



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 22

April 2013

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April Meeting

Hypertufa is fun, easy, and rewarding – especially if made with friends. Please plan to join us on Thursday, April 18th, 6pm, at 23 Pickett Lane in Greenfield. There is plenty of on-street parking. The fee for this workshop is \$5 to help defray the cost of materials. Plan on wearing comfortable work clothes, as we will be working with perlite, Portland cement, peat and water. Rubber gloves are highly recommended. Bring a plastic pot that you would like to use as a form. You can mold your hypertufa using the inside (smaller) or the outside (larger) side of your form. You should also bring a sturdy board in order to get your pot back to your car and yard safely, and a large plastic bag to wrap it in. The pot will need to be cured for a while in the shade, and directions will be given to each participant. After crossing Route 91 on Leyden Rd heading towards Leyden, go past Murphy Field on your left, and Pickett Lane is the next right. Number 23 is just down the street on the left. Directions and info are also available on the club website. We hope to see you there!

Laura Schlaikjer

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Five Acre Farm 5:30 p.m.

Members only behind the scenes tour

April Meeting 6:00 pm

April 18 - Hypertufa workshop for the Extravaganza & Take Home **Cost \$5**

At the home of Richard Willard
23 Pickett Ln, Greenfield, MA.

Steering Committee 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 25
Home of Jean Wall

All members are welcome to attend all Steering Committee

mootinos

President's Report

Welcome Spring! April is a busy month, as we emerge from our winter hibernation. Grant proposals have been read and money allotted. Winners and their submissions will be listed on the website soon. With the new date of May 11 for the Extravaganza, I invite those who indicated an interest in volunteering to meet either in person or by email to plan the details. If you didn't fill out a volunteer form but would like to help, please email greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com. With many hands comes light work! ** On April 12th, we are invited to a behind-the-scenes members-only tour at Five Acre Farm. Bring your member card for a special discount at their garden shop and plan to arrive at 5:30pm. Directions will be posted on our website. This event will help you see what's new for 2013. ** Hypertufa troughs are all the rage! Please join us on April 18th to make your own hypertufa container, and one for the club to sell at the Extravaganza. This easy project is well-suited to group work. If you missed it last year – now's your chance! ** I look forward to seeing many of you at this month's events.

Laura Schlaikjer

Quotes for Thought

"Cultivators of the earth are the most virtuous and independent citizens."
Thomas Jefferson

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the May Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, April 27, at 1:00pm. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of March 27, 2013: \$7032.96

Income: \$375.00

Expenses: \$102.42

Income: Membership, donation

Expenses: Newsletter, speaker

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

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

Trap Plain Clean Up

There will be a work bee at Trap Plain on Monday, April 22 at 5:30 with a rain date of Tuesday, April 23 at 5:30. Please bring rakes, trowels, and clippers.

Things to do this Month **Laura Schlaikjer**

March has put out the welcome mat for April, and I'm sure we will all be happy to wipe the snow off our boots as we enter a warmer month! Here are some things to do:

*By the end of April we will enjoy an extra 1:26 hours of daylight.

*Using a cold frame? Make sure you vent it on warm days.

*Before the ground is ready to work, you can always take a stroll and tamp down any frost-heaved plants.

*Wait until the ground has thawed and dried somewhat before starting to dig since you don't want to damage the soil's structure. Remove mulch and leaves (plus their seeds!) from garden beds.

*Pansies on the market? Add some of these cool-weather lovers to your flower beds for early color, and deadhead for more blooms.

*Maple syrup season will be over soon - support a local farmer with your purchase.

*The full moon on April 25th is the Full Pink Moon (after the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox); also called the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and among coastal tribes the Full Fish Moon (spawning shad were migrating).

*Speaking of Shad, make time to visit the Turner's Falls' fish ladder this spring. Underwater viewing windows offer visitors of all ages a chance to see American shad, sea lamprey and other migratory fish during their upriver spring journey to spawn. Open Wed- Sun, 9-5:00 from mid May to mid June, as well as on Monday, Memorial Day. Free admission, no reservations required.

(<http://www.firstlightpower.com/stewardship/fish.asp#ladders>)

*Earth Day is Monday, April 22nd. For events:

<http://www.earthday.org/2013/>

*Thomas Jefferson's birthday is April 13th. If you can't get down to visit the gardens at Monticello, take an armchair tour here:

<http://www.monticello.org/site/house-and-gardens/historic-gardens>. Take an audio tour with NPR here:

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/05/10/152337154/thomas-jefferson-s-garden-a-thing-of-beauty-and-science>.

*Do you have blog-phobia? Here's a great one to start with: <http://awaytogarden.com/>. Be sure to sign up for Margaret's email newsletter, and look for her book, *The Backyard Parables* in your local library.

*Couldn't resist buying an Easter lily or a pot of tulips? Save the bulbs and transplant them into your garden. Lilies will bloom naturally in June/July, and tulips and hyacinths will come up each spring (protect tulips with a wire cage if you have hungry rodents!).

Behind the Scenes Tour: Five Acre Farm

Please join us for a **MEMBERS ONLY** tour of behind the scenes at Five Acre Farm on April 12 at 5:30 p.m. What a great way to get a preview of plants this spring! Bring your membership card, please. Five Acre Farm will also be offering a discount in their gift shop that evening.

Extravaganza Reminder

Just a reminder... The Extravaganza has been moved to earlier in the month of May! This year the Extravaganza will take place on Saturday, May 11! We were always the last plant sale of the season. The Steering Committee is hoping that by moving the event earlier in the month, people will be eager to get out and purchase plants for their gardens. What does that mean for members? We need to get out and dig and divide plants earlier so they will be in tip top shape for the sale. As you clean up your garden be sure to choose a few specimens for the sale. If we are looking to improve the quality of our events, we all need to step forward and work toward that goal.

Steering Committee Meeting **March 26, 2013**

Present at Jean Wall's: Laura Schlaikjer, Linda Tyler, Dolly Gagnon, Isabel Field, Jean Wall, and Elise Schlaikjer. Absent: Jeanne Canteen and Norm Hirschfeld.

Treasurer's Report-The treasurer gave her report and the budget was passed unanimously after adding \$180. to postage and \$85. to grants.

March Meeting- The March meeting with Tom Sullivan talking about pollinators was quite interesting and well attended. He offered to be on the Garden Tour and we happily accepted. About 20 people were there.

April Meeting- The next meeting is April 18th at Richard's home at 26 Pickett Lane at 6 pm. We will be making hypertufa pots.....one for the Extravaganza and one for oneself!

Thank You Notes- A thank-you note was written to Ann Hamilton who gave us space at the Chamber of Commerce. We are welcome to use it again if so desired.

Garden Tour- The Garden Tour committee reported that all vendors said yes for another year of discount for members. There are 8 confirmed gardens set for the tour.

Meeting Site- Isabel will find out if we can use the Housing Authority building for meeting. We can still use 114 Main St. Laura will check out the possibilities with the Discovery Center.

Dues- It was voted to change the dues due date to February. The annual meeting will be January 5 or 12th or ???. No decision made.

Field Trip- We hope to visit Jono Neiger's garden on July 18th. Dolly will contact him.

Grants- The next grant meeting is March 28th. The Erving Elementary School sent an apology for not writing a thank you letter sooner, and included many charming pictures of their students with their gardens.

Conway School of Design Proposal- The recent beautification booklet from the Conway School was passed around for all to see.

Franklin County Fair- Our theme for the Franklin County Fall Fair will be fairy houses and gardens.

Invitation- We received an invitation with brochures from Yado in Saratoga Springs to see their gardens.

Steering Committee Meeting- The next Steering Committee is at Jean Wall's on April 25th. This night we savored an extraordinarily fine meal, starting with petite cucumber sandwiches, then stuffed roast pork, asparagus with a cream sauce and whipped potatoes. Dessert was an amazing checkerboard cake..... and a little wine made it all go down happily! Long may the Garden Club live!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Elise Schlaikjer for Jeanne Canteen.

Stockbridge Herb Farm

Wednesday, April 24. Cooking Class: Savoring the Spring Herb Garden--Unlocking the First Garden Flavors. Different Drummer's Cooking School, Northampton, MA. 6:15-8:45pm.

Spring Quote

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

Henry Van Dyke

Grants

The committee of 10 volunteers met recently to share a meal and listen to and discuss the 15 grants offered to us from local schools and organizations. All 15 came in through the club's new email address, with 2 mailed

just in case! Of the 15 submissions, 9 were fully funded, 4 were partially funded, and 2 were not able to be funded due to the lack of involvement of children in the gardening process. The smallest grant was \$75, and the largest was \$200. Total grant money dispersed will be \$1,695.00. Grants are going to many towns: Buckland, Greenfield, Leverett, Leyden, Northfield, Shelburne, Turners Falls, and Whately. Don't see your town on the list? Encourage them to apply next year! It's great to see so many children involved with gardening for art (beauty), science (life cycle), math (how tall?), physical education (digging) and health (eating)! We take pride in helping these children achieve their gardening goals.

The Poet Comments on Yet Another Approaching Spring by Mary Oliver

Don't flowers put on their
prettiness each spring and
go to it with
everything they've got? Who

would criticize the bed of
yellow tulips or the blue
hyacinths?
So put a

bracelet on your
ankle with a
bell on it and make a
little music for

the earth beneath your foot, or
wear a hat with hot-colored
ribbons for the
pleasure of the

leaves and the clouds, or at least
a ring with a gleaming
stone for your finger; yesterday
I watched a mother choose

exquisite ear-ornaments for someone
beloved, in the spring
of her life; they were
for her for sure, but also it seemed

a promise, a love-message, a commitment
to all girls, and boys too, so
beautiful and hopeful in this hard world and young.



Greenfield Garden Club
23 Hastings Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

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

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