



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 7

July 2012

President

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Recording Secretary

Jean Wall 773-9069
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Corresponding Secretary

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July Meeting

Jean Wall

On Thursday, July 19, at 6 p.m. we will meet at the home of Jean Wall, 185A Old Albany Road in Greenfield to make hypertufa planters.

Hypertufa is a light weight material which mimics rock. It can be made into nearly any shape or size rustic-looking container for your garden. In this hands-on class taught by Master Gardener, Betty Adams, we will make our own simple hypertufa container and learn about the commonly found materials needed. Betty describes the process as being similar to making mud pies with an artistic container the final result! There will be a charge of \$8, and you will need **to register in advance** so we will have enough material for everyone to leave with a container. Contact Isabel Field (219-8607) or Linda Tyler (522-1686 davidptyler@comcast.net) if you wish to attend. Attendees will need to bring rubber gloves (dishwashing gloves) and wear clothes suitable for playing in the mud!

You also need to bring a tray, a piece of plywood, or a thick piece of cardboard wrapped in heavy plastic to use in transporting your container home. To reach Jean Wall's home, take exit 26 from I91. From the rotary take the exit heading toward downtown Greenfield. At the first light, turn right on Newton Street. Take the next left onto Fairview. At the stop sign, turn left and then immediately turn right diagonally across the road for the continuation of Fairview. At the yield sign, bear to the left on South Shelburne. Turn left on Old Albany Road. At the Y in the road, continue around to the left. 185A will be the first house on your left.

President's Report

Isabel Field

The garden club tour is quickly approaching and club members volunteering for this major fundraising are busy making preparations so it can be a success Everything the GGC does throughout the year is dependent on membership participation. Volunteer participation is the core of the GGC the club. Volunteers prepare two major fund raisers, monthly events, maintenance of Trap Plain, a monthly newsletter, the community meal, and the website. our membership is currently at 82.

Those that volunteer on the committees and a few more less than ten are invested into keeping the club functioning. But it appears to be increasingly more difficult and may become impossible going into the future without more participation from our membership. if you value what GGC currently offers more help is needed. a few members cannot be responsible for all the club offers annually. Please step forward and lend a hand. As in the old, adage many hands make light work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Garden Tour, July 7 9:00 to 4:00
Tickets on sale at Trap Plain

Tuesday, July 10 5:30p.m.
Rain Date July 24
Trap Plain work bee

Thursday, July 19 6:00
Hyper Tufa workshop
Home of Jean Wall
185A Old Albany Road, Greenfield
Pre-registration Required
Cost \$8
Please bring listed materials from home

Thursday, July 26 6:00pm
Program/ Steering Committee Meeting
with Pot Luck
Home of Jeanne Canteen
169 Old Albany Road, Greenfield

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **August Newsletter**, please send to Linda Tyler davidptyler@comcast.net by Saturday, July 28 at 1:00pm.*

Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

Balance as of May 31, 2012: \$5,176.14

Income: \$45.00

Interest: \$0.13

Expenses: \$149.48

Balance as of June 30, 2012: \$5,071.79

Income: membership and donations.

Expenses: Locus Press June newsletter printing and Recorder mini ad for the 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 July

Linda Tyler

Summer is definitely here to stay now! Often that means water, water, water. Oh to live in Camelot where it rains nightly after sundown, but since we are not in Camelot, be sure to water frequently. Drought stresses the plants and although they will usually survive, they will not thrive. Production of flowers, fruit, and vegetation will be effected. Hanging and potted plants will succumb to the lack of water and all you will have left is a dry, brown plant. The best time to water is in the early morning or late in the day so the plants are not scorched and the water soaks in before it is evaporated.

* We begin the month with 15:15 of daylight and end the month with 14:29, a loss of 46 minutes this month. That's right! Summer has finally arrived and already the days are getting shorter. ☹

* The Full Buck Moon or Thunder Moon arrives on July 3. It is at this time of year that bucks start to grow new antlers and thunderstorms frequent the sky.

*The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts temperatures to average about 70° (1° below normal) and precipitation to be at 5" (1" above average).

*July's flower is the larkspur, also known as the delphinium. The name is derived from the spur of the flower which some people think resembles a lark. Larkspur means open hearted and the flower had hidden messages during the Victorian era. Pink larkspur symbolized fickleness, white, joyful and happy-go-luck, and purple referred to the recipient's sweet disposition.

*Mulching is one of the easiest ways to keep weeds under control and to save on watering. In the vegetable garden, use cardboard as a weed suppressor. It not only keeps moisture in, but will compost right into the soil. Another inexpensive option is grass clippings. These are readily available. Start in the spring by adding a 2" layer to the beds and spread additional clippings throughout the summer.

*Moon facts: The crescent Moon appears to float between Jupiter and Venus on July 15. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the Moon. On July 31, 1998, Eugene Shoemaker's ashes were deposited on the Moon. Eugene was the founder of the Astrology Team at the Grand Canyon and the 1992 recipient of the National Medal of Science.

* With the approach of hot dry weather be sure to raise your mower deck up as high as possible to prevent burning your lawn. Although all of us would love a beautiful green lawn do weigh the benefits and harm done by lawn chemicals that can so damage our environment.

*When watering water in the early morning or late in the day to assure the water is not just evaporating into the air and has time to soak in. Be sure to water deeply to encourage root growth.

* Remember to pick your garden vigorously. Deadheading encourages new blooms as the plant fights to set seeds for propagation. The same occurs in the vegetable garden as well. If you do not pick vegetables before they get too large the plants will decide to stop producing since they see no need to make further seeds.

*In the herb garden, be sure to nip any flowers forming on your basil. This will give you a nice bushy plant.

*Second crops of beans, beets and carrots can be added for later harvesting. Seedlings of broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage can be started for fall planting.

*Tomato and pepper production will improve with the addition of Epsom salts. Add 1T around each transplant or spray a solution of 1T to a gallon of water when you transplant, when the first flower appears, and when the fruit sets.

June Meeting

Linda Tyler

The June meeting at the home of Kathy Puckett was amazing, so imagine what it is like when all the iris are in bloom. Kathy opens her gardens every year.

Anyone who would like to be on an e-mail list to be notified of these events should send me a note at davidptyler@comcast.net.

Trap Plain

Richard Willard

Work bee at Trap Plain Tuesday, July 10, at 530 p.m. Rain date Tuesday, July 24, at 5:30 p.m. Many hands make light work!

Trap Plain

Linda Tyler

A **HUGE** thank you to Bruce Yukl for donating 9 flats of annuals to plant in the barrels the town brought to Trap Plain. They make a nice addition to the garden.

Garden Tour**Linda Tyler**

Anyone wishing to drop off food or drawing donations for the tour can drop them off on the front porch at 23 Hastings Street, Greenfield on Friday, July 6 or before 7:45 on Saturday the day of the tour.

Garden Tour**Linda Tyler**

It is time to start finding gardens for next year's Garden Tour. Look around as you travel and jot down the address of any gardens that have the potential for being on the tour next year.

Barrels**Linda Tyler**

The containers are in and planted in downtown Greenfield. The joint town/club committee has worked hard on this process. This year is definitely a trial year and we will have to keep an eye on the town to see what their vision is for the future. It seems strange to be turning this process over to the town, but without more volunteers it had become too cumbersome for the club to continue. I would like to thank those from the club who stepped forward and helped with this process.

Barrels**Isabel Field**

The containers are in place filled with plants and being watered by the Greenfield DPW Monday through Friday. There has been positive feedback from citizens. Currently the outstanding issue with the containers is watering on weekends. Two GGC members are volunteering to water the forty containers. This takes an hour each morning. I'm looking for some help in this project. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Water one container or a group of them. Call or email myself or Jean Wall to let us know what you can do to help to maintain the containers.

Program Committee**Linda Tyler**

Although the club has survived another year, volunteerism and involvement remains low. What do you want from the club? Let your voice be heard! Attend the Program Committee meeting at the home of Jeanne Canteen on Thursday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be immediately followed by the Steering committee meeting and then a pot luck. Jeanne Canteen will be making an entrée so please join us and bring a dish to share. If you are unable to attend but have ideas for meetings please call 413-522-1686 or email davidptyler@comcast.net. To reach Jeanne's home follow the directions under monthly meetings to Jean Wall's house. Jeanne's home is # 169 Old Albany Road and will be on the left before you reach the split in the road.

Grand Cayman Island**Doris Brown**

While all of you were back in the US celebrating Memorial Day with parades and picnics, I was

enjoying the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park in Georgetown, Grand Cayman Island. What a wonderful experience! The 65 acre park is relatively new with the formation of the National Trust in 1987 to begin the planning. The acreage was acquired in 1990 and has grown to the beauty it is today. The park is now the home to approximately 40 endangered blue iguanas who freely wander the park. A sign in the parking lot asks visitors to check under their wheels as the iguanas like to sleep under vehicles. My funniest photo is of my friends bent over checking under our rented van. There are several different areas of the park –the Palm Garden displaying over 100 species of beautiful palms in a restful native woodland setting; the Heritage Garden including a restored typical Cayman Island home at the turn of the century surrounded by medicinal plants and fruit trees; the Floral Colour Garden which was exploding with every color possible and the Lake and Wetland area featuring a lovely bridge and gorgeous water lilies. Only a few orchids were in bloom but a long meandering boardwalk trail thru the orchid forest could only let us imagine what that area would be at another season. One of the gardeners offered to guide our group of seven women (my friends of twenty years all in the bridal business) and my favorite memory is of the many smells we enjoyed as he picked numerous leaves for us and explained what they were and their various uses. The Park is located about mid-way on the island so if you are visiting by ship you probably will not have sufficient time to travel out to the location. However, it truly is worth the visit and one of my favorite memories of the Caymans.

Nasami Farm

Classes at Nasami Farm –pre-registration required, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303
www.newenglandwild.org/learn

July 14, 1 a.m.-3 p.m. – Know the Natives

Stockbridge Farm

Wednesday, August 1. Cooking Class: Blast of Basil. Different Drummers Kitchen, 6:15 PM
<http://www.stockbridgeherbs.com/>

Silver Gardens

July 21, 2012 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Glenbrook Gardens

Daylily and Arts Festival

www.silvergardendaylilies.com/

O'Brien Nurseryman, LLC

July 8, 9, 10- Did you see dem, sedums

July 15, 16, 17- Discover our Dazzling Daylilies

Display

July 29, 30, 31- Is your anemonopsis blooming or still teasing



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.