



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 12

December 2013

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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 13 7:00pm
Holiday Party at the home of Marilyn Berthelette
18 Highland Avenue, Greenfield

Sunday, January 13 12:30 pm
Annual Meeting
Magic Wings
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 13th, at 7:00 pm, the holiday party will take place at the home of Marilyn Berthelette. Marilyn's home will be decked with 24 Christmas trees and 87 nativity sets! Marilyn lives at 18 Highland Avenue. There is plenty of on street parking.

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 to \$15 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 choose to 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

Laura Schlaikjer

December is finally here, ready to close out 2013. I can confidently report that I did get my garlic planted before the end of last month. Now to wrap the shrubbery! I hope you are all looking forward to celebrating the season together at our annual Holiday Party. Please carve out the time to come and share food and stories and good cheer with fellow members and gardening friends. I understand that Marilyn's home has again been transformed into a winter wonderland, and will definitely get us into the spirit of the season. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this past year, and I hope you have a safe and restful holiday season. May your kitchens be full of the smells of hearty soups and mulled cider, and may your mid-winter dreams be spent poring over 2014 gardening catalogues! Cheers and Wassail to you all!

Nominating Committee

It is time once again to start thinking about elections at the Annual Meeting. We will need a new member for the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in either serving on the Nominating Committee or serving as an officer, please contact Laura Schlaikjer by email: depalma_3@yahoo.com

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **January Newsletter**, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, December 28 at 1:00pm. Thank you!*

Treasurer's Report

Income: \$.18

Expenses: \$242.77

Income: Interest

Expenses: Newsletter, stamps

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Jean Wall at 773-9069

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

Wassaile

Next crowne the bowle full

With gentle Lambs wooll,

Adde sugar, nutmeg, and ginger,

With store of ale too,

And thus ye must doe

To make the Wassaile a swinger.

- From 'Oxford Night Caps', by Richard Cook,

Published 1835 (Want to read more? Check out this website: <http://recipewise.co.uk/oxford-night-caps>)

LAMBSWOOL RECIPE.

Lambs Wool is merely a variety of the Wassail Bowl, and although not common in Oxford, is a great favorite in some parts of England. Mix the pulp of half a dozen roasted apples with some raw sugar, a grated nutmeg, and a small quantity of ginger. Add one quart of strong ale made moderately warm. Stir the whole well together, and, if sweet enough, it is fit for use. This mixture is sometimes served up in a bowl, with sweet cakes floating in it.

Gardening in December

Dolly Gagnon

Now that we have had two light coverings of snow, it's time to turn our attention to indoor plants.

- Bring evergreen trimmings into the house to use as holiday decorations, but make sure not to cut more than about five percent of any one plant or you will damage it. Leave snow on evergreen branches. They are supple and will bend. If you try to remove snow, they may break.

Perennials/Annuals/Houseplants

- Poinsettias do best in a sunny window with an indoor temperature of 60 to 70 degrees. Avoid temperature fluctuations and areas where there are warm or cold drafts. Don't fertilize the poinsettia when the plant is in bloom. One of the biggest mistakes we make with poinsettias is over watering. They are prone to root rot if the pot sits in saucer-full of water or if water is caught by the colorful foil.

- Remove indoor screens from sunny windows where you want to grow herbs, succulents and flowering annuals. Make sure to put only plants that can stand direct sun in these windows. If you don't have a good southern exposure, set up grow lights to keep your indoor herbs and lettuces vigorous for winter harvesting.

Jean Wall

- Force blooms for holiday color. Keep cyclamen and paperwhite narcissus in a cool spot to prolong the blooms. As soon as a flower fades, remove it. Water paperwhites sparingly if in soil; if growing in water, be sure to keep the water level above all the roots.
- Look for drying and browning of edges of houseplant leaves that can indicate too little humidity. If plants are suffering in dry heated indoor air, group pots together to increase humidity, set pots on a tray of pebbles filled to half their depth with water, or set up a humidifier nearby.
- The leaves of indoor plants get dusty, which can interfere with photosynthesis and transpiration and provide insects a place to hide. Give smaller plants a rinse with the sprayer at the kitchen sink. Larger plants can be set in the shower. The leaves of large-foliaged plants can be wiped off individually with a soft cloth dipped in a solution of a few drops of mild dish detergent in a quart of tepid water, then rinsed with clear water. Be sure to wash off both sides of the leaves.

Vegetables

- Sow seeds of basil, cilantro, and dill indoors every two weeks for a steady supply of fresh herbs. Clip rosemary regularly so it will put out side branches. Rosemary will make a lovely topiary indoors, too.

Trees/Shrubs

- Water your living Christmas trees with ice cubes, but don't leave it indoors for more than a week or two—plant it in the hole you dug last month.
- Rake up dead, mushy hydrangea leaves since they can harbor fungus and scales. Put them in compostable paper bags for your community's yard debris program that uses high-temperature composting.
- When night temperatures are steadily in the 20s, cover hybrid tea and grandiflora roses with a loose mix of compost and shredded leaves. Cover plants at least a foot high, holding in the mix in place with chicken wire if necessary.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting! The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 19 at Magic Wings in Deerfield starting at 12:30pm. We are very excited to try a new venue this year and will be sharing more information soon!

Stockbridge Herbs

Saturday, December 7. Products for sale at Amherst Artisans at the Alumni House Holiday Fair, Amherst College, Amherst, MA.

9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, December 8. Products for sale at Friends of the Whately Public Library Holiday Fair, Whately, MA

11 AM - 4 PM

The holidays always mean friends and especially family to me....

Family And Friends

by Joy Flake

To all my family and friends,
from whom I hear from
now and then,
Just wanted to say
that I love you
each and every day.
You fill my heart
with love and laughter
and without that
nothing else matters,
and all the things
that we've been through,
would mean nothing
if I didn't have you.
So please take my hand
and together
let's make a stand,
to form a bond of love
with the help from above,
and not let little things
get in the way,
because we may not have another day,
to tell that person
I love you,
which we may regret
in some way.
Please know that
you're in my heart,
and will stay that way
and never part.
Just wanted to say,
that I love you
and I hope you love me too.

Favorite Catalog?

Do you have a favorite catalog you like ordering from? Please send in the information so we can share it with the membership. Include what you like about the catalog and what you like to order from them. We would love to hear from you! Send the information to Linda at: davidptyler@comcast.net.

Favorite Recipe?

Is there a recipe you have to make during the holiday season? We would love to know what it is. Please send your favorite family recipes to Linda at: davidptyler@comcast.net.

New Year's Resolutions

People have been making resolutions since the ancient times. Babylonians made promises to their gods that they would return borrowed goods and pay their debts.

Romans also made promises to their gods at the beginning of the year. The New Year is time to start new and fresh. What resolutions will you make this year in regards to your garden? Try something new in the garden? Keep up with the weeds? Be better about dividing your perennials? Take time to enjoy the fruits of your labor? Every year I make resolutions about what will change in my garden and how I can improve it. Some of them happen... Some of them don't. When I do accomplish something I have been striving for in the garden I always feel a sense of accomplishment. One of the things I had promised myself for the last couple of years was to divide my Siberian and Japanese iris which had both become over crowded. With the mild autumn we experienced this year I actually got both jobs done and got my beds ready for winter. What will it be next year? Dividing the hostas that have over-grown their space will be one of them, as will augmenting one of my beds that has a high ratio of clay. Will I get them done next year? Who knows! If I do then I will just set new goals. What will your resolutions be for your garden? We would love to hear about things that you got accomplished and New Year's resolutions you have made regarding your garden. Send them in and we can encourage each other to make them happen!

Birds in Winter

Linda Tyler

In the winter, birds that choose to hang around may change their diet and search out reliable sources of food and water. If you start feeding birds you should continue throughout the winter. Although birds have ways of coping with the cold New England weather such as fluffing up their feathers to create pockets of air to insulate themselves, the most important ingredient for their survival is food! They have a high metabolic rate that burns calories quickly to keep them warm. In the winter birds need high calorie and high fat diets. Feeders are best located out of the wind and near some type of protection from predators, such as shrubs or trees. The trees and shrubs will not only provide a place for the birds to check the area around the feeder for enemies but it will provide shelter from storms and the wind. They should not be located in the shrubbery since the birds will need to keep a look out for predators as they eat. Ground feeders will need a line of sight to keep watch as well. Oil sunflower seeds provide more calories than striped sunflower seeds and are a good choice for winter feeders. Peanuts also provide high protein and fat for birds to help them maintain their body temperature. Suet is a good offering for the birds as well. Suet provides high energy from its pure fat content and will help keep our feathered friends warm.



Greenfield
Garden
Club

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.

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
Sugarloaf Nursery 25 Amherst Rd, Sunderland- 10% off regular priced plants
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 who are interested in offering our gardeners a discount please contact the Steering Committee.