



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 12

December 2012

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Please note not a regular meeting night!*

Friday, December 21 7:00pm
Holiday Party at the home of Jean Wall, 40 High Street, Greenfield, MA

Sunday, January 13
Annual Meeting
Greenfield Grille
Details to follow. Look for your mailing to renew membership and make reservations in January.

A date and time for the Steering Committee to meet will be decided after the Annual Meeting in January

All are welcome to any Greenfield Garden Club meeting!

December Meeting

Linda Tyler

On December 21st, at 7:00 pm, the holiday party will take place at the home of Jean Wall. Jan lives at 40 High Street on the corner of Church Street and High Street in Greenfield. There is on street parking on the east side of High Street and on the north side of Church Street.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share; savory or sweet! We will also be having a Yankee Swap! If you are interested in participating please bring a wrapped \$10 gift without a tag on it.

In a Yankee Swap, those who have brought a gift draw a number from a hat. The person who draws number 1 chooses a gift and unwraps it. Person number 2 now take a gift , but can either unwrap it or trade it sight unseen for gift number 1. If they trade with person number 1, then person number 1 opens this gift as well. Next person number 3 chooses a gift. They can either unwrap it or trade it for any of the already opened gifts. The swap continues until the last person and all the gifts are opened. There is now one last step. Person number 1 can now trade whatever they have for ANY of the other gifts.

A time to relax and enjoy the holidays with friends! Hope to see everyone there!

Presidents Report

Isabel Field

Season's greetings to you all. I thought that i might share a holiday recipe in this edition that you might find interesting enough to try on your family and friends this holiday season. This appetizer is easy. Its origin is from a wonderful friend of mine and always seems to be well received whenever I prepare it for guests.

Ingredients

1 French baguette
1cup green olives
1cup shredded cheddar cheese
1cup ham
1tbsp onion
1tsp dry mustard
1/4 lb. melted butter

Directions: Cut the top off the baguette and make a trough, saving the bread crumbs you dig out. Chop ham, olives and onions. Mix with bread crumbs and seasonings. Stuff the hollowed out loaf with the mixture. Replace the top and wrap in foil. Bake in 350° oven for 45 min. Cut into slices and serve warm.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the January Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, December 29 at 1:00pm. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of October 31, 2012: \$6,321.39

Income: \$0.00

Expenses: \$45.00

Interest: \$0.17

Balance as of November 30, 2012: \$6,276.56

Expenses: newsletter postage

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 December 2012

Linda Tyler

The hustle! The bustle! How do we make it through the holiday season without totally losing it? One sure way to help is to plan ahead and do as many jobs ahead of time as possible so there is less stress around the actual holiday. I for one make all of my pies on Veteran's Day weekend and pop them in the freezer unbaked. When the time comes all I have to do is unwrap them and pop them in the oven. In this way I have fresh homemade pies without the mess and bother right before the actual holiday. Do you have any stress reducing tips for your fellow members? Please send them my way so I can pass them along

* The Full Cold Moon arrives on December 28. It is also called the Full Long Nights Moon as nights are at their longest. The moon remains above the horizon for a long time and has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite the low Sun.

*The winter solstice arrives on December 21 and brings the shortest day and the longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, the first day of winter marks when the Sun is the farthest south. The Earth is actually closest to the Sun in December but because of the tilt of the Earth, the Northern Hemisphere gets less sunlight and therefore winter. The Earth does not move at the same speed in its elliptical orbit around the sun so the seasons are not the same length. In the northern hemisphere spring and summer last longer than fall and winter, but that may be hard to believe come the middle of February!

* We start the month with 9:17 of sunshine and end the month with 9:07 of daylight, a loss of just 10 minutes of daylight. The reason for such a small amount of change is the solstice which marks the beginning of lengthening days.

* The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the temperature average to be 26.5°, about 1.5° below average for this time of year. Precipitation is predicted at 4", which is 1" above average for December.

* December's flower is the narcissus. The narcissus stands for respect, modesty and faithfulness. Narcissus are native to the Mediterranean, but there are a few

species that can be found in Asia and China. Narcissus is a Greek word meaning self-esteem and vanity.

*It is not the cold or snow that tends to harm the plants but rather the continuous freezing and thawing. To protect your plants consider mounding mulch or snow around them.

*House plants need extra attention during the dry winter months. Misting will help them to stay healthy and prevent insect infestations such as spider mites. Plants grouped together will not only help keep one another moist but will also be easier for you to mist on occasion. Their leaves should not touch the windows or they can be damaged by the cold and frost on the windows. Houseplants do not need as much water or fertilizer in the winter as they do during the rest of the year. Continue watering less and until new growth starts to form in the spring. Use warm water when watering so as not to shock the plant.

*Do a survey of the yard looking for dead limbs that could come down during a storm. Take care of them now before the bad weather hits. Dead or dying limbs should be burned to prevent the spread of disease. If we receive a heavy snow it is advisable to go out and gently shake the snow off the branches of shrubs whose brittle limbs may snap under the weight of the snow and ice.

*Use sand instead of salt on slippery walks to prevent the salt from damaging plants or hurting pet's feet.

*If you are having a live tree for the holidays, dig the hole now and bring the soil to fill in around the tree into the cellar so it will not be frozen solid when you are ready to plant it after the holidays. After planting the tree, tamp it down well to avoid air pockets around the roots.

*Don't forget to add gardening items or nursery gift certificates to your holiday wish list!

* Whether you are lighting a candle on the menorah or decorating a Christmas tree may the meaning behind the celebration stay with you throughout this hectic holiday season. Be sure to sit back and relax as you enjoy your time with family and friends.

Annual Meeting

The Greenfield Grille has been reserved for Sunday, January 13th for the club's annual meeting. The committee is looking at menus and seeking speakers for the event. If you wish to help out contact Isabel Field at 219-8607 or e-mail isabelfield@yahoo.com.

Poinsettia Care

After purchasing a poinsettia you want to make it last! Place it in the brightest window of your home being sure not to allow the leaves to touch the glass. This plant is native to Mexico and Central America and does not appreciate our cold temperatures. When watering a

poinsettia, you should wait until the soil is dry to the touch and then water it until the water flows through the drain holes on the bottom of the pot. To keep your plant in bloom the temperature should be between 65 and 70°. At night it can stand cooler temps but never below 60° since the plant is prone to root rot. Although you can save them and have them bloom the following year, it is a quite rigorous process and the results is not guaranteed so my advice is when the season has passed and your plant has ceased flowering, throw it in the compost heap and begin anew next year.

Isabel Field

Here is a tip for keeping that Christmas tree in good condition throughout the holidays. Spray it with a product called WiltProof and it will help keep those needles on the tree. The holiday party is this month so plan to attend and mingle with you fellow gardeners and catch up on the news.

Stockbridge Herbs

Sunday, December 9- Products for sale from 12-4pm at the Friends of the Whately Library, Whately, MA

Steering /Nominating Committee Linda Tyler

The Steering Committee recently had a meeting at the home of Isabel Field. Club members joined the committee to discuss the upcoming year and the direction the club needs to move to remain viable. This year there are multiple vacancies on the Steering Committee. The following offices are in need of filling: president, vice president, corresponding secretary. The Nominating Committee was down to just one member. Thank you Sydney Snow for volunteering to step forward and serve on the Nominating Committee again. We still do not have a third Nominating Committee member. In order for the club to thrive we need to have members step forward to lead the club. Anyone interested in helping please contact Jeanne Canteen at 774-6605 or jeanne@trowbridgegroup.com.

Recipe Corner

Submit a recipe that is a favorite of yours.

Norm Hirscheld still has a bumper crop of kale from his garden. He brought a delicious salad to the last Steering Committee meeting that I thought I would share with you.

Kale with Peanut Sauce from

<http://www.myhealthyeatinghabits.com/>

3 to 4 kale leaves (about 3 cups when sliced)

1 yellow, orange, or red bell pepper

1 carrot, peeled and thinly sliced crosswise

Ingredients for the sauce:

1/4 cup natural peanut butter

1 tablespoon honey

1 teaspoon hot chili oil

2-1/2 teaspoons minced garlic

1-1/2 tablespoon ginger

1 tablespoon tamari soy, or lite soy sauce

1 tablespoon sherry

1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon hot water

1. Prepare the vegetables – Wash the kale well, drain, remove the center ribs and discard them. Slice the kale crosswise, thinly. Peel the carrot, discard the outer strips, and then continue peeling into 3 to 4-inch strips. Cut the pepper in half lengthwise and then remove the seeds and the white membrane. Slice the pepper halves lengthwise, and then into strips about 1/3-inch wide. Finally, slice them crosswise.

Place the sauce ingredients in a blender and process until it is smooth.

Place the washed kale in a salad bowl along with the sliced carrots and the bell pepper. Toss with the dressing and *enjoy!*

Poetry Corner

Submit a favorite poem.

One of my all-time favorite poems....

Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost 1923

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Book Corner

Do you have a book you would like to recommend the members? Submit your favorite titles and authors here so they can be shared with the membership.

A classic poem from 1829 has been made into a children's book with illustrations adults will love!

"The Spider and the Fly" by Mary Howitt and

Illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi- 10th Anniversary Edition



Greenfield Garden Club
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Jeanne Canteen's wreath made at the November meeting held at Stacy Chapley's. Thank you so much Stacy for once again opening the greenhouse for our meeting!

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

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.