



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 5

May 2012

## President

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## May Program

*Linda Tyler*

On Thursday, May 17, at 6:00 p.m., we will meet at the home of Marsha Stone and Norm Hirschfeld, 41 Meadow Lane in Greenfield. When asked about worm composting Norm replied, "I first saw a worm composter at a permaculture demonstration in Southern, NH. Taking vegetable waste and turning it into black gold was just magic to me and I was hooked. Our worms eat our vegetable waste and produce great black compost or casing. My first worm composter was an open box I made with wheels on the bottom, so I could wheel it into the basement from my garage for the winter. I didn't know much about caring for worms and as result had my share of problems, but with some knowledge and a better composter I was successful. We have had a worm composter for more than 20 years. Worms are quiet, not demanding, and in return give you super great compost. What more can you ask for?" Norm will also give a demonstration on brewing compost tea for the garden and lawn.

To reach Norm and Marsha's home from the rotary in Greenfield, travel around the rotary and exit onto Route 2 West. At the stop light take a right onto Colrain Road traveling past Greenfield Community College. Stay on Colrain Road for 1.6 miles. Take a slight left onto Plain Road for 0.9 miles. Turn left onto Meadow Lane. Norm and Marsha's home will be 0.3 miles on the right. The house is green. Hope to see you there!

## President's Report

*Isabel Field*

Long awaited rain finally came in April but we are still 4" below average for rainfall. Let's hope more arrives in May. I've been in the garden dividing up plants and weeding as well as covering up some plants from the evening low temperatures. The weather has been cool but good for working outside. The Extravaganza committee has been busy planning for the event and help with plants and garden items are needed for the sale. Contribute and volunteer if you can. The Garden Tour is coming together nicely adding new locations that are interesting, educational and offer a visually satisfying experience. New barrels are planned for downtown and they are very nice. The Beautification Committee has been working hard on this traveling around the valley trying to find just the right size and color that will dress up the town. I hope you will like them. Norm and Marsha are planning to host the garden club this month so join us and come and have some fun!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**May Meeting** 6:00 p.m.

May 17 41 Meadow Lane Greenfield  
Home of Marsha Stone and Norm  
Hirschfeld

Worm Composting

**Trap Plain Work Bee**

Tuesday, May 22 at 5:30 p.m.

**Plant Drop Off For Extravaganza**

Friday, May 25

Trap Plain between 5 and 7 p. m.

**Extravaganza Set Up**

Saturday, May 26

Trap Plain 7 a.m.

**Extravaganza Sale**

Saturday, May 26 8 a. m.

Trap Plain

**Garden Tour Committee** 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 31

Home of Jean Wall  
185A Old Albany Road, Greenfield

**Steering Committee**

After Garden Tour Meeting

Thursday, May 31

Home of Jean Wall

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **June** newsletter please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, June 2 at 1:00 pm. Thank you!*

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Laura Schlaikjer**

Balance as of March 31, 2012: \$5,534.09

Income: \$175.00

Interest 4/13/12: \$0.22

Expenses: \$1,693.76

Balance as of April 30, 2012: \$4,015.55

Income: Membership and donations

Expenses: Newsletter printing; Meeting speaker, Grants

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 May**

**Linda Tyler**

May! I love May. Everything is being reborn and hope springs anew... To divide plants, to keep the garden weed free, to renovate the bed that is just not working, to grow new varieties in the vegetable garden... Some will be accomplished; others will remain the same, but no matter the hope of a new growing year remains. As you enter the new growing season, do yourself a favor. Make notes about what you really want to accomplish or make changes to so that when the spirit moves you, you will be prepared.

\* Although The Old Farmer's Almanac has been way off on their predictions, for May they predicts temperatures to average about 50° (6° below average) and precipitation to be at 3" (1.5" below average)

\* For obvious reasons the Full Flower Moon arrives on May 5 as the woodlands and meadows burst into bloom. The Algonquin tribe also called this May moon the Corn Planting Moon or the Milk Moon.

\* We begin the month with 14:06 of daylight and end the month with 15:05, a gain of 59 minutes.

\* May's flower is the lily of the valley which stands for sweetness and humility.

\*The Asian lily beetles are now out in full force. They are tenacious pests and do not respond to organic treatment. Another option is to pick off beetles, larvae and eggs. A time consuming and daily task along with being gross! The larvae cover themselves in excrement for protection and in my book that works! This is the one area of my garden I use something stronger. Bayer's 2 in 1 systemic rose and flower treatment does the trick. Scratch in a capful around each lily and the population of beetles will diminish.

\* Crushed egg shells spread around hostas and roses will help to deter slugs. Another treatment I have read about is slices of cuke on an aluminum pan. Have not tried this method, but I'll let you know how it works.

\*Mulch between our vegetable rows to keep the weed population down. Another method that works well is to use cardboard. It helps to retain moisture and the cardboard breaks down and nourishes the soil.

\*When you put in your herbs be sure to plant in a large tub with the bottom removed so it does not invade the rest of the garden.

\*It is mating season for moles! They come to your yard looking for grubs. A way to save your lawn is by using milky spore disease to rid your lawn of grubs. No grubs = no moles! Another tip for the lawn is to mow your lawn when it is dry. Wet lawn clippings can clump and cause damage. Leave your blade high enough to only trim about 1/3 of the height of the blades. The longer the blades the easier it is for your lawn to tolerate drought.

\*Make your own soil for your containers by mixing one part compost, one part garden soil and one part builder's sand.

\*Many bugs begin appearing in spring, so keep your eye out for lace bugs, aphids and bagworm.

\*Although Mother Nature has been treating us to a warm spring and many plants are well ahead of schedule resist the urge to plant warm loving plants such as pepper, eggplant, and tomatoes. It is New England after all and we often have a late May frost!

\*As you begin transplanting seedlings that you started indoors, be sure to harden them off by slowly increasing the amount of wind, sun and cool temperature exposure.

\*House plants may be moved outside after nighttime temperatures reach the 50's. Just like with seedlings they cannot tolerate going from indoor lighting right into the direct sun and wind. Keep them well protected to avoid burned leaves and stress on the plant. Fertilize your house plants and they begin adding new growth.

\*Leave the yellowing foliage of spring blooming bulbs. It is the nutrients from this foliage that allows the bulb to bloom again next year.

\*Sow second crops of your vegetables to extend the growing season.

\*When harvesting rhubarb, twist off stalks instead of cutting them. Cutting can invite disease.

\*Spring flowering shrubs should be pruned right after the bloom has faded.

\*Despite some rain the last week in April we are still running at a deficit so be ready to add water to your garden beds especially if you are transplanting.

## **Trap Plain**

**Linda Tyler**

There will be a work bee at Trap Plain on Tuesday, May 22 at 5:30. It is amazing what we can accomplish in an hour when we have a good work crew! Many The date for the community meal which the Greenfield Garden Club has agreed to sponsor is Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Second Congregational Church on Court Square in Greenfield. The menu this year is meat

hands make light work and good company. Please plan on attending so we can get the gardens ready for the Extravaganza!

**Memorial Dogwood** *Linda Tyler*

The dead dogwood we planted at Trap Plain in memory of club members who have passed, has been replaced by Gary Gauthier of Sugarloaf Nursery. He generously dug up the old tree and planted a new one in its stead. Many thanks Gary! Anyone wishing to help with the watering of the tree should contact Linda Tyler at 413-522-1686 or by e-mailing davidptyler@comcast.net.

**Extravaganza** *Linda Tyler*

**We need plants!** The Extravaganza arrives on the Saturday, May 26 on Memorial Day weekend. This is one of the two fundraisers the club sponsors in order to earn money for our community service projects.

**We need volunteers!** We need volunteers for Friday, May 25 from 5 to 7 to help sort and price plants for the Extravaganza.

**We need workers!** We need workers on Saturday morning for set up at 7 a.m.

**We need sales people!** We need people to help with plant sales beginning at 8 a. m.

**We need garden related tag sale items!**

**We need new coffee can drawing items!**

**We need people to hang up posters!**

If you are interested in helping with this event contact Linda Tyler at 413-522-1686 or davidptyler@comcast.net.

**Walker Farm**

**May 12, 2012** - 10am: Vegetable Gardening Double-Feature: Designing a Beautiful & Productive Vegetable Garden w/ Michaela

Organic Vegetable Garden Basics - Jack Manix, Co-Owner, Walker Farm

**May 19, 2012** - 10am: Designing with Native Plants to Attract Hummingbirds & Butterflies w/ Michaela

All Seminars start at 10 AM and end at 11 AM  
Grand Central Greenhouse, Walker Farm, 1190  
US Route 5 East Dummerston, Vermont

[www.walkerfarm.com](http://www.walkerfarm.com),

[www.facebook.com/walkerfarm](http://www.facebook.com/walkerfarm)

**There is no charge for these talks but classes are limited to 30 attendees and reservations are requested. Please call 802-254-2051 or email**

**walkerfarmvt@gmail.com**

**Greenfield Garden Club**

Check out the club's new web presence...

<http://www.thegreenfieldgardenclub.org/> Thank you Laura Schlaikjer for making this happen. The club can also be found on Facebook!

**O'Brien Nurserymen, LLC**

Open garden days;

May 4, 5, 6 Spring Ephemerals, Native & Asian Wildflowers

May 18, 19, 20 Exotic, Elegant and Amazing Arisaemas

May 25, 26, 27, 28 Enticing Epimediums, Explore our Expanded Choices

**Wilder Hill**

**Sat. & Sun, May 7 & 8, 9 - 5:**

**Mothers' Day Weekend Spring Dig Sale**

Buy hardy, field grown perennials directly from the grower, directly from the field. — Rain or shine. New this year: Over forty varieties of hardy, heirloom perennials, propagated here at WHG, at \$6 each. May 8-9 only.

**Sunday, May 15, 9 - 5: Last Day to Dig Sale  
By Popular Demand**

Last day to dig a great selection of field grown perennials, shrubs, and herbs directly from the field. — Rain or shine.

**Annie's Garden Center**

May 12<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day Breast Cancer Benefit  
Join the volunteers from Rays of Hope Breast Cancer Center to raise money for this great cause. We donate 10% of our sales to Rays of Hope - make your Mother's Day gift count.

**Just Roots**

*Linda Tyler*

Donna Rivers, a member of Just Roots education Committee, is looking for volunteers to assist in the identification of invasive and native plants, shrubs and trees as they begin developing an educational site on Leyden Road in Greenfield. This community farm is on the site of a former agricultural field and includes a small wooded area. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Donna Rivers at [drrivers@verizon.net](mailto:drrivers@verizon.net).

**Yukl's**

*Linda Tyler*

Bruce is back! Bruce Yukl has been a longtime friend and supporter of the club. His business shut down for a while so he could pursue different avenues, but he is back on the French King Highway just past the bridge into Turners falls. Bruce will be open for business starting May 5 and will be open from 9 to 6 seven days a week. Bruce is offering members 10% on purchases so stop by and check out his plants. Welcome back Bruce!

**Stockbridge Herbs**

Monday, May 21

Different Drummer's Kitchen, Northampton, MA  
Cooking Class: Spring Herb Garden Party 6:15 PM  
[www.differentdrummerskitchen.com](http://www.differentdrummerskitchen.com)



Greenfield  
Garden  
Club

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

**Stewarts Nursery** 135 Millers Falls Rd., Montague – 10% off regularly 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

**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.