I have only picked black cherry tomatoes, which are a first time plant for me. They are more the size of plum tomatoes and boy are they delicious. Not as prolific as say a Sweet 100, but oh so tasty!

* We begin the month with 14:27 of daylight and end the month with 13:10, a loss of 1:17 this month! Oh no... We all know what that means. ☹

*Some interesting contradictions. In my family we always were told that frost will arrive 6 weeks after you hear the first katydid. When I researched it on line I found many references to it being 90 days after the first katydid... Hum... Food for thought.

*The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts temperatures to average about 65.5° (11.5° below normal) and precipitation to be at 3.5" (2" below average). Let's hope they are wrong on that rain prediction. Conditions are very dry. The National Weather Service says rainfall is 3 to 6" below normal at this point in the year.

*There are two full moons this month! The first full moon arrives on August 1 and the second full moon, August 31. The second full moon within a month is referred to as a blue moon. Most years only have 12 moons, but because of the moon's cycle every 2 or 3 years 13 moons will occur within the year. That is

why rare occasions are referred to as once in a blue moon.

*The Full Sturgeon Moon arrives on August 1. Native American tribes headed to the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain during this full moon to catch the sturgeons which were readily available. For the farming tribes, the August moon was referred to as the Green Corn moon or the Grain Moon.

*August's birth flower is the gladiolus meaning sincerity and strength of character. During the Victorian era when protocol ruled gladiolus were used to send the hidden message that you had fallen in love at first sight. Sword lily and gladiola are alternate names for the gladiolus. Sword lily comes from the sword-shaped and one-sided spikes. They are native to South Africa and other tropical areas but are widely cultivated. When cutting gladiolus, leave 2 or 3 leaves so the bulb can obtain nourishment so it will flower next year.

*As plants stop producing in the veggie garden, remove the withering plants to reduce the spread of disease and influx of insects.

*My houseplants have enjoyed their summer vacation outdoors, but be sure to start moving them inside well before the first frost so they have time to acclimate before the heat is turned on.

*Now is a good time to transplant shrubs, add perennials or trees, but refrain from fertilizing them until the second year. Instead be sure to water daily to get them well established before winter sets in.

*Lawns can be reseeded now, but they will need daily attention to keep them well watered to ensure they prosper.

*Cut back flower stalks on perennials that have finished blooming

*Now that your beds are no longer in bloom, visit local nurseries to see what plants thrive at this time and add some color to your garden.

*Daily harvesting is probably a must in your veggie garden now. Pick cukes, tomatoes, squash, eggplant, and peppers are soon as they are ripe to encourage more production and guarantee the best flavor. If potatoes are peeking out of the soil be sure to cover them back up to prevent them from turning green. The green portion contains the nerve toxin solanine. You would have to eat 4 ½ pounds of green potatoes to experience the severe side effects of vomiting, diarrhea, headaches and even paralysis. The bitter toxin substance is part of the potatoes defense against insects, disease and predators. Dig up your potatoes when the vine begins to dry out and leaves turn brown. Tomatoes should ripen on the vine whenever possible and never be refrigerated. If tomatoes fall from the

vine too early, ripen them in a brown paper bag with an apple. Be on the lookout for tomato hornworms. They can be devastating to your crop. If you find any destroy them in soapy water. Same for Japanese beetles. Keep a jar of soapy water handy for easy disposal.

*To maximize herb flavor cut and dry right before the flowers open.

*Check out local markets for fall-flowering bulbs.

Search catalogs for spring blooming bulbs and place your orders now.

Divide plants now to let new divisions get established before frost. Share or swap your divisions with your friends!

*It is time to plant the fall crops. Beans, beets, broccoli, carrots, Chinese cabbage, kale lettuce and peas can be put in at this time.

Keep the beds weeded. If weeds are not allowed to establish seeds there will be fewer weeds next year! ☺

Weeds will also compete for the nutrients and water so it is beneficial all around.

*Slide a thin board under melons to prevent decay and damage from wireworms.

Franklin County Fair

If you are planning on putting an entry into the Franklin County Fair this year, please be advised that you must pre-register by August 25, 2012. The Exhibitor's Handbook is available on line at <http://www.fcas.com/forms.html>. It not only contains the categories but the schedule and rules for all exhibits. It is available as a PDF download.

Donation

The club received a monetary donation in memory of Donna Ordway, "who loved flowers and passed away much too early in her life."

Trap Plain

Work bee at Trap Plain Tuesday, August 21, at 5:30 p.m. Rain date Wednesday, August 22, at 5:30 p.m. Richard has been working very hard at reducing the size of the bed to make it more manageable. Many hands make light work!

September Meeting

Elise Schlaikjer

Since the September meeting requires you to bring items with you here is a heads up of what to expect and have ready for September!

MAKING LIVING HERB WREATHS WITH ELISE ON SEPTEMBER 20, 6p.m. 528 LEYDEN ROAD, GREENFIELD

A delightful evening making "living" herb wreaths that have symbolic meaning, depending on what herbs you incorporate. Perfect gifts for a birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc. And, of course, yourself! However, living does not mean truly long

lasting, but with care they will live from a week until a month.

Please bring a metal ring about 12 inches across to use as your base. You will also need carpet thread. Not sewing, but carpet, preferably brown or green. A pair of snippers to trim your plants. Then you will need to bring cuttings from your herbs (about 3" long) or get some from the grocery store to fill in your repertoire. Not just one of two individual cuttings. Please bring more as it is amazing how many you will use. You will also need cuttings of boxwood or similar greenery to provide the base for your herbs. Pine could also be used or anything you have an abundance of. I will provide the sphagnum that we will also need to use. Bringing a plate to put your finished handiwork on would also be good.

So....just so you can have a check list to go by, please bring: One 12inch ring, snippers, carpet tread (it is much stronger then sewing thread), and lots of cuttings. I am looking forward to seeing you.....and please ask the Universe to be clear and cool.....

Program Committee

Linda Tyler

The Program Committee met and began making plans for next year. They are looking at ways to make the club more viable and not have so much of a burden on a few faithful volunteers. We have a large and active club, but there are only a few that step forward to volunteer to get things done. Plans are underway to have less but more educational meetings. Months that have an event such as the tour or the Extravaganza will not have additional meetings. Refreshments will no longer be provided at meetings. Trap Plain is getting trimmed down in size so that it will be easier to maintain. The downtown barrels are getting totally handed over to the town. Things the committee felt were important to retain were the newsletter with the on-line access and the youth grants. It is our hope to keep the tour and the Extravaganza as our fundraisers so that we can continue the grants. Plans are underway for the Annual meeting and we are looking at speakers. If you have any thoughts on the future of the club, please step forward and attend the next Steering /Program Committee meeting. There will be no meeting in September, but look to the September newsletter to find the date of the next meeting. This is your club and in order for it to continue there has to be support from the membership.

Nominating Committee

We will need a third member for the Nominating Committee. This is a three year position so that every year we have a veteran member, a second year member and a novice. Contact a member of the Steering Committee if you are interested.



Greenfield Garden Club
682 Brattleboro Rd.
Bernardston, MA 01337



The following vendors have agreed to provide the listed discounts for members who show their membership card when making a purchase. We really appreciate their support.

Please respect their offers by remembering these generous discounts are for our club members only when your card is presented.

- Annie's Garden Store** 515 Sunderland Road, Amherst. 10% off regular priced plants.
 - Backyard Birds** Strong Ave. Northampton 10% off regularly priced items except thistle birdseed
 - Baystate Perennial** Route 5/10 Whately 10% off regular priced plants
 - Chapley Gardens** 397 Greenfield Road – RT 5/10 Deerfield 10% off regular priced plants and pond supplies
 - Fairview Gardens** 8 Main St. Northfield 10% off everything except cut flowers
 - Five Acre Farms** 110 Hinsdale Rd., Northfield 10% off regular priced plants
 - Glenbrook Gardens** 54 Glenbrook Drive Greenfield 10% off regular priced plants and products
 - Greenfield Farmers Cooperative (Agway)** High Street Greenfield 10% anything garden related
 - LaSalle Florists** Rte. 5/10 Whately 10% off regular priced plants
 - O'Brien Nurserymen**, 40 Wells Road, Granby, CT 10% off plants
 - Silver Gardens** 23 Picket Lane, Greenfield – 10% off daylilies
 - Warm Colors Apiary** 2 South Mill River Road South Deerfield – 10% off
 - Wilder Hill Gardens** 351 So. Shirkshire Rd., Conway, 10% off plants and consultations
 - Yukl's French King** Highway, millers Falls, 10% off plants
- Any vendors that are interested in offering our gardeners a discount please contact Jan McGuane at 522-2478 or email JanMcGuane@yahoo.com.