



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 11

November 2012

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## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at 7pm. on Thursday, November 15 at Chapley Gardens in Deerfield. A variety of greens will be available for your use, but feel free to bring in dried materials from your garden as well. The club will supply the rings and your cost will be \$10 per wreath for an average size wreath. If you plan on making larger wreaths, please pay accordingly. If you have never made a wreath before there will be members willing to assist you.

Stacy Chapley will have bows and decorations available for an additional fee. She has pine cones, balls, and a variety of small items such as apples available. Bows and decorations vary in cost depending on what you choose. Most bows run from \$2 to \$3. Although there will be some seating available, please bring a chair, clippers, a spool of florist wire, and a light pair of work gloves. The greenhouse can be chilly so dress appropriately in layers.

To reach Chapley Gardens travel south from Greenfield to 397 Greenfield Road. (Route 5 & 10) Look for the Chapley Gardens' sign and pull into the driveway to park near the greenhouse.

## Presidents Report

I hope that all of you have weathered the recent storm and haven't experienced any hardship. Today is the last day of October and hopefully you are all prepared for the ghosts and goblins that may arrive on your doorstep. Currently I'm thinking about the box of bulbs in the garage I ordered and need to get in the ground this weekend. There is still time until the ground freezes to get in a spring bouquet that will greet you in April. Don't forget the wreath making event at Chapley Gardens. They come out so beautiful with the variety of greenery available and the lovely bows Stacy has in the shop. We are currently gearing up for the holiday party which so many of us attended last year as well as the annual meeting. I encourage you to attend any or all of the activities planned. These are the benefits of being a Greenfield Garden Club member!

**We still do not have a third member for the Nominating Committee. This is a 3 year position but usually does not require many meetings and is often times handled over the phone. The present two members are Rose Deskavich and Jeanne canteen. We need someone to step forward and help the committee prepare a slate of officers for the Annual Meeting in January. Please contact a Steering Committee member if you are interested in serving on this committee OR if you are interested in being an officer of the club!**

Linda Tyler

Isabel Field

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Thursday, November 15 7:00pm**  
**Monthly Meeting Chapley Gardens**  
**Deerfield, MA Wreath Making**

**Friday, December 21 7:00pm**  
**Monthly Meeting Holiday Party**  
**Home of Jean Wall**  
**40 High Street, Greenfield**

*All are welcome to any Greenfield Garden Club meeting!*

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

### ***Treasurer's Report***

***Laura Schlaikjer***

Balance as of September 30, 2012: \$6,266.22

Income: \$100

Expenses: \$45

Interest: \$0.17

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

Income: \$100 from Jan McGuane: "Thanks to the club for all your support, friendship, and love. Please accept this small token in memory of Marty McGuane."

Expenses: Postage

Annual Meeting: Budgeted \$100 for 2012, but with the account looking healthy, I bet we can use a little extra.

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

### ***Holiday Party***

***Linda Tyler***

#### **HOLD THE DATE! PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!!!!**

On December 21st, at 7:00 pm, the holiday party will take place at the home of Jean Wall. Thank you Jean for opening your new home to the club for this event! Jean's home is located on the corner of Church and High at 40 High Street. There is on street parking on the east side of High Street and on both sides 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. Hope to see everyone there!

### ***Things to Do November***

***Linda Tyler***

Last year it was snow... This year a hurricane. What a bazaar way to end October. Now we are in the "holiday" season. My favorite holiday by far is Thanksgiving! It is a time of tradition in my family and a time when most of my relatives gather to gather greens and make wreaths. Being with family and friends makes this holiday top of my list. It is what I am most thankful for, so during this hectic season make sure you slow down enough to give thanks, not only for the material things that make our lives easier, but the people in our lives that make life worth living.

\* We begin the month with 10:18 of sunshine and end the month with 9:18 of daylight, a loss of 1:00 of sunlight. How I hate those dark mornings!

\*Now that we have had a frost it is time to harvest turnips and parsnips which do not sweeten until after the first frost. Heavily mulch or harvest beets and carrots before the ground freezes. Store all your root crops in a cool dry place where they will not freeze.

\*Be sure you have dug all the tender bulbs from your garden and stored them in a cool dry place. Check them occasionally over the winter months for rodent damage.

\*Cut back your roses to 10 to 12" and remove all foliage to help prevent insect damage and disease.

\*Cover hybrid roses with leaves or straw to help them winter over successfully.

\*If your garlic and spring bulbs are not in the ground already, get them in soon before the ground freezes. Cover the garlic bed with a thick layer of mulched leaves or straw.

\*The chrysanthemum is the November's flower and means love and cheerfulness. Its hidden message is of wonderful friendship. Although the name means gold flower, chrysanthemums come in red, white, pink, orange, mauve, and yellow. Also known as a mum, this flower is supposed to bring happiness and laughter to the home. The flower is a powerful antibiotic and is used in Chinese medicine for high blood pressure and angina.

\*The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the average temperature to be 35°, which is 4° below average, while precipitation is predicted at 3", 0.5" below average for this time of year.

\* November's full moon arrives on November 28 and is known as the Full Beaver Moon. Colonists and the Algonquin tribes knew it was time to set traps before the swamps froze so they would have a supply of furs before winter set in. Some also referred to the November moon and the Frost Moon. This year Jupiter is above the moon on the 1<sup>st</sup> and rises soon after midnight. It reaches its maximum brightness for the year by the end of the month. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month, Lunar Orbiter 2 will begin to send back photos of the moon's surface. The photos will be used to scout out future possible landing sites. Since the time the moon takes to rotate matches the time it takes for the moon to rotate around the Earth, we never get to see the other side of the moon.

\*Be sure to care for your tools and they will last longer. Before storing for the winter, remove all dirt and rub with oil. Although you can use motor oil or WD-40, I recommend vegetable oil for your vegetable gardening tools. For wooden handled tools a layer of linseed oil is a good idea. This treatment helps to keep the wood from getting too dry and splintering. While you are treating the tools, it is a good time to check all the screws to be sure they are still tight. You can also sharpen all of the big tools with a metal file before storing them away so they are ready for spring planting. Your pruners and loppers would benefit from a drop of oil on the pivot points. To help keep tools clean all year store a can of sand with about a quart of clean motor oil mixed in and push your metal tools into the sand after each use.

\*The key to getting your Christmas cactus to bloom is the appropriate amount of light, the right temperature and the correct amount of moisture. They are thermo-photoperiodic and will set blossoms when day and night

hours are about equal and the temperature drops to 50 to 60°. There should be no artificial light during the evening hours and you should reduce watering slightly.

\* Time to bring out the feeders and fill them for the birds. Be sure to provide a water source as well. It is extremely difficult for bird to find water as open water begins to freeze.

\* Want some color this winter? African violets are a good solution. They prefer pots on the small size and to encourage them to bloom be sure they get plenty of light. They will also bloom if put under florescent lights.

### ***Downtown Greenfield Beautification***

How can we make Downtown Greenfield more beautiful, vibrant and more sustainable? The Greenfield Tree Committee and the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development have invited Paul Cawood Hellmund, director of the Conway to come to Greenfield to share his thoughts and listen to our ideas. Eric Twarog, Director of Greenfield's Department of Planning and Development will also talk about the Town's beautification plans. The gathering will be held on Monday, November 5, 6:30pm at The Arts Block, on the Greenfield Town Common. The event is free. Refreshments will be served.

The event is co-sponsored by Greening Greenfield, The Greenfield Planning Board, and the Greenfield Garden Club.

### ***Holiday Open House***

Silver Gardens, Glenbrook Gardens, Johnson Hill Farm, and Stockbridge Farm will host their annual Holiday Open House on November 24 & 25 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and 1:00 to 5:00 on Sunday. There will be many craft items for holiday gifts. Refreshments will be available.

### ***Stockbridge Farm***

Stockbridge Farm will be offering products for sale on Saturday, November 24 at the from 9:00 to 3:00 at the Deerfield Police Relief Craft Fair, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, MA.

A variety of products will be for sale.

Saturday and Sunday, November 24-25. A variety of products will be for sale. There will be a Holiday Open House at Glenbrook Gardens, Greenfield, MA. 10-5.

### ***Annie's Garden Center***

Open House - November 10 and 11

Come visit our winter wonderland of Holiday merchandise. There will be a drawing for a gift certificate and giveaways.

### ***Fairview Gardens***

Open daily from now until Christmas for your holiday shopping pleasure

### ***Let's Talk Turkey***

Turkeys are an interesting bird; in fact Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the turkey our national bird.

Turkeys are able to adapt to many habitats although they are usually found in hard wood forests that have grassy areas. Turkeys are only native to America.

Turkeys got their name by a case of mistaken identity. The first Europeans thought the American turkey was the same bird that they had in Europe that had originated in Africa and was brought to Europe through Turkey. Once referred to as a turkey the name stuck.

The flap of skin that hangs over its beak is referred to as a snood. The bumpy skin on its head is referred to as the caruncle. The flap of skin hanging from a turkey's neck is the wattle. It is only bright red during courtship and when the turkey is upset.

The best time to spot a turkey is during a light rain or on warm clear days. Turkeys make their way into trees at sunset where they will roost for the night. At dawn they fly down to the ground where they will feed till mid-morning and then again in the mid-afternoon. The gobbling will begin before sunrise and continue throughout most of the morning feed.

They are actually very difficult to hunt because they have excellent sight and hearing. A turkey's keen sense of hearing allows them to hear sounds up to a mile away. A turkey can see 270° so it is almost as if they have eyes in the backs of their heads! Once alarmed a turkey can run at speeds of 20 miles per hour and burst into speeds of 50 to 55 miles per hour in seconds when heading in to flight. While hearing and sight are sharp, their sense of smell and taste is not well developed.

Wild turkeys weigh about half of what a farm raised turkey weighs. The domestic turkeys are usually so heavy they can't even fly. Male turkeys or Toms attract a mate by fanning their tail. Once they have mated the hen will make a nest under a bush and lay up to 18 eggs! It takes about a month for the eggs to hatch and the poults will remain with their mother for a full year. It is true that if a turkey tips its head back during a good rain they can actually drown. They also experience heart attacks. When the Air Force was experimenting with breaking the sound barrier, whole rafters (what a group of turkeys is called) would drop dead in the field. While it is estimated that 675 million pounds of turkey will be eaten on Thanksgiving, it is the month of June that is dedicated to turkey. Enjoy your turkey on Thanksgiving!

I for one will be helping to reach that 675 million pounds! May your holiday be filled with friends, family, love and happiness. Happy Thanksgiving!



Greenfield Garden Club  
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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.