



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 10

October 2012

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Trap Plain Work Bee
Monday, October 15 5:30p.m.
Rain Date October 16

Monthly Meeting
Thursday, October 18 6:00
Pot Luck and Plant Swap
Home of Laura Schlaikjer
152 South County Road, Leyden, MA

Program/ Steering Committee Meeting
The committees will hold a brief meeting to discuss upcoming events at the Monthly Meeting.

November Meeting
Thursday, November 15 7:00 p.m.
Wreath making
Chapley Garden Center
Deerfield, MA
Fee to cover materials

Monthly Meeting

Laura Schlaikjer

The seasons are changing! It's time to gather in the harvest and look back over the past gardening season. Come kick back and enjoy a potluck meeting at the home of member Laura Schlaikjer. The gardens won't look like much, and it will be getting dark, but we will have a nice time sharing a meal together and enjoying good conversations. If there are plants which you would like to bring along and send to a new home, please do so! I know I have a volunteer butterfly bush up for grabs, and I can dig some St Johnswort shrublets too!

152 South County Road is a mere 7 miles from the center of Greenfield. Follow Leyden Road in Greenfield until it turns into Greenfield Road in Leyden (Just past the road into the pumping station and Eunice Williams Bridge) and starts to climb. South County Road is on the left after the road starts to level out. There are 2 large arborvitae with fence corners on either side of the driveway, marked with 152, and also on your left. The house is 1/4 mile in from the road. Carpooling is always a good idea!

President's Report

Isabel Field

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well and enjoying the beginning of the gorgeous fall season. Currently, I'm doing all kinds of gardening inside and out. When I think of all the types of gardeners there are and how we enjoy our passion for gardening and watching the miracle of nature, I understand our love of nature.

Some of us have large gardens of perennials and raised beds with vegetables. What a wonderful innovation those raised beds are! Others have window boxes with cascading petunias or potato vines. While still, some have a small plot or pot of herbs or geraniums on the steps or porch. What about those plants on the window sill that greets you each morning during your first cup of coffee..... How lovely.

Lastly, that beautiful bouquet on your table that you couldn't resist during your weekly shopping trip becomes your sunrise every day.

Well, I could go on and on but we have so much to do but please don't forget about the plant-swap at Laura's this month. We can always use a new plant or two to greet us this spring.

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **November Newsletter**, please send to Linda Tyler davidptyler@comcast.net by Saturday, November 3, at 1:00pm.*

Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

Balance as of August 31, 2012: \$6,166.48

Income: \$150.00

Expenses: \$50.43

Interest: \$0.17 (Can they spare it?)

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

Income: Fair first prize

Expenses: Community Meal and Sept. newsletter printing

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 October

Linda Tyler

I love fall even though it means the end of the growing season. You can enjoy the fall weather as you trim back your garden beds and empty your veggie patch.

There is something about the crisp fall air and the clear blue skies that cannot be matched by any other season.

A walk in the woods to see the wonders of nature as animals and trees prepare for winter is a favorite fall activity. Another must for fall is a visit to the apple orchard, for at no other time of year are apples crisper.

The thing that I will perhaps miss the most is the summer fruits and vegetables, especially tomatoes.

The days are growing shorter, but that just gives you an excuse to head indoors earlier and start planning next year's garden!

* We begin the month with 11:48 of sunshine and end the month with 10:21 of daylight, a loss of 1:22 of sunlight.

*Garlic is a crop that is planted in the fall. This is an easy crop. It gets planted in the fall, mulched over in the winter, scapes removed in the early summer, and dug in mid-July.

*On Saturday October 20, visit the Franklin County Pumpkinfest in downtown Turners Falls. You will find a street packed with vendors, entertainment, food and of course PUMPKINS! Carve a pumpkin for display. Registry is free and they will provide the candle! This is a great family activity!

* The Full Hunter's Moon will arrive on October 29. Native American tribes would head out into the woods at this time to year to stock provisions for the long winter ahead. Other names for October's moon are Travel Moon and Dying Grass Moon. Although the Dying Grass Moon is self-explanatory, I was unable to find the origins of the Travel Moon. One could venture a guess that perhaps it was the last chance to travel before winter sets in

* The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the average temperature to be 49.5°, which is 1.5° above average,

while precipitation is predicted at 3.5", average for this time of year.

* October's flower is the marigold. This flower symbolizes sympathy or sorrow. Marigolds are also called calendula which means first day of the month.

*If you haven't started already, it is time to start putting the gardens to bed for the winter. Store your root vegetables in a cool dark place. Brussels sprouts will sweeten during the cool fall weather. Clip the greens from your carrots, parsnips, beets and turnips and they will stay fresh longer. Do not store apples with your potatoes in the refrigerator. The ethylene gas emitted from the apples will cause the potatoes to rot. In the flower garden be sure to dig your dahlias, gladioli and any other tender perennials. Store them in a cool dark place as well. Occasionally check for damage throughout the winter. As you clean the beds do not throw any diseased or infested plants into the compost heap. Instead bag them up with your household trash. Cut down perennials after their flower stalks have dried. Do leave the seed heads on things like sunflowers, asters and cosmos so the birds can enjoy them over the winter months. If your peony is not performing well where it is planted, now is a good time to move it.

*Check local nurseries and gardening supply stores for assorted spring-flowering bulbs. Plant your spring bulbs now in those spots you noted as sparse for a spectacular spring showing.

*As you rake leaves remember they can be used as mulch for your plants once they are shredded. Another option is just shred them right back into the lawn as you mow to use as compost for healthy grass.

*Now is a good time to transplant roses, shrubs, and bushes. Prune your ever bearing raspberries at this time but do not trim spring-blooming shrubs.

*Clean and oil your tools as you put them away for the winter. They will be all ready to use come spring.

*Have your soil tested so you can augment it now and be ready for spring plantings.

* Apples are now ripe and will keep well for about 6 months if stored between 32 and 45°F. They also need an occasional change of air since ripe apples give off ethylene gas that will continue the ripening process if kept in an air locked environment. Apple cider can be frozen after you pour off some of the liquid to allow for expansion. Make your apple pies now for the holidays. Simply do not cut holes in the crust, wrap well in foil and pop in the freezer without baking. When ready to cook, cut vent holes in crust and bake at 375° for about 10-15 minutes before lowering the temperature to 325°. Check for browning and cover

edges with foil if they are getting too dark. Baking will take longer but you get great results and less hassle around the holidays. I not only do this with my apple pies, but blueberry as well. I also throw in a couple of one crust shells that can quickly be made into pumpkin pie or chocolate cream pie at the last minute.

* As the days get shorter and darkness seems to set in everywhere, add color to your lives by adding colorful blooming plants to your indoors. Try calla lilies or begonias to brighten your rooms and remind you that after fall and winter, spring will come again and we can be out in our gardens planting.

Nominating Committee

We still need a third member for the Nominating Committee. This is a three year position so that every year we have a veteran member, a second year member and a novice. Contact a member of the Steering Committee if you are interested.

Franklin County Fair

For those of you who did not get to attend the Franklin County fair, we did great! First prize was awarded to our booth featuring a green roof. Many thanks to Rick Parker for making this possible! I had wanted to display a green roof for years but needed someone with the skills to build it and Rick was just the person. Thanks also to everyone who donated plant materials, trays for the roof, garden accessories and most of all the people who help whip the booth together in just eight hours and made it look like it had always been there. Ideas are already brewing for next year's booth!

Franklin County Fair

Is anyone interested in the small three sided structure that was used in this year's fair booth? If so please contact Linda Tyler at 413-522-1686.

Trap Plain

Linda Tyler

Work bee at Trap Plain Monday, October 15, at 5:30 p.m. The rain date is Tuesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. Last month 3 members got the daylily bed ready for winter. This month we will be getting the big bed ready for winter. Please bring garden tools to cut down the plant material. If a good size group attacks this project together we should be able to get it finished in no time. Hope to see you there.

The Greenfield Energy Park Greenthumbers

Saturday, Oct 20, 1-4pm- The Greenfield Energy Park Greenthumbers would like to invite Greenfield Garden Club members to the Energy Park on Sunday, Oct 21. Please join us for our fall clean-up and introduction to the Energy Park. Come by anytime between 1-4 pm. Please bring a tool or two – rake, shovel, bucket, pruners. We have specific areas that are looking for stewards! For more info call Nancy at 774-5667.

Johnson Hill Farm

October - Columbus Day Weekend – **Mt. Snow Annual Arts & Craft Fair**, West Dummerston, Vermont - for more details, go to

www.mountsnow.com

Stockbridge Farm

Saturday, October 13 at Anne's Garden and Gift Store "Welcome to the Dark Side of the Kitchen" A pre-Halloween cooking demo using "dark" foods to create Basic Black Rice Salad and Devil's Food Cake just to name a few.

Tuesday, October 30, Different Drummer's Kitchen, Northampton, MA.

Cooking Demo: "A" is for Apples. 6:15-8:45.

We Love Downtown (Unofficial Name)

There is a group made up of caring citizens that continue to work towards a more appealing downtown area which could benefit the entire town. They are focusing on making the downtown area cleaner, more attractive, and safer. They are researching ways to fund plantings, adding hanging baskets, incorporating recycling baskets, and promoting the downtown. If you are interested in joining this committee or want more information, please let me know and I will pass on your information.

Weldon Garden

Marian Kelner is looking for suggestions on how to save the garden behind the Weldon on High Street. The management would like to remove it. There are many beautiful plants there and perhaps they could be put to good use in another location. The number at the Weldon is 772-6543 if you have suggestions or are interest in helping out.

Johnson Farm

October - Columbus Day Weekend – Mt. Snow Annual Arts & Craft Fair, West Dummerston, Vermont - for more details, go to

www.mountsnow.com

Fairview Gardens

Stop by Fairview Gardens and visit the Pumpkin People. You are never too old for a little Halloween fun!

O'Brien's Nurserymen

Open garden days-

October 5, 6 & 7 -Awesome Japanese Maples for Great Fall Color

October 19, 20 & 21 - End of the Season Sale

Herb Meanings

Lemon Balm: Sympathy, rejuvenation

Lemon balm to cheer the bee,

Lemon balm in fruits and tea,

Lemon balm for sympathy

Elisabeth W. Morss



Greenfield Garden Club
P. O. Box 309
Greenfield, MA 01302



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.