



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 6

June 2014

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June Meeting

Grab your camera and meet us at Cherry Rum Plaza by 5:40pm to carpool to South Deerfield to meet Anne Marie and Paul Kostecki, owners of the wonderful gardens seen in Sherry Wilson's article in last year's Hampshire Gazette. We will be treated to stories about how they came to create this series of garden rooms in their backyard, which began 28 years earlier. Paul is the mastermind behind all the stone work, and Anne Marie created the gardens. They have both been inspired by trips they took to England and Italy and other places here in the USA. Besides the stone and brickwork, there is a pergola and pots planted with lavish floral displays. Anne Marie tells me that this winter there has been some die-back, but that she relishes the opportunity to reassess and replant. Please join us for a wonderful early summer evening in a delightful landscape. Remember to pack a folding chair, bug spray and an umbrella if needed.

Directions: Our destination is 17 Stillwater Rd in South Deerfield. It's important to carpool since the Northfield Garden Club will be joining us this evening and we don't want to fill her street with cars! Take I-91 to exit 25/Deerfield. At the end of the ramp, turn right towards Conway. You'll pass a Neighbors convenience store in about a mile. 100 yards past the store, bear right onto Stillwater Rd. Proceed to the first intersection (there will be a cemetery on your right. The Kostecki's home is the first residence on the left after the intersection. We may park in their driveway or along their property (a corner lot).

President's Report

The green seems so intense this year, you almost need sunglasses! My son has been doing a nature journal for school, and each week we have been sitting quietly on a ledge in our woods overlooking a small stream and observing our surroundings. When we first started, the leaves were just coming out. Now the canopy overhead is filled with bright green leaves lit up by the sun. Birds are singing everywhere, and we even saw a deer pass by on the opposite side of the stream. One doesn't always have the time to sit still for an hour or so and observe, but I highly recommend it! I imagine that everyone is quite busy in their gardens. Are you taking the time while you work to look at your soil? Do you have lots of earthworms? Do you need to add some compost? What birds do you hear? Can you recognize them by their songs? What animals have visited in the night - can you see evidence of their passing? Take time from sitting, kneeling or bending to enjoy the clouds and to view the horizon. Do some garden yoga! Enjoy every minute in the great outdoors. See you in South Deerfield on the 19th for more observations!

Laura Schlaikjer

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Thursday, June 19 6 pm
Gardens of Anne Marie and Paul Kostecki

*17 Stillwater Rd
South Deerfield
Car Pool leaves Cherry Rum Plaza at 5:40*

Saturday, June 28
Garden Tour

*Tickets on sale at Trap Plain
Corner of Silver and Federal
Street from 9 to 1*

Steering Committee Meeting
*Thursday, June 26 6pm
Home of Jean Wall, 40 High St*

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the July Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, June 28, at 1:00pm. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of May 27, 2014: \$6,071.72

Income: \$1,786.35

Expenses: \$1,016.13

Income: Interest, dues, Plant Extravaganza

Expenses: Newsletter printing, Plant Extravaganza, logo, signs, office supplies

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

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

June To Do List by Dolly Gagnon & Linda Tyler

* Stake dahlias and gladiolas when you plant them to keep from damaging their roots later in the season.

* Pinch back foliage ends of mums, 1/2 inch every 2 weeks

* Fertilize roses now: To supply potassium, whiz banana peels in a blender, then plop the stuff beneath the mulch around your roses.

* Harvest daily from asparagus plants in patches at least 3 years old.

* For autumn harvest, plant bush beans, Brussels sprouts, and late cabbage.

* Spray tomato plants with "compost tea" (made by steeping an old pillowcase filled with compost in a bucket of water) to prevent diseases.

* Remember gardens need about an inch of water a week especially if you are someone who does not mulch. Mulch helps to keep evaporation down.

* I love cilantro but it is hard to keep under control, so you may want to sow some every couple of weeks so you will have a fresh supply all summer.

* Garlic is up and looking great! Garlic hates competition so keep it weeded or mulch it in with shredded leaves or straw. Don't forget the fertilizer. Fish emulsions work great.

* Houseplants do well outside on a sheltered porch.

* Spring flowering shrubs can now be trimmed. Trim them back for fuller, controlled growth.

* Continue sowing seeds such as lettuce, beets, radishes, carrots and other salad greens every couple of weeks for a continuous supply of vegetables throughout the summer.

* Check container pots and especially hanging plants daily. They can dry out very quickly on a hot day.

* As weather warms it is important to keep your mower blade sharp and set to at least 2 or 3" otherwise as the hot summer progresses you will end up with a dry brown lawn. A taller lawn can tolerate heat and dry conditions much better than a short lawn.

* Mosquitos breed in standing water so be sure to check for items that are holding water and change the water in the bird bath weekly.

* If you are feeding hummingbirds change their food frequently so that it does not spoil and sicken the birds.

* Keep up on the weeding and the deadheading so your garden will stay at its best this summer.

* Pick flowers off your rhubarb as they form for a better crop. Rhubarb can be picked until August then should be allowed to rest until frost. Do not cut rhubarb stalks, always pull them off the plant. Remember the leaves are toxic so keep them out of the reach of inquisitive pets and children.

* Be sure to sucker and support tomatoes as they grow. Spraying with copper can help reduce the chance of losing your tomatoes to blight. Always buy tomatoes from a reliable source. If your tomatoes do get infected do not throw the plants into the compost heap where the spores can survive over the winter months and affect next year's crop. Tomatoes also thrive with an application of Epsom salts. Apply about a tablespoon of granules around each plant or water with a solution of 1 tablespoon of Epsom salts to 1 gallon of water.

* Protect your berry crops by covering with fabric or the birds will get more than you do!

* Be sure to thin your veggie rows so that the individual plants have enough room to thrive.

* Be vigilant in your pursuit of Japanese beetles and the Asian Lily beetles. Don't let them decimate your plants!

Tin Can Men

Jan McGuane's dad makes tin can men and could use your help. He needs various size cans which he uses to assemble the tin can men. One type can he is especially in need of is sardine cans. If you have cans for him you can contact Jan at m.mcguane@comcast.net to arrange drop off. Thanks for helping out!

Glenbrook Gardens & Johnson Hill Farm Silver Garden Daylilies

3rd Saturday of June, July & August

Daylily Open House Sale

9AM - 4PM

Last Weekend of June

Lavender Festival

Click Link for more info

<http://www.lavenderland.com/Johnson Hill Farm>

Second Saturday of July

Daylily and Arts Festival

9AM - 4PM

Celebrate Bee Week!

Bee Friendly - Celebrate Bee Week in Greenfield June 7-15! (www.beeweek.org)

Bee Week begins with a bee-themed First Night Greenfield on Friday, June 6th featuring honey tasting

at Greenfield's Market. On Saturday, hear Tom Sullivan's talk entitled "How to Plant a Pollinator Garden" from 9-10 followed by the 2nd Congo's Honey of a Party at the 2nd Congregational Church. On Sunday, June 8th celebrate with Just Roots' Spring Farm Festival from 3-7pm – which includes a performance of To Bee or Not to Bee at 6pm. The Greenfield Public Library will have a special collection of bee books on display all week. On Saturday, June 14, the documentary "Take Back Your Power" will be screened at Greenfield's Market, 114 Main St, 2nd Floor Meeting room at 5pm. This will be followed by an info session on electromagnetic pollution's effect on bee and human health including simple precautions people can take. "Take Back Your Power" is an award-winning documentary that looks at the health and privacy consequences of the global roll-out of "smart meter" technology which uses electromagnetic radiation to measure individual energy consumption. National Grid is currently running a "smart meter" pilot program in Worcester. Lastly, on June 28 at Just Roots there will be an intensive Hands-on Intro to Beekeeping. 10-4. See website for details and tuition: www.justroots.org/events/hands-on-introduction-to-beekeeping/ To help honeybees in your yard, don't dig out all your dandelions in the spring! They are an important source of nectar for our early pollinators. Other early bee-friendly flowers are crocus, hellebores, fruit trees, willow and holly. Plant any old fashioned, flat, open-faced flowers that accommodate a honeybee short tongue. Avoid pesticides at all costs. Honeybees like sunflowers, thyme, lemon balm, lavender, globe thistle, cosmos, butterfly bush and false blue spirea. In the fall, important sources are goldenrod, Joe Pye weed, and asters.

O'Brien Nurserymen, LLC

Like hostas? Then you should visit O'Brien Nurserymen, LLC, 40 Wells Road, Granby, CT 06035.

Amazing assortment of hosta, empimediums, and other assorted plants. Here are this year's Open Garden Days for O'Brien's:

June 6, 7 & 8 Come see Hostas at their best!

June 13, 14 & 15 Polygonatums- Check out our selection of Solomon Seals

June 20, 21 & 22 "Do you call them Hercheras, Hoochairas or Coral Bells?"

June 27, 28 & 29 Hakonechloa- Best Ornamental Grass for Shade

July 4, 5 & 6 "Did you see dem, Sedum?"

July 11, 12 & 13 "Discover our Dazzling Daylily Display"

July 18, 19 & 20 Toad Lilies, Great Summer Flowers for Shade.

August 1, 2 & 3 Hazy, Hot and Humid - Check out our Cool Ferns

August 15, 16 & 17 Hosta Dividing Demo each day at 12 noon.

August 29, 30 & 31 Prized, Rare Peonies - Species and Intersectional.

September 5, 6 & 7 Granby Open Farm Day- Saturday

September 12, 13 & 14 Come see our Praying Mantis hunting for Insects!

September 26, 27 & 28 Unique Conifers for the Winter Garden

October 10, 11 & 12 End of the Hosta Season Sale

October 31, November 1 & 2 Japanese Maples for Amazing Fall Color

Extravaganza Report

Laura Schlaikjer

This year we were hampered by a late spring, and perennial donations were way down. On the other hand, we had a wonderful array of annuals that we purchased at wholesale from 5 Acre Farm and Spatcher Farm in Leyden. (If you shop at Foster's, those are Holly Spatcher's plants for sale there.) We are gradually building up our arsenal of tents and colorful flags to announce our sale. We may need to rethink the date of our sale. I have been observing that, this year at least, I would have had more plants to donate if it had been a later weekend, although I did lose a week of digging while chaperoning in Tennessee with the Pioneer band students. Will you please take a moment to email the club with your ideas and suggestions for next year? Thank you!

2014 GARDEN TOUR

Jeanne Canteen

The Garden Tour Committee is very excited about this year's tour. The date is June 28 for the public, and June 29 for those whose gardens are on the tour and for those members who worked the tour. We have nine very special gardens selected for your enjoyment and interest. They are mostly in Greenfield with one in Gill and one in Turner's Falls. Tickets will be sold at Trap Plain from 9AM-1PM, and the tour runs from 9AM to 4PM. The cost is still only \$12/person. There will be refreshments, our famous drawings, water and other fun 'stuff' along the way. (There is a new interactive surprise feature this year!)

Bakers/Cooks Needed! Marsha Stone is looking for donations of baked goods both savory and sweet for the tour refreshment table. **Email Marsha at mds41@comcast.net** or call 413-773-0201 if you will be able to help. Many hands make light work!



Greenfield Garden Club
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01302-0309

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.