



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 2

February 2014

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Jeanne Canteen 774-6605
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February Meeting - Feb 20th at 7pm. Discovery Center, Turners Falls
Come chase away the late winter blues at the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center with 2 great speakers. First we welcome Cynthia Boettner with a brief update on new invasive plant threats that have entered our area. There's no rest for the weary when it comes to invasives! Then, we are happy to welcome Michael Marcotrigiano as our featured speaker. Michael is the Director of the Botanical Gardens of Smith College, and will give us a photo-filled stroll through the botanic gardens' past, present and future. The Discovery Center is located on the Turners Falls side of the Gill-Montague Bridge. Parking can be accessed from 2nd St, and it's a short walk from there to the Center. The address is 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA (some GPS units say Montague, MA). This event is open to the public - please encourage your friends to attend so we can give Michael a big Franklin County welcome!

President's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

I feel like we have rounded a corner on the calendar, and are heading for spring, despite the bitter cold weather! I'm sure folks are looking at their seed catalogues with renewed interest and their checkbook or credit card at the ready! We had a wonderful annual meeting at Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens. It was great to be at a new venue, with the tropics right at our fingertips. Twelve lucky members went home with a potted primrose won in the annual volunteer survey raffle. If you forgot to submit one, you can find a copy posted on our website under "Contact." You can also download a copy of the 2014 calendar at the bottom right of the home page. There are still copies of the annual report available - email us for a copy to be mailed to you. We have a great calendar of events ready to thrill you - I hope to see many of you at the February meeting for our distinguished guest from Smith College. What a wonderful way to get ready for the bulb shows in March. Don't forget the flower shows in Hartford and Providence are Feb 20 - 23!

Dues

It is now time to pay your membership dues. Dues are \$18 for a single membership and \$24 for a family membership. Make checks payable to Greenfield Garden Club. Please send checks to Jean Wall, 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301. Please include your e-mail address. If you wish to receive your newsletter via the postal service please specify and include your current mailing address.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Thursday, February 20 7:00 p.m.
Michael Marcotrigiano, Director, Smith College Botanic Gardens
Discovery Center, Turners Falls

Thursday, March 20 7:00 p.m.
Craft Night- Making a fountain out of a pot
114 Main Street, Greenfield, MA

April- Date & Time TBA
Pickety Place, Mason, NH
Tour and herbal lunch

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

Treasurer's Report Jean Wall

Balance as of January 30, 2014: \$7,702.41

Income: \$1,961.18

Expenses: \$1,088.93

Income: Interest, Annual Meeting, Dues

Expenses: Annual Meeting, Domain Name

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

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

Feb. 2014 Gardening to Do List: Zone 5

Dolly Gagnon with help from The Home Depot Garden Club

Winter is the most difficult time for gardeners in the northern zones. We can't do much outside. But at least this month, we can begin starting seeds for our dream garden for the spring and summer. If you have the right seed starting supplies, getting started is easy. So, if you haven't already, purchase your seeds and other supplies now and let the dream begin.

Annuals/Perennials/Houseplants: Bring geraniums out of storage; cut them back by half, water well, and set them in a bright, cool window. Over-watering is the biggest risk to houseplants in winter. Always check with a finger poked well into the pot before adding more water. Watch for signs of houseplant pests like spider mites, mealybugs and scale insects. If tackled before they infest the plants, non-chemical methods are usually successful — a simple shower, insecticidal soap spray, or with tenacious pests like mealy bugs, an alcohol swab and Q-tip.

It is not unusual to see the foliage of early hardy bulbs peeking prematurely out of the soil if there is a period of unseasonably warm weather in the late winter, especially if bulbs have a southern exposure or are planted near a warm house foundation. The exposed leaves may be nipped when cold weather returns, but the plants will still bloom later in the season.

Vegetables: If you start sowing seeds in flats indoors for spring plant, remember that small, compact seedlings are better transplants than older, leggy ones. Most seedlings take eight weeks or less to be garden-ready, so count back from final frost (mid to late April for Zone 5) about 2 months for the very first sowings. Some early starters are lettuce, celery, onions, leeks and early tomatoes, which you can sow now indoors under lights.

Wash previously used flats, cell packs or pots with a 1:10 solution of bleach and water to prevent fungal disease that can kill seedlings. Instead of potting soil, use a finer textured seed-starting mix. Lettuce is one of the earliest crops you can put in the ground. Start seeds indoors and transplant outdoors as soon as the ground can be worked.

If the ground isn't frozen, sow some spinach and radishes outdoors under cover.

Trees/Shrubs: Now is the time to prune deciduous trees and shrubs while they are dormant. Prune dormant fruit trees before the buds swell. Don't paint the wounds — let them heal naturally.

Annual Meeting 2014

Jeanne Canteen

Our annual meeting was held at the Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory on 1/19/14.

40 Members and guests attended.

Laura Schlaikjer ran the business meeting. Richard Willard made a motion to accept the annual reports as presented; Dolly Gagnon seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Jeanne Canteen presented the report of the nominating committee. Richard Willard made a motion to accept the slate of officers shown below; Pamela Lester seconded the motion.

The slate was passed unanimously.

President Laura Schlaikjer

Vice-President Dolly Gagnon

Treasurer Jean Wall

Corresponding Secretary Terry Atkinson

Recording Secretary Jeanne Canteen

After the meeting was adjourned, we all visited with the butterflies and a good time was had by all.

Gardening Catalogs

Elise Schlaikjer

My mailbox overflows with garden catalogs as I am sure yours does too. However, this year I have a bunch of new onesand some I particularly like. I have just finished reading, and I say that literally since they give more good information than just how to grow or why to choose this particular seed. And that is the catalog from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. It is hefty in hand as well as information and offers. I personally like their stories about their choices about seeds, heirlooms, and the effects of GMOs. I highly recommend it! Another one is Territorial Seed Company. Less drama than Baker Creek but filled with eye-catching illustrations, descriptions and choices that capture the lineage and romance of previous years.....dare I say centuries.....

Of course, Fedco will always be close to my heart in many ways. Their integrity, their humor, their amazing variety. All of these companies, (and more) speak and act from their hearts and views of life.....in many ways they are the backbone of America, and I rejoice that their voices are still heard and are influencing the choices we all make.....for our gardens and for our lives.

Stockbridge Herbs

Mark your calendar!

Monday, February 24

Cooking Class: Italian Comfort Food

Different Drummer's Kitchen

Northampton, MA

6:15-8:45 PM

Saturday, March 8

Cooking Workshop: The Mediterranean Kitchen

Master Gardeners' Symposium

Frontier Regional School

South Deerfield, MA

9:00 AM

Monday, March 31

Cooking Class: Celebrate Massachusetts: A Locally-Inspired Menu

Different Drummer's Kitchen

Northampton, MA

6:15-8:45 PM

Grant Committee

Laura Schlaikjer

The grant program for 2014 is officially under way!

Our website and Facebook page have all been updated, and letters are in the mail to Franklin County Schools and organizations that work with children. There will also be coverage in the Recorder. Applicants have specific guidelines to follow that are detailed in their letters and on our website. This year's deadline is Saturday, March 1st at midnight. Those who expressed an interest in being on the committee to decide the grants will be notified by mail of the meeting.

Articles

Linda Tyler

I would love to have more people submitting articles for the newsletter. The due by date and time is always included at the bottom of the front page of the newsletter. What kind of articles am I looking for? Anything garden related that may be of interest to our membership. You may have a poem or recipe you would like to share. It may be your thoughts about the season or a journal entry you might want others to think about. Things I will not include in the newsletter are religious or political articles. If you have an idea you are considering and are not sure if it is appropriate send it my way and I will take it under consideration. This is your newsletter and I would love for more people to be involved.

Recipes

Linda Tyler

Speaking of recipes, there were some awesome treats at the Holiday Party. Anyone interested in sharing. One I particularly enjoyed had cranberries in it. If this was your contribution I would love for the recipe to arrive in my in box! davidptyler@comcast.net.

Smith Spring Bulb Show

Saturday, March 1 - 16, 2014 Lyman Plant House

10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily

Friday extended hours: March 7 & 14, 4:00 to 8:00 pm

Members Only Hours: 9:00 to 10:00 am daily

(please bring your membership card)

\$2.00 Donation suggested

Spring Bulb Show Opening Lecture:

The Best of Flavor and Fragrance

Presented by Holly Shimizu

Executive Director, United States Botanic Garden

Friday, February 28, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Campus Center Carroll Room, Smith College

The 2014 Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show

The 21st Annual Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show will be held Thursday, February 20, 2014 - Sunday, February 23, 2014. Seed Starting, February 18th

33rd annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

Thursday, Feb. 20 through Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Connecticut Convention Center on 100 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford. Hours are: Thursday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter Quotes

*Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth. ~Hugh Macmillan, "Rejuvenescence," The Ministry of Nature, 1871

*I prefer Winter and Fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape — the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show. ~Andrew Wyeth

*Nature has many scenes to exhibit, and constantly draws a curtain over this part or that. She is constantly repainting the landscape and all surfaces, dressing up some scene for our entertainment. Lately we had a leafy wilderness; now bare twigs begin to prevail, and soon she will surprise us with a mantle of snow. Some green she thinks so good for our eyes that, like blue, she never banishes it entirely from our eyes, but has created evergreens. ~Henry David Thoreau, Nov. 8, 1858

*Spring, summer, and fall fill us with hope; winter alone reminds us of the human condition. ~Mignon McLaughlin, The Second Neurotic's Notebook, 1966

*February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March. ~J.R. Stockton



Greenfield Garden Club
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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, and when your card is presented.

Backyard Birds Strong Ave. Northampton 10% off regularly prices 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
Sugarloaf Nursery 25 Amherst Rd, Sunderland- 10% off regular 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.