



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 9

September 2012

## President

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## Treasurer

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## August Meeting

*Richard Willard*

MAKING LIVING HERB WREATHS WITH ELISE ON SEPTEMBER 20, 6p.m. 528 LEYDEN ROAD, GREENFIELD

A delightful evening making "living" herb wreaths that have symbolic meaning, depending on what herbs you incorporate. Perfect gifts for a birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc. And, of course, yourself!

However, living does not mean truly long lasting, but with care they will live from a week until a month.

Please bring a metal ring about 8 to 12 inches across to use as your base.

You will also need carpet thread. Not sewing, but carpet, preferably

brown or green. A pair of snippers to trim your plants. Then you will

need to bring cuttings from your herbs (about 3" long) or get some from

the grocery store to fill in your repertoire. Not just one of two individual

cuttings. Please bring more as it is amazing how many you will use. You

will also need cuttings of boxwood or similar greenery to provide the base

for your herbs. Pine could also be used or anything you have an

abundance of. I will provide the sphagnum that we will also need to use.

Bringing a plate to put your finished handiwork on would also be good.

So...just so you can have a check list to go by, please bring: One 12inch

ring, snippers, carpet tread (it is much stronger then sewing thread), and

lots of cuttings. I am looking forward to seeing you.....and please ask the

Universe to be clear and cool.....

## President's Report

*Isabel Field*

Today is September first and there are signs of the fall season all around us. I have harvested the last of the cucumbers but still have an abundance of tomatoes to figure out what to make

with them. My peach tree is laden with so much fruit the bows are almost to the ground. After picking they lifted themselves up happily to be

relieved of their burden. I'm sure many of you are experiencing similar

pleasures in the garden. Looking back, the Garden Club of Greenfield,

over the few months has offered a number of interesting opportunities to

engage in educational and hands on events. The tour of gardens was a

success with the variety of gardens thanks to the hard work of Linda Tyler

and those on the committee. Not only is the club a vehicle for

horticultural knowledge but I found new friends to share my love of

gardening and social opportunities to add to my calendar. We still have a

lot planned and are pretty well set for 2013. So check out the events

coming up and join in.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 20 6:00

### Living Wreaths

528 Leyden Road, Greenfield, MA

*Please see article for requirements*

### Trap Plain Work Bee

Tuesday, September 25 5:30p.m.

*Rain Date September 26*

### Program/ Steering Committee Meeting

*A meeting time, place and date have not been set.*

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **October Newsletter**, please send to Linda Tyler [davidptyler@comcast.net](mailto:davidptyler@comcast.net) by Saturday, September 29, at 1:00pm.*

Thank you!

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Laura Schlaikjer**

Balance as of July 31, 2012: \$6,197.73

Income: \$54

Expenses: \$85.44

Interest: \$0.19

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

Income: membership

Expenses: Postage, newsletter printing, Agway

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 September**

**Linda Tyler**

Fall! I love fall! Crisp air and crisp apples are what come to mind first when I think of fall. Fall brings root vegetables, fairs, fall leaves, bonfires, football, and back to school. Fall would not be complete for me without a helping of maple cream fried dough at the fair. A walk through Mike's Corn Maze is another must do. This year's maze features a rendering of "The Sower" by Jean Francois Millet.

Then there is the prediction... Will it be a mild or harsh winter? Let's take a look at the woolly bear caterpillar. The caterpillar has 13 segments of black and reddish brown. In 1948 Dr. C. H. Curran from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City traveled north to the Bear Mountain State Park and gathered woolly bears... He would gather as many as he could find. He did so for the next 8 years. The average brown segments were more than a third of the caterpillars body and suggested the winters were milder than average. But Curran knew his sampling was too small for real proof, but used this exercise more as an excuse to get out in the woods in the fall to view the foliage. Curran, his wife and their friends formed the Original Society of the Friends of the Woolly Bear and their yearly trek made the woolly bear the most recognized caterpillar.

Mike Peters, an entomologist at the University of Massachusetts, says that the width of the brown band is a sign of the age of the caterpillar and how soon it was able to begin development in the spring, so that instead of predicting the following winter it is rather a reflection on past winter.

There are other folk lore about predicating how severe the weather will be; thick onion skins, early arrival of crickets or in the chimney, spiders spinning large webs, lots of acorns, heavy shelled hickory nuts, raccoons with thick, bright bands on their tails, woodpeckers sharing trees, heavy and numerous fogs in August, but the one that got me the most was pigs gathering sticks! Seems to me that most of these events would be more related to the weather we are experiencing than a prediction of what's to come. I

will concur with Curran in that we all should venture out in the woods and enjoy the fall colors but we'll just have to wait and see what the winter brings.

\* We start the month with 13:08 of sunshine and end the month with 11:46 of daylight, a loss of 1:21 of sunlight.

\* The Full Corn Moon or Full Barley Moon will arrive on September 29. According to the Native Americans, September's full moon marked the time corn and barley should be harvested. The fall equinox begins on September 22 at 10:49 a.m. It is on the equinox that the sun actually crosses the celestial equator. Here in Greenfield, we will have 12:09 of daylight and 11:51 of darkness.

\*September's flower is the aster which means love, faith and wisdom. It symbolizes valor and its secret meaning is "take care of yourself for me." The name comes from the Greek word for star.

\* The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the average temperature to be 60.5° which is 1.5° above average. Precipitation is predicted at 4" which is 1" below average.

\* Pay attention to the night time temperatures. If there will be a light frost, consider covering your vegetables but if the temperatures are dropping down in the 20's, it is time to pick the rest of your garden. Harvest all your green tomatoes as well. Tomatoes will ripen by wrapping them in newspaper or pull the entire vine up by the roots and hang them in a cool, dark, dry place. An exception to this is Brussel Sprout. Wait until after a hard frost before harvesting the Brussel Sprouts. Root vegetables such as carrots and parsnips will also not be effected by the frost. As you clean up your garden be sure to dispose of any diseased and infested plants instead of adding them to the compost heap.

\*Be sure to start moving any of you houseplants that have been vacationing outside indoors before the heat is turned on. You want to give them time to adjust before changing the temperature too drastically.

\* Be sure to take any cuttings from any outdoor plants you want to save before that first damaging frost arrives. Good options include impatiens, coleus, and begonias as well as your herbs for summer freshness all year round. You can also just dig up your entire herb plant and pot them up. Grow them in a cool sunny spot and allow them to dry out before watering them. Keep them trimmed so they do not become leggy. There is nothing like cooking with fresh herbs in the middle of the winter!

\*As you put your beds to rest be sure to discard all infected plants instead of throwing them into the compost heap.

\* Collect seeds from your garden for replanting in the spring. Be sure to leave some seeds for the birds as you harvest

\*It is time to start checking out the bulb catalogs and getting your orders in. Spring blooming bulbs can be planted as long as the ground is not frozen. Dig up any tender tubers that need to be stored in the cellar. Be sure to check on them occasionally for rot or rodent damage.

\*Have you got a favorite bulb let me know and I will share it with the membership? How about a favorite tomato or a hint for the veggie garden? Do you have a plant you can't live without in your flower bed? Is there a recipe that you always use in the fall? Send your ideas my way and I would love to publish them. This is your newsletter! Everyone has the opportunity to have input.

#### **Trap Plain**

**Linda Tyler**

Work bee at Trap Plain Tuesday, September 25, at 5:30 p.m. The rain date is Wednesday, September 26, at 5:30 p.m. Last month 4 members made a lot of progress on the garden with more plans in the works. The size of the bed has been greatly reduced and will get reduced even further. Thank you so much to those that helped out! The memorial tree is doing very well, but I can honestly say I will not miss going up daily to water it. Next year it will be on its own, but should have a sufficient root base to survive quite nicely. Two of our new members took it upon themselves to edge the garden. It looks great! Thanks so much.

#### **Mike's Maze**

Visit Mike's Maze in Sunderland, MA and work your way through "The Sower" by Will Sillin. There are many new added features this year including a mini maze and raceway where you and your family can enjoy games and run races. There is fresh produce and the Corn Café where you can pick up a quick bite. Mike's Maze is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekends and holidays beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. In October the maze will be open at night for the first time as a haunted maze! The cost is \$10 for 13 and up, seniors and those with student IDs, \$8, ages 4 to 12, \$7, and under 4, free. Cash or check only. Credit cards not accepted.

#### **Nominating Committee**

We will 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.

#### **Program Committee**

**Linda Tyler**

Please let the Program Committee know your thoughts on the upcoming year. It is hard to keep the

membership happy without input. The committee is beginning to plan for 2013 and would like to hear what you feel is important to the club.

#### **Franklin County Fair Booth**

The club will be installing our fair booth on Tuesday, September 6 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 7 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. We already have plans well under way for the booth. If you purchase any plants and are willing to hold off on planting them for a while or if you have any garden plants in pots that are in excellent condition that you can loan to the club for the booth please contact Linda Tyler.

#### **Stockbridge Farm**

Monday, September 17, Different Drummer's Kitchen, Northampton, MA.

Cooking Demo: Preserving the Harvest (Hands-On). 6:15-8:45

September 29-30, 14th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival

Products for sale. 10-5

#### **O'Brien's Nurserymen**

Open garden days-

September 7, 8 & 9 – Prized, Rare Peonies – Special and Intersectional

September 21, 22 & 23 – Unique Conifers for the Winter Garden

#### **Warm Colors Apiary**

September, 2012 at the Franklin County Fair- Drop by to visit a member of the Beekeepers Association in the Round House.

#### **September**

**Linda Tyler**

September always begins on the same day of the week as December every year, but no other month ends on the same day as September. As days get shorter, there is not enough light for photosynthesis to take place so the trees begin living off of the food they have produced all summer. As the food making slows, the green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves allowing us to see the underlying yellow and orange colors that have been there all along. In other trees, like maples, the glucose that is still in the leaves after the photosynthesis has stopped turn to red while the browns of oak leaves are from the wastes left in the leaves. Temperature and the amount of rain are key factors in how vivid the leaves are in the fall. Warm sunny days with cool nights lead to the best foliage since during the day a lot of sugar is made but with the cool nights the veins contract causing the sugars to remain in the leaf. These conditions produce the vivid reds while the yellow stays more consistent since it is produced by carotenoids that are always in the leaves no matter the weather.



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](mailto:JanMcGuane@yahoo.com).