



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 6

June 2012

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June Meeting

Linda Tyler

On Thursday, June 14, (Please note that the meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month!) we will be viewing the gardens of Kathy Puckett at 150 Skinner Road in Shelburne. Kathy is an artist and her palette is reflected in her garden. Although her garden features a variety of plants right now we are headed to an iris viewing. She has a wide array of iris in a variety of colors. Many Siberian irises will greet us, but her collection ranges from early blooming reticulates, Standard Dwarf iris, Intermediate Bearded iris, Tall Bearded iris, Japanese iris and species iris. Is it a surprise that Kathy is a member of the Western New England Iris Society? Her garden is planted to feature a never ending transition of color. "I am an artist. I have to have beauty around me all the time or I go crazy," she is quoted as saying. She and her husband have been nurturing these gardens for the past eleven years.

There will be a car pool meeting at Cherry Rum Plaza at 5:30 or you can reach Kathy's house by heading west on Route 2. At 3.7 miles from the rotary take a right onto Colrain Shelburne Road. Take the first left into Skinner Road. 150 Skinner Road will be on your right.

Please park on the street and NOT in the driveway. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Please note the June meeting is on the second Thursday of the month.

June 14 Gardens of Kathy Puckett
150 Skinner Road, Shelburne.

Car pool to meet at Cherry Rum Plaza at 5:30.

Trap Plain Work Bee 5:00 p. m.

June 18 Rain date June 19

Steering Committee 6:00 p.m.

June 28 Home of Jean Wall
185A Old Albany Road, Greenfield

Garden Tour 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets on sale at Trap Plain, corner of Federal and Silver in Greenfield 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

July Meeting 6:00 p.m.

July 19 Hyper Tufa Workshop
taught by Elizabeth Adams at the home of Jean Wall, 186 A Old Albany Road Greenfield

President's Report

Isabel Field

Can it get much greener and weedy with all this rain we've been having? And still we are below average for this time of year [1.13 in]. The Extravaganza at Trap Plain was fun. Seeing members, regulars, friends, and new shoppers. Lots of plants were sold and some great treasures were at the tag sale. The Garden Tour Committee is busy finalizing preparations for the event in July. New gardens have been added and working farms as well. This year should be educational as well as visually stimulating. All members are welcome to volunteer for the garden tour. Help is needed and greatly appreciated. Downtown will have a new look with the plant containers purchased by the Beautification Committee. They have been busy working with the town DPW and Ed Snow to get old containers moved and new ones placed in the near future. More info on the planters will be forthcoming. Come join us in June at the monthly event to view a beautiful garden and converse with fellow gardeners. Take an hour out of your busy schedule and relax and enjoy your passion of gardening.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the July Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, June 30 at 1:00pm. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Laura Schlaikjer

Balance as of April 30, 2012: \$4,015.55

Income: \$1,492.00

Interest: \$0.13

Expenses: \$331.54

Balance as of May 31, 2012: \$5,176.14

Income: Extravaganza, 2 memberships, donations, mug sold, cash set-up (\$250) returned, \$20 received for Pearl Fryer event in 2011.

Expenses: May newsletter printing, Extravaganza posters printed, cash set-up, hose for Trap Plain

Thank you to everyone who made the Extravaganza a success! Plant sales were down a bit, but overall we did well. Let's turn our attention to the Tour on July 7th. Sign-up sheets will be available at the June meeting, as well as posters. Many hands make light work!

Things to Do June

Linda Tyler

June! What a fabulous month. June is full of new growth and the promise of summer. June is special! In both common and leap years no other month begins on the same day of the week as June. The meteorological summer begins on June 1. June was the sister and wife of Jupiter and the goddess of marriage. More marriages occur in June than any other month. In Iceland it is said that if you bathe naked in the morning dew on the 24th of June, you will not age as quickly. Anyone want to test this folklore?

* We begin the month with 15:07 of daylight and end the month with 15:16, a gain of only 9 minutes this month.

*The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts temperatures to average about 66° (2° above normal) and precipitation to be at 2.5" (average).

*The Full Strawberry Moon arrives on June 4. This is one of the moon names that was universal to every Algonquin tribe, but in Europe it is referred to as the Rose Moon. It is easy to see where both names arrived from since strawberry's short growing season is in June and many roses are at their prime in June as well.

*The rose is this month's flower and stands for love and beauty. It is believed that birth flowers originated back in the time of the Roman Empire. Gifts of gemstones and flowers were given as gifts by family and friends during a person's birth month. The language of flowers developed during the conservative Victorian Era. Because of the rules of proper etiquette, it was inappropriate to express one's feelings so flowers were used to let the recipient know the givers' true feelings.

*Stop cutting asparagus when the spears begin to get smaller. Cover the bed with a layer of compost or manure.

*One of the hardest jobs for me is thinning vegetable rows. I so hate to pull up those tiny lettuce and beet plants. I look at every seedling as a possible plant but thinning always wins out since I know the crop will actually produce more given the room. After thinning, be sure to water to help the remaining plants recover from the disturbing of their root systems.

*In the herb garden, be sure to nip any flowers forming on your basil. This will give you a nice bushy plant.

*As the weather warms the possibility of the lawn drying out increases. Be sure the mower deck on your lawnmower is set at its highest level so that your lawn will tolerate dry spells better.

*It is now safe to plant even the warmth loving plants like tomatoes and peppers. Be sure to rotate crops to lessen chances of disease. Second crops of beans, beets and carrots can be added for later harvesting. Seedlings of broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage can be started for fall planting.

*Tomato and pepper production will improve with the addition of Epsom salts. Add 1T around each transplant or spray a solution of 1T to a gallon of water when you transplant, when the first flower appears, and when the fruit sets.

*Water in the early morning or late in the day to cut down on evaporation. It is better to water deeply once a week than to give shallow watering daily. Deep watering will encourage strong deep roots while shallow watering will result in shallow roots. Water slowly to a depth of 5 to 6".

Walker's Farm

Walker's Farm in Dummerston, VT is offering a 10% discount to club members who present their membership card at the check-out for the month of June. This discount is only on plants and does not include pots and other items in their store. Visit their web site to see what magnificent plants they have to offer.

<http://www.walkerfarm.com/>

Silver Garden Daylilies

Daylily Open House Sale the 3rd Saturday of June, July & August from 9-4.

<http://www.silvergardendaylilies.com/>

Stockbridge Farm

There will be Cook's Holiday Open House at Stockbridge farms on Sunday, July 1 from 12-4. Visit their web site for more details!

<http://www.stockbridgeherbs.com/index.html>

Greenfield Garden Club 20th Annual Garden Tour

The Greenfield Garden Club's 20th annual garden tour will be sponsored by the Greenfield Garden Club and the Greenfield Agricultural Commission. The two groups will be joining to offer a farm and garden tour on Saturday, July 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at the Trap Plain garden on the corner of Silver and Federal Street in Greenfield. Tickets are \$12 per person. This self-guided tour with complimentary refreshments will also include demonstrations.

Garden Tour Volunteers Needed! *Linda Tyler*

Volunteers to cohost, weed, hang posters, and prepare refreshments will be needed for the tour. We are also seeking new items for the drawing that will take place that day. This is the second of our two yearly fundraisers. Please step forward and help the club so we can give back to the community. For further information please contact Linda Tyler (413) 522-1686 or e-mail davidptyler@comcast.net.

Garden Tour Food! *Cindy McNeilly*

Our garden tour is just about a month away and it's not too soon to start thinking about what you'll donate to the refreshment table. If you like to bake, how about something for early morning such as scones, or tea bread or coffee cake. Or for later in the day cookies or brownies or whatever type of baked treat you like to make. If baking isn't what you like to do you can always make some sandwiches, rollups, or even devilled eggs. AND if it's too hot to think about even making something we can always use cut up fresh fruit and vegetables.

Whatever you can provide is greatly appreciated and helps make our tour really special. Just remember to label what you've made, especially if it contains nuts, for those with allergies.

Please let us know what you will be providing by contacting Linda Tyler at (413) 522-1686 or by e-mailing davidptyler@comcast.net

Garden Tour Drawing *Linda Tyler*

The club is looking for items for the drawing during the tour. We already have one very exciting "special" drawing item. A night's stay at "*The House on the Hill.*" What a wonderful addition to our drawing! If you have an item to donate, please let Linda Tyler know by calling 413-522-1686 or by e-mailing davidptyler@comcast.net.

Lavender Festival

The Lavender Festival will be at Johnson Hill Farm, 51 hog Hollow road, Buckland on June 23 & 24 from 10 to 4. Rain or shine. For more details visit <http://www.lavenderland.com/festival.html>

Trap Plain

Please join us to work on weeding Trap Plain on Monday, June 18 at 5:00 p. m. The rain date will be Tuesday, June 19. Bring your own tools for weeding, edging and trimming. Let's get the garden looking great for the tour. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there!

Yukl's

Word on the street is you have to stop by and see what Bruce Yukl has to offer. Check out the lower greenhouse for a wonderful variety of container items! Bruce offers the club a 10% discount.

O'Brien's Nurseryman

June 1-3- Trillium- 6 hard to find Wakerobins or Toadshades

June 8-10- Hostas at their best

June 15-17- Cypripediums, Yes Lady Slippers!

June 22-24- "Do you call them Heucheras, Hoochairas or Coralbells?"

June 29- July 1- Hakonechloa - The Best Grass for Shade!

Warm Colors Apiary

Queens and Queen Rearing Workshop June 10 from 9 to 11:30 or 1 to 3:30. Cost \$50. The Queen is the most important individual in a bee hive. Here we learn to evaluate and raise replacement Queens focusing on selection for desirable characteristics that balance colony needs with the beekeepers goals. Three methods for raising Queens will be demonstrated: use of nucs, Cloake boards and the Doolittle method. Raising Queens is no longer an advanced skill it is today's best hope for improving all beekeeping. Contact the web site to sign up and get more information. <http://www.warmcolorsapiary.com/>

Nature's Welcome

By Dylan DePalma, age 13

I took a walk today and left my music home.
As I walked, spring greeted me with music all her own.
Her gossamer dress is new grass with daffodils in rows.
Her breath, the breeze, brought scents of melting snow.
The steady pulse of peepers in full song, her heartbeat,
glows.

With arms as boughs to catch the clouds
And sprinkle sunlight down.
She speaks as birds and babbling brook.
I'm glad I listened, and homeward, took
The melody of her beautiful ways
To liven up the coming days.

Dylan is the son of Laura Schlaikjer and placed in the Top 2 in the 12 to 14 year old category of the 21st Annual Poet's Seat Poetry Contest.



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 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

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.