



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 8

August 2013

President
Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594
depalma_3@yahoo.com
Vice President
Dolly Gagnon
dgagnon@recorder.com
Treasurer
Jean Wall 773-9069
jeanwall1@verizon.net
Recording Secretary
Jeanne Canteen
jeanne@trowbridgegroup.com
Corresponding Secretary
Isabel Field 219-8607
isabelfield@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Hyper tufa Workshop
Tuesday, August 13 5:30
Home of Isabel Field Old Albany
Road, Greenfield
Hot Dogs on the grill. Please bring a dish to share.

Community Meal
Wednesday, August 14 4:30
2nd Congo Church, Greenfield
(4:30 to prepare, 5:30 to serve)

Monthly Meeting
Thursday, August 15 6:00
Garden tour at the home of Pam and Penny Smith
300 North Main Street, Orange, MA
Car Pool will leave Cherry Rum Plaza promptly at 5:30

Trap Plain Work Bee
Monday, August 19 5:30p.m.
Rain Date Tuesday, August 20

August Meeting

Laura Schlaikjer

Thursday, August 15th, 6pm. Carpool to leave Cherry Rum at 5:15pm. Tour of the wonderful gardens of Pam and Pennie Smith in Orange, MA. Their 3 acre property has a total of 13 gardens: 5 perennial gardens, a bulb garden, a grass garden, 3 annual gardens, and 3 cutting gardens. One of the annual gardens is a large horseshoe shape with a stone wall and stone path built by their mother after a hand-dug swimming pool was filled in. They have maintained it as primarily an annual garden the way their mother did. They also have another piece of property on a lake a bit further to the north that we can visit if there is time and daylight! It has 2 large perennial gardens, a fairy garden, two annual gardens, and a water garden with water falls. Pam and Pennie are both looking forward to seeing us!

Directions: From Greenfield take route two east to exit 14 (West River St); at the 4 way intersection with traffic lights take a left, and continue straight to the center of town; go straight through the traffic lights at the center of town and you'll be on North Main Street. Look for 300 North Main Street - a white cape cod on the right hand side. The house number is on the fence in a garden to the left of the driveway. There will be a blue Subaru wagon and a silver Toyota truck in the driveway.

President's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

The middle of August will be a very busy time for members and guests - there is really no rest for the weary! On the 13th, we're going to try our hand at hypertufa balls and share a cook-out together. On the 14th, it's all hands on deck for our Community Meal at the 2nd Congo church in the center of Greenfield. And lastly, on the 15th, we will be running over to Pam and Pennie Smith's many gardens in Orange. In between meetings, I hope you are working on your fairy house or potting up some ferns for the Fair booth. Please contact Linda Tyler to see what is needed. Did you take the club's Garden Tour in July? Despite the heat, we had another fantastic set of local gardens to show off - many with lovely shade from the hot sun. If you missed it, you can take a virtual tour on our Facebook page - don't forget to "Like" us while you are there! Many thanks go to our Tour committee for doing such a fantastic job. From securing gardens and drawing maps, to yummy refreshments and lovely drawing items, this group is to be commended. Please put the Tuesday, September 17th potluck meeting date onto your calendars. (Continued page 2)

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!

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We will be sketching out the program for 2014, so make sure your voice is heard! Please also mark January 19th down for our annual meeting. All information is on the club website. Happy harvesting from your vegetable gardens!

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of July 31, 2013: \$6,931.24

Income: \$1,100.16

Expenses: \$236.44

Income: Dues, interest, Garden Tour, programs

Expenses: Newsletter, postage, programs, Garden Tour

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Jean Wall at 773-9069 or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301

Steering Committee Meeting - July 31, 2013

Submitted by Jeanne Canteen

Many thanks to Donna Mollard for hosting our July meeting. The food was delicious and the weather couldn't have been better. All of the Steering Committee members were in attendance. The first item of business was this year's garden tour. All agreed it was a big success. Thank you to all those who shared their gardens with us. We sold 70 tickets and had 20 workers tour the gardens on Sunday. (The financial results are elsewhere in the Newsletter) Many thanks also to the members who contributed to the success of the event by weeding, helping during the tour, preparing food and donating raffle items. We are determined that next year's event will be even better and we've started the planning process. If you would like to volunteer your garden or know of a garden we should consider for next year, please let one of the Steering Committee members know.

One of our major efforts will be to grow the club's membership and encourage younger members to join. Part of this effort will be a 'rebranding' of the club. We are evaluating some new logo ideas - so look forward to a new look! One thing you can do is share this newsletter with your friends and also get the word out about our website. It is kept up to date better than in the past and has a bright, friendly look to it. We're also on Facebook with lots of new pictures of our activities and plans.

Come to Elise Schlaikjer's on Tuesday September 17th for a pot luck supper and a planning meeting for next year's programs.

Trap Plain

Linda Tyler

The compost heap at Trap Plain needs to be removed. We are looking for someone with a truck to help us out. If you can help with this issue, please contact

Linda Tyler at 413-522-1686 or e-mail

davidptyler@comcast.net

There will be a work bee at Trap Plain on Monday August 19 at 5:30. The rain date will be Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30. We will be focusing on weeding and edging the garden.

Franklin County Fair Booth

The club will be installing our fair booth on Tuesday, September 3 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 4 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. We already have plans well under way for the booth. A group gathered and began construction of fairy houses which are going to be tucked into a woodland scene. We are looking for people to pot up ferns or other woodland under growth to use in the booth. We could also use trays of moss and bags of pine needles interspersed with cones. If you have any questions regarding the booth, please contact Linda Tyler at davidptyler@comcast.net or 413-522-1686.

Things to do in the Garden

Dolly Gagnon

For many gardeners the month of August begins the downhill slide into off season. Your garden is hardier than you think and there are plenty of gardening tasks for August that will keep your flower/vegetable gardens going longer, as well as get a head start on next year's garden plans. Here's a Garden-To-Do List for the sultry month of August:

- *Seed fall crops: lettuce, scallions, broccoli, spinach, cauliflower, radishes, kale, turnips, Swiss chard, or peas, and keep harvesting. There's always something to make with zucchini.
- *Pick herbs for fresh use and for drying. Harvesting will keep them growing longer.
- *Order spring bulbs for planting and forcing.
- *Check that your mulch hasn't decomposed and add more as needed.
- *Spread a mid-season layer of compost or manure.
- *Keep deadheading and harvesting.
- *Leave some annual seeds to self-sow.
- *Start saving seeds and taking cuttings.
- *Remove any diseased foliage now so it doesn't get lost in the fall leaves.
- *Cut back the foliage of early bloomers like Brunnera and hardy geraniums, to revitalize the plants.
- *Prune summer flowering shrubs as the flowers fade.
- *Trim and feed hanging baskets to prolong their beauty.
- *Begin dividing perennials. Start with the bearded iris.
- *Pot up perennial divisions for spring plant swaps. Sink the pots into the ground this fall and they'll be one less chore in the spring.
- *Plant trees, shrubs and perennials now, so they can take root, and keep them well watered.

*Get your fall-blooming crocus and colchicum planted so they'll bloom on time.

(Thanks to *About.com Guide for these August tips*)

Stockbridge Herbs

Tuesday, July 16. Cooking Class: A Floral Feast--Cooking with Flowers. Different Drummer's Cooking School, Northampton MA. 6:15-8:45.

Carnivorous Plants

Linda Tyler

I have a fascination with carnivorous plants and recently visited a site that gave me more insight into this (<http://awaytogarden.com/growing-carnivorous-plant-with-peter-damato>) type of plant. I always assumed the "pitcher" on these plants were their flowers since they are often so ornate, but they are really modified leaves that's sole purpose is to lure and trap food. All of these plants also bloom. Who knew! Plants have difficulty surviving in peaty wet or sandy soil these plants thrive in. The constant movement of water through their environment leaches out the nutrients that most plants count on to survive.

Carnivorous plants have adapted in such a way that they can get their nutrients from bugs. When you think carnivorous plants you often think of the tropical jungle and yes carnivorous plants do live there but the United States actually has more carnivorous plant species than anywhere else in the world!

Unfortunately like so many other natural things in this world, they are endangered by loss of habitat. It takes 5 to 8 years for an American pitcher plant to reach flowering stage. The timing of the flower is adapted to come before the pitcher develops so that the plant does not catch its pollinators in its pitcher. We are lucky enough to have a bog with carnivorous plants close to home. If you have never done so you should visit the Hawley bog. It is an interesting walk along a board walk through a bog high in the hills of Hawley. If you are interested in visiting the bog go to the following link for more information and directions.

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/massachusetts/placesweprotect/hawley-bog-preserve.xml>

Hyper Tufa Workshop

Linda Tyler

On Tuesday, August 13 at 5:30 there will be a hyper tufa workshop at the home of Isabel Field on Old Albany Road in Greenfield. Please bring a plastic bag and a form for making your planter or try a garden ball. For a garden ball all you need is a regular playground ball that you cut the end off and fill with the mixture. Heavy duty gloves are good to have on hand to protect your skin as well as a board to transport your creation on. We ask that a donation be made to the club for materials, please. Isabel will be

cooking up hot dogs on the grill. Please bring a dish to share for a pot luck dinner.

Japanese Beetles

Linda Tyler

Well, the Japanese beetles have arrived in full force. They can make a leaf look more like a lace doily in a matter of days! The best way to cope with these garden pests is to go out in the morning when the beetles are still sluggish from the cool overnight and shake them into a jar of soapy water. You can also treat the plants that they like to snack on most with an insecticidal soap. Do not place any of the pheromone traps in your yard though! Studies have shown that they actually attract more beetles as opposed to repelling them.

The Japanese beetle lays its eggs in the late summer. They then hatch into larvae that will live in your lawn over the harsh winter months only to emerge in the spring. The grubs feast on the roots of plants before emerging to feast on your garden. To get a head start on the Japanese beetle population you can spread Milky Spore on your lawn either in late August or in the early spring while the grubs are close to the surface. They will burrow deeper as the colder weather approaches.

Milky Spore is a bacterium that when ingested by the grubs multiply in its digestive tract and cause the grubs to die. Milky Spore will not harm beneficial insects, birds, bees, pets or people. Milky Spore survives in both cold and drought conditions so if Japanese Beetles are causing major defoliation in your garden now is the time to fight back!

Tomato Blight

Linda Tyler

Late tomato and potato blight can be an issue at this time of year. When the leaves start to yellow and the stems begin to develop dark spots you probably have late blight. It is a fast moving disease so you need to be proactive. Treat your plants with a copper spray every two weeks to help keep your plants healthy. Copper spray is an organic way to help the plants kill the blight spores before they can attack your plants. Copper spray can be purchased at most area stores that sell gardening supplies.

Community Meal

Laura Schlaikjer

Our annual community event is at hand! We will need volunteers to bring food, serve, and bring flowers for the tables in vases that do not need to be returned (clients can take them home). The date is Wednesday, August 14 at the Second Congregational Church in downtown Greenfield, 4:30pm (or 5:30 if serving only). Please RSVP as soon as possible to: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com. We will let you know the menu then. Thank you!



Greenfield Garden Club
P.O. Box 309
Greenfield, Ma.
01302-0309

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 prices 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
Any vendors that are interested in offering our gardeners a discount please contact the Steering Committee.