



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 2

February 2012

President

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Vice President

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Jean Wall 773-9069
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Corresponding Secretary

Jan McGuane 522-2478
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On Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m., Diana Souza will give a talk and slideshow called *Gardening for Personal Enjoyment*. We will look at a simple perennial garden, the use of splashes of color, how size doesn't matter, native and non-native materials, and the challenges of shade gardening. In spite of it being a small garden, it brings great pleasure to the owner, and plenty of opportunity to experiment and fine-tune. There will be time for discussion afterwards.

The meeting will be held at the Vet's Center, 114 Main Street. This location is to the north of the Juvenile Court building on the north side of Main Street. The glass door is clearly marked. Thank you to Mayor Martin for allowing us to use this venue and Isabel Field for making the arrangements. Upon entering the door, we will be meeting in the large room on the first floor directly in front of you. There should be ample parking not only on the street but on side streets and across the street at the Mohawk Mall. Parking at meters is free after 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you all there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February Meeting 7:00 p.m.
February 16 114 Main Street
Slide Presentation "Gardening for
Personal Enjoyment" Diana Souza

Steering Committee 6:00 p.m.
March 1 Home of Jean Wall
185A Old Albany Rd, Greenfield

March Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 15 114 Main Street
Carolyn Wensel
Smith College Professor of Botany

President's Report

Isabel Field

Thank you for your vote as your new president of the Greenfield Garden Club at the annual meeting. I only hope I can serve the club with as much enthusiasm and devotion as Debran Brocklesby has put forth in office over the years. The functioning of the club will remain the same in some of its community endeavors but there is hope for change in the future as there is with any long established organization serving the county. We will be seeking your input with your participation. Remember to bring a friend to the monthly meetings and spread the word for new membership. February 16th at 7:00 Diana Souza will be giving a presentation entitled Diana's Garden. The new location for some of the monthly meetings is 114 Main St., Greenfield which is on the block between Conway St. and Wells Street. Free parking is available at that hour on Main Street.

Enjoy looking over all the flower catalogs coming in the mail as you plan for this year's old reliable to plant in the garden as something new in the landscape. I am looking forward to the upcoming growing season and hope to see you soon.

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **March Newsletter**, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, March 3 at 1:00pm. Thank you!*

Treasurer's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

Balance as of December 31, 2011: \$5,640.35

Income: \$1,046.00

Expenses: \$1,104.40

Interest: \$0.23

Balance as of January 31, 2012: \$5,582.18

Income: Membership and Annual Meeting.

Expenses: Dec/Jan Newsletter postage; Nov/Dec Newsletter printing; Office Supplies (Inkjet labels; envelopes); Primroses; Greenfield Grill; Postage for Grant Letters

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 February

Linda Tyler

February bring the yearning for color! Although winter has not been as white as it could have been, we actually have had about average snowfall this winter due to the October storm that dumped many inches of snow and cause massive power outages. Winter is also not over yet. Do not discount February! When you look at the top ten snow storms that have impacted the Northeast corridor, three of those storms have occurred in February. Keep the snow shovels handy but remember spring is right around the corner!

* January and February were added to the Roman calendar at about 700BCE. At that point in history the calendar went from 10 months to 12 months. Prior to that time Romans considered the winter a month-less period. This year is a leap year with 29 days, still short of the average month of 30 days. Legend has it that Augusta Caesar took a day from February and added it to August which was named after him so his month would be just as long as July which was named after Julius Caesar creating a short 28 day month.

Between February 1st and March 1st we often experience some of the coldest weather of the year, but February also means that winter is half over and spring can't be far behind.

* Snow crystals are so light it may take the flake hours to reach the ground. Although it forms in clouds where the temperature is below freezing, snow can fall when temperatures are in the mid-40s on the ground.

* The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the temperature average to be 14°, 7° below average for this time of year. Precipitation is predicted at 2", 0.5" below average.

*The Full Snow Moon arrives on Tuesday, February 7. This is usually the month of the highest snow

accumulation. Some tribes also refer to the moon as the Full Hungry Moon since the thick snows often made food scarce and hunting difficult.

*We begin the month with 9:58 of daylight and by the end of the month we will have 11:12 of daylight, and increase of 1:14.

*February's flower is the primrose or violet which symbolizes faithfulness, wisdom or hope. The flowers and leaves of the primrose are edible and their flavor can range between a mild lettuce to a bitter green.

* Late this month or in the first weeks of March it is a good time to start your seeds! Perennials, annuals, herbs, and vegetable can be planted in good sterile soil and either placed in a bright warm sunroom or grown under a grow light. Start onions from seeds. Onions grown from seeds are usually firmer and will store longer than ones started from sets. Test your last year's seeds and discard any that have a poor germination rate.

* Since little can be done for our outside gardens, focus in your house plants. Repot root bound plants, top dress soil by removing the top ¼ to 1/2" of soil and replacing it with fresh soil. Plants are prone to over watering during the winter months, so only water when the soil feels dry to the touch. You can begin lightly fertilizing your houseplants as soon as new growth starts to appear. Spider mites love dry climates so an easy way to deter the spider mites is to spray your plants once a week. The plants will love it and the mites will look elsewhere for a meal.

*Rejuvenate your soul by visiting flower shows, Smith greenhouse, Magic Wings or any other warm lush environment.

Annual Meeting

Linda Tyler

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting at the Greenfield Grill. I hope everyone enjoyed the buffet and slide show as much as I did. Thank you also to those who have stepped forward to fill all the offices in the club: The first time in over a year we have had a full slate.

There are copies of the Annual Report and the calendar available for those who did not attend. Please contact Linda Tyler at 413-522-1686 or by e-mailing davidptyler@comcast.net if you would like a copy.

Jacqueline LeJeune asked me to pass on the name of the rose growing over the arbor in her garden that she had forgotten: Dorothy Parker.

**Western Mass. Master Gardener Association
Symposium Ellen Weeks**

It's time again for the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association's annual Spring Gardening Symposium: From Garden to Table, Saturday, March 17th at Frontier Regional High School, South Deerfield, from 9 am to 2:00 pm. The flyer can be found online at <http://wmassmastergardeners.org/>

Grant Committee

Debran Brocklesby

40 grant letters have been sent out to all the schools in Franklin County, and to the Recorder. Any one in Franklin County who works with children in projects that involve gardening, plant science, ecology, or any related subject matter may submit a proposal to the GGC. The proposal needs to be less than 3 pages long, and must include: 1. the project title, name, contact information, and school or organization. 2. Details about the project including details of accomplishment. 3. Number of children/students, or community members that will benefit from this project. 4. What the project will cost and whether or not funding from other sources is being asked for. **NO LATE PROPOSALS WILL BE READ!**

DEAD LINE IS FEBRUARY 27th at 5:00 pm. Mail or deliver

proposal to Debran Brocklesby, Grant Committee, 682 Brattleboro Rd. Bernardston, MA 01337

GGC members who volunteered to be on the grant committee, Thank you! You will be getting a letter soon with the date for the readings!

Annie's Garden Store

February Workshops

Creating Terrariums, February 11th

Yearning for a winter garden? Create a terrarium. Learn how to select a container, pick the right plants, plant them correctly and add some miniatures or mementos. These miniature gardens are easy to create for lasting pleasure.

Seed Starting, February 18th

Discover the magic and satisfaction from starting your own seeds! This workshop will cover techniques for successful growing be it small or large quantities. Maura will go over succession planting for longer harvests; transplanting and hardening off; and container gardening with herbs and vegetables.

Houseplants, February 25th

From your grandmother's ancient jade to an unknown plant you picked up on a whim, houseplants can become lasting friends. The year-round warmth of our home allows us to grow plants that would be otherwise impossible in chilly New England. Sarah-Mary will go over the basics of houseplant care: watering, transplanting, fertilizing, and selecting the right plant

for the right spot. We'll learn to identify common pests and how to defeat them using organic methods.

For more information on workshops go to our website www.anniesgardenstore.com or friend us on Facebook.

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The 19th Annual Rhode Island Flower Show

The show runs from Thursday, February 23 through Sunday February 26. The hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The Show is held at the Rhode Island Convention Center. It offers a variety of cooking and horticultural demonstrations. Tickets are \$18 at the door and \$16 in advance. Seniors cost \$15. For more information please visit <http://www.flowershow.com/>.

The 30th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show

Visit the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut design & horticulture competition based on the theme "*Fabulous Fifties*" Attend over 80 hours of [seminars](#) and demonstrations. The show runs from Thursday, February 23 through Sunday February 26. The hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. He show is held at the Connecticut Convention Center. Tickets are \$16. Seniors can get in for \$14 on Thursday and Friday only. For more information please visit <http://www.ctflowershow.com/pages/welcome.asp>.

Winter's Garden By John Lyday

I visited a garden,
smothered in frost and snow,
limbs draped with icicles,
leaves with frozen glow.

Once filled with warm activity,
now still with cold tranquility.
Pulsating, lush, foliage,
now a dormant virility.

Were I just this garden,
strong and vibrant with growth,
then winter would not phase me
til the final seasons close.



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

Any vendors that are interested in offering our gardeners a discount please contact Jan McGuane at 522-2478.