



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 9

September 2013

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August Meeting

Laura Schlaikjer

Thursday, September 26 at 6:00- FOURTH THURSDAY! (Moved from the 17th) Come gather at the beautiful home of Elise Schlaikjer to relax and share a potluck dinner together. Bring a prospective member! Weather permitting; we can tour the two plus acres that Elise is slowly but surely transforming into a paradise. While we share a meal on the back deck, (or inside if rainy) let's chat about what we'd like to see on the agenda for next year. We already have some ideas, but would love to hear yours! Bring mosquito repellent and a folding chair. If you know what you might bring, email us at: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Directions to 528 Leyden Road: From the center of Greenfield, take Conway Street all the way until you go over route 91, and it turns into Leyden Rd. In about 2 miles, you will see 528 on your left. From Barton Rd, it will be the second driveway on the right after you pass under the high-tension lines. We look forward to seeing you there!

President's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

It's Fair Time!! We hope you are planning to come and see the results of not only our work, but the hard work of all those who enter items on both floors of the Roundhouse. The displays are the highlight of the Fair! Looking ahead, we have the club schedule set through January, our annual meeting, which will be held at Magic Wings. We hope to present some ideas for a new club logo at that time. We are also waiting to hear if the grant we applied for from Wormtown Trading has been accepted. We should hear by 9/12/13 and can report the results to you at this month's meeting. See you at one of our monthly events!

Rejuvenators and Greenfield Local Cultural Council

The Rejuvenators are teaming up with Greenfield Local Cultural Council for Soup & Games night at Hope & Olive. The date is: October 7, 2013 from 5:00-7:00pm. Please come out and support these two worthy causes. You can visit their websites for more information about them, their projects and various opportunities. Bring your appetites and your friends! www.mass-culture.org/Greenfield <http://www.greenfieldrejuvenators.org>

We Welcome New Members at any time! To join the club, please email Jean Wall (see box above left). Regular dues are \$18 Single/\$24 family. Membership card gives you discounts at participating vendors (see last page of newsletter). Join us today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Monthly Meeting
Thursday, September 26 6:00
Potluck Dinner Meeting
Home of Elise Schlaikjer
528 Leyden Road, Greenfield
Bring a chair, mosquito repellent, and a dish to share

October Meeting 7:00
Movie Night
Cider and Popcorn!
Location to be announced

Holiday Party 6:00
Friday, December 13 at the home of
Marilyn Berthelette

Annual Meeting 12:30
Sunday, January 19
Magic Wings

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

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of August 29, 2013: \$6,868.81

Income: \$0.18

Expenses: \$62.77

Income: Interest only

Expenses: Newsletter, deposit for Annual Meeting

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

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

September gardening tips:

*September is back-to-school time. Just as you wouldn't send your kids off to school unprepared, neither should you ignore the needs of your garden as it heads into fall. Gardens need special care to help prepare them for winter and for the next growing season.

*In the vegetable garden, harvest onions once tops have fallen over and the necks have started to dry down and shrink just above the bulb. Pull up bygone plantings of beans, broccoli, and other crops that have been harvested. Removal of crop residues is important for disease and insect prevention as it takes away the places where pests and diseases can overwinter.

*If frost threatens, cover tomatoes, peppers, and salad crops with a double layer of plastic. Don't worry about carrots, turnips, and parsnips. They'll actually taste sweeter after being exposed to temperatures between 28 and 34 degrees F. For harvest in early winter, cover these root crops with 18 inches of straw, hay, or dry leaves. This will keep the ground from freezing so deeply and make it easier to dig them up.

*In flower gardens, clean up residue from plants infected with powdery mildew. The disease will overwinter on stems and foliage, creating a source of spores for new infections next year. Rake dead leaves from under rose bushes. Decaying leaves may provide a conducive breeding ground for fungus and insects that will prey on next year's roses.

*For an instant garden and a blast of color as summer turns into fall, fill your flower beds and empty spaces in your landscape with chrysanthemums. They come in a wide range of autumn colors. Lighter colors tend to bloom earlier than the darker reds and purples, so select different colors for a longer display of color. Mums can also be transplanted while in full bloom; water thoroughly until they become established. Mums also work well as container plants to decorate patios, porches, and decks. Go easy on the water, however, to prevent root rot.

Potted mums will not do well inside as lower light levels often result in yellowing leaves/droopy flowers.

*Flowering kale and cabbage also make nice fall plants to replace annual flowers. Both will turn a

beautiful color with the cold and will last until covered with snow.

*This is a good time to evaluate your autumn landscape to see where new plants can be added next spring and summer to provide fall color.

Asters, perennial salvias, and some of the sedums (including the popular 'Autumn Joy' with its attractive pink flowers) are good choices for long-lasting color at this time of the year. Or consider New York asters (one to two feet high) and the taller New England asters (three to five feet), or if moist soil and a sunny spot, Helen's Flower (Helenium) cultivars with fall colors of reds, oranges, and yellows.

*Goldenrod is another possibility. There are many nice cultivars, including 'Golden Fleece,' which grows to a low, uniform height of two feet. Contrary to popular belief, goldenrod doesn't cause allergies - rather it's the ragweed, which is out at the same time.

*You can still plant shrubs and trees this month since their roots will continue to grow into November, giving them plenty of time to get well-established before winter. You might find some good clearance sales this time of year, but don't let price dictate what you buy. Leftovers at the end of the season can often be just that. Poor quality means they might require more help to survive. Choose varieties that will do well in the hardiness zone where you live, as well as fit into the space you have available. Allow ample room for growth as trees and shrubs mature.

*It's okay to fertilize grass in the early fall. By the same token, late season fertilizer applications will help herbaceous perennials overwinter better.

*Start a new compost pile, adding grass clippings, spent annuals, and leaves that you've raked. Leaves are a very good source of carbon, and they help to soak up excess water, so you may want to shred some with the lawnmower and stockpile in a garbage can for composting food wastes over the winter.

*Shredding leaves will help them break down more quickly and make them more absorbent. Weeds from the garden also may be added to the pile, provided they are not full of seed heads. Even though composting can kill off weed seeds, most home compost piles do not get hot enough to assure this.

*Since an outdoor compost pile won't be very active in the coldest winter months, you can let red worms do your composting in your basement. Start by getting a large wooden box or plastic bin with air holes and a cover. Fill it half way with well-moistened, shredded, plain newspaper or leaves. Add about a pound of red worms, ordered from a worm farm or garden supply catalog, or collected from an old manure or compost pile.

Then you're ready to add vegetable scraps from your kitchen, but no more than about half a pound per day. Be sure to bury the scraps completely, and avoid really tough materials like corn cobs and nut shells.

*Other September activities: attend a fall harvest festival or late season agricultural fair; mulch asparagus beds with a thick, loose layer of hay; go apple picking. (*Taken from Perry's Perennial Pages*)

Steering Committee Meetings August 27, 2013

Thanks to Jean Wall for hosting the Steering Committee meeting.

*Wormtown is offering grants. We applied for one and expect to hear soon.

*The September meeting is moved to 9/26 at 6PM. at Elise Schlaikjer's house. There will be a pot luck supper and we will do program planning for 2014. Please try to attend and bring a friend. Also bring bug spray and a chair!

*The Franklin County Fair is fast approaching. Plans are coming along well. We will set up on Tuesday 9/3 at 6PM.

*The Garden club's new logo continues to be a topic of conversation. Laura has enlisted the help of a colleague and will be presenting some new designs at the September meeting. It was also decided to let the members vote on 3-4 choices at the Annual Meeting.

*The Annual meeting will be held at Magic Wings on 1/19 at 12:30PM.

*Elise, Norm and Jeanne toured 10 gardens in anticipation of the tour next year. We are excited about next year's tour as there are some beautiful gardens as possibilities. The Garden Club tour will be held on Saturday, June 28th, 2014.

Totally Tomatoes Wednesday, September 18, 6:15-8:45 PM

Join Mary Ellen & Denise at the Different Drummer as they show you how to capture the flavorful essence of the star of every summer garden: the tomato. Learn about different common and heirloom varieties and taste the wide palate of flavors this one fruit – disguised as a vegetable – brings to the kitchen. Crab Cakes with Tomato Ginger Chutney- a savory condiment that is the perfect sweet and spicy partner to herbed crab cakes.

Welcome New Vendor!

Sugarloaf Nurseries 25 Amherst Rd, Sunderland is now offering a 10% discount on regularly priced plants! There is a great selection of trees, shrubs and has expanded to include perennials! Thank you Dave for participating in this offer! ☺

Holiday Party

Mark your calendars now! The holiday party will be at the home of Marilyn Berthelette on Friday, December 13th. We will be having a Yankee Swap so start looking for that perfect gift in the \$15 range.

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!

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 please contact Laura Schlaikjer by email:

depalma_3@yahoo.com

Hyper Tufa Workshop in hibernation!

With days getting shorter and weather getting cooler, we decided it would be best to wait until spring.

Tomato Cuke & Onion Salad

Linda Tyler

Chop garden fresh cucumbers and tomatoes into bite sized pieces. Mince a sweet onion and add to the mix. Before serving drain any excess liquid that has accumulated. Stir in crumbled Feta cheese and minced dill. Pour on your favorite dressing. I like this salad best with Cain's Chipotle Ranch dressing! Yum!

Garden Club Logo

The Steering Committee with the help of Donna Mollard has been looking into the club logo. It is too "messy" for good duplication and we are hoping to either clean up the design or choose a new design so the club can begin using the logo for things like T-shirts, magnets, stickers, and signage. The committee is hoping to narrow the choices down to 3 or 4 designs and present them to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Mike's Maze

Warner Farm, 23 Main Street, Sunderland, MA
This year's maze is an exploration of illusion, inspired by the artist Salvador Dali. We have rendered his famous visage in a half-tone pattern in 8 acres of corn.
Hours: August 31st – November 3rd
Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Columbus Day
10:00 AM- 5:00 PM (no new groups allowed in after 5pm). 2012 RATES (cash or check only please):
Ages 13 and up, \$10
Seniors (60+) and Students with IDs- \$9
Ages 4-12, \$8
Under age 4- Free



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