



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 3

March 2012

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## March Program

Linda Tyler

On Thursday, March 15, Carolyn Wetzel, Professor of Biology at Smith College, will be guest speaker with a presentation titled "The Beauty and Biology of Bark." She will be doing a slide show covering the variety of tree bark of trees that are native and grow in this area. Included will be a discussion on how trees and their bark contribute to the landscape design along with how and why different trees have different bark patterns. There will also be a make-and-take hands-on activity where you will have the opportunity to craft white birch napkin rings.

The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Center, 114 Main Street. This location is to the right of the Juvenile Court building on the north side of Main Street. The arched glass door is clearly marked. Upon entering the door, you will enter a large meeting room on the first floor. 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!

## President's Report

Isabel Field

A week ago on a warm and sunny day at the Hartford Flower show I though spring could not be far away. Today is the second day of watching a snow storm rage outside my window giving us six plus inches of snow and wondered will we ever see spring? Yet thunderstorms are predicted for Saturday. As we all know New England weather is always a surprise from day to day and know it will not be long before we are digging in the earth again. Currently committees are working on the beautification of downtown, gardening grants for school children, the plant Extravaganza and the Garden Tour. Please, if you are interested in participating on any of these committees contact me.

## Newsletter

Laura Schlaikjer

**Newsletter alert!** If your newsletter has a red dot on the address label - remember to send in your dues for the year to stay in the loop! Also, you now have 2 ways to save the club printing and mailing costs and still get the newsletter after you renew your membership. You can give us your email and we will email you the pdf, as well as late-breaking news and discounts - or, you can opt to download it directly from our new website, [www.thegreenfieldgardenclub.org](http://www.thegreenfieldgardenclub.org). Please let one of the officers know if you do not need to be on the paper mailing list - and thank you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### March Meeting

7:00 p.m.

March 15 114 Main Street  
Carolyn Wetzel Smith College  
Professor of Biology, Smith College  
The Beauty and Biology of Bark

### Garden Tour Committee

6:00 p.m.

March 30 Home of Jean Wall  
185A Old Albany Road, Greenfield

### Steering Committee

### After Garden Tour Meeting

March 30 Home of Jean Wall  
185A Old Albany Rd, Greenfield

### April Meeting

7:00 p.m.

April 19 114 Main Street  
Jane Perry Bonsai

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the April Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, March 31, at 1:00pm. Thank you!*

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Laura Schlaikjer**

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

Income: \$650.00

Expenses: \$530.60

Interest: \$0.27

Balance as of February 29, 2012: \$5,701.85

Income: memberships, annual meeting, donations

Expenses: office supplies, postage (Feb/March/April, memb. cards, barrel program, thank-you notes), printing (Jan, Feb, & Annual Mtg), Domain name (new website)

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 March**

**Linda Tyler**

March was originally the first month in the calendar according to the Romans. March was named for Mars, the god of war. In 1752 the Georgian calendar was adopted where January is the first month in the year. Anglo-Saxons called the month, Hlyd monath, which means stormy month... We'll see if that holds true since so far this winter has been a bust! Many sayings are associated with March: "When March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb." "A dry March and a wet May, Fills barns and bays with corn and hay." "As it rains in March so it rains in June." "March winds and April showers, Bring forth May flowers." "A peck of March dust and a shower in May, Makes the corn green and the fields gay."

\*The Old farmer's Almanac predicts average temperatures to be 29° (4° below average) and precipitation to be 1.5" (1.5" below average).

\*On March 8<sup>th</sup> the Full Worm Moon arrives. It is considered the last full moon of winter. The ground is beginning to thaw and worm casts appear as the worm become active Justin time for the robin's return. The more northern tribes called the March moon, the Full Crow Moon or the Full Sap Moon. It was also referred to as the Full Crust Moon, but this year there certainly isn't any snow to have a crust! The settlers called the March moon, the Lenten Moon.

\*The March flower is the Narcissus or daffodil. Narcissus was a hunter in Greek mythology, who was very proud of his looks. He was lured to a pool where he fell in love with his own reflection. He was unable to leave its beauty and therefore died admiring himself.

\*We begin the month with 11:16 of daylight and end the month with 12:42 of daylight, a gain of 1:26!

Spring is really on the way! Daylight savings time starts on Sunday, March 14 at 2:00a.m.

\*As soon as houseplants show signs of new growth it is time to begin fertilizing them again. Check plants for bugs. A good misting will benefit plants and help keep spider mites away.

\*Trees and shrubs can be planted as soon as the ground is workable. Fruit trees can be pruned until buds start to develop. The fruit will benefit if it has more room to develop. Maple trees and birch trees should not be pruned until they have leaves.

\*If starting flats of plants, be sure to sterilize with a solution of 10% bleach. Use soil-less mix to avoid disease. After planting, try a baster to water the new seedlings. A watering can causes soil disruption and damages plants. A baster is an efficient way of accomplishing the same thing without the damage.

Asters, larkspur, alyssum, snapdragons, verbena, salvia, and petunias can be started about 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost date for your area. Zinnias can also be started and should be transferred to individual pots at 4 or 5 weeks. Towards the end of the month, vegetables that can be started include Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes and lettuce. Newly sprouted plants can be fertilized as soon as 2 sets of leaves have formed. Herbs that can be started indoors are basil, parsley, sage and thyme. Once they have germinated, herbs should be under a grow light for 14 hours to prevent the plants from becoming leggy.

\*You can sow peas as soon as the soil can be worked. The earlier they mature, the sweeter they will be. As soon as the soil can be worked, you can plant beets, carrots, cabbage, and potatoes.

\*Milk jugs can be used to protect early emerging plants if severe weather does arrive.

\*Remove the mulch from your strawberry beds, rhubarb, garlic, roses, and asparagus. Asparagus and rhubarb can be side dressed with a nitrogen rich fertilizer.

\*Perennial beds can now be fertilized.

\*Toward the end of the month, if it is not too wet, you can divide summer and fall blooming perennials. As you do keep in mind one of our 2 fund raisers, the Extravaganza!

### **Greenfield Garden Club**

Check out the club's new web presence...

<http://www.thegreenfieldgardenclub.org/> Thank you Laura Schlaikjer for making this happen. The club can also be found on Facebook!

### ***Grant Committee***

***Linda Tyler***

The Grant Committee received ten grant applications before the deadline and will be making decisions regarding the grants later on this month when they meet. Thank you to those members that volunteered to serve on the Grant Committee.

### ***Garden Tour Committee***

***Linda Tyler***

The Garden Tour Committee will be meeting at the home of Jean Wall, 185A Old Albany Road, Greenfield on Friday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. Those interested in serving on the committee are welcome to attend. The meeting will be followed by the Steering Committee meeting and dinner. Please RSVP if you plan on attending so we can plan accordingly. All are welcome to join us! 413-522-1686 or [davidptyler@comcast.net](mailto:davidptyler@comcast.net).

### ***Annie's Garden Store***

March 10<sup>th</sup>, March Madness: Creative Snack Foods with Mary Ellen Warchol and Denise Lemay They will put the taste in tasty as they transform some of the foods that they love to serve at informal gatherings into dishes that will make everyone stand up and take notice. Pestofied popcorn, white buffalo chili and mini-wedgie salads are on the menu. Join them for these simple to prepare, delicious treats and a few surprises as well.

March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Welcome Spring Sale- Join us in celebrating Spring by saving 20% off storewide including gift certificates.

March 24<sup>th</sup> A Garden for All the Senses with Debbie Windoloski

March 31<sup>th</sup> Confessions of a Perennial Salesman with Steve Hebert

### ***Lyman Conservatory***

The Spring Bulb Show at Smith College's Lyman Conservatory will run from March 3 through the 18. The show is open to the public daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., with evening hours on Friday, March 9 and 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There is a suggested \$2.00 donation for visiting the conservatory. All groups of more than ten must call ahead. (413) 585-2742.

On March 24 and 35 the public is invited to a sale of many of the varieties of bulbs that are in the show. These bulbs can either be displayed in pots or planted outdoors. The sale is being held from noon to 3 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the show visit [www.smith.edu/garden/home/events.html](http://www.smith.edu/garden/home/events.html).

### ***Western Mass. Master Gardener Association's Symposium- at Frontier Regional High School***

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 symposium will feature Ellen Ecker Ogden who will present "How to Design a Kitchen Garden." The flyer can be found online at <http://wmassmastergardeners.org/>  
***Western Mass Master Gardener Association Spring Garden Symposium- At William Dean Technical School in Holyoke***

On Saturday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. the 16<sup>th</sup> annual symposium titled "Gardeners in Wonderland" will feature 24 gardening workshops, a book sale, marketplace, and raffle. Registration forms can be found at [www.WMassMasterGardeners.org](http://www.WMassMasterGardeners.org).

### ***Stockbridge Herbs***

**Saturday, March 10** Annie's Garden Center Amherst, MA, Cooking Demo: March Madness Creative Ways with Snack Foods 10 a.m.

**Monday, March 12** Different Drummer's Kitchen Northampton, MA, Cooking Class: Maple Syrup: Beyond the Pancake 6:15 PM

**Saturday, March 17** Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' Conference, Frontier Regional School South Deerfield, MA, Cooking Class: Italian Country Cooking at 9 AM, Cooking Class: Herbal Appetizers at 1 PM

**Monday, March 26** Different Drummer's Kitchen Northampton, MA, Cooking Class: The Flavors of Italy: Fast and Easy 6:15 PM

### ***Articles***

I am looking for members to share their own poems or thoughts each month in the newsletter when there is space available. If you have a submission, please send it to me by Saturday of the first weekend in the month for publication. Articles are always a welcome addition to our newsletter.

### ***Vernal Equinox***

***Linda Tyler***

The vernal equinox arrives on March 20 and to many this is considered the beginning of spring. On March 20, 2012 at exactly 1:14 a.m. EST the Sun will pass directly over the equator. The moment it crosses the equator it is the vernal equinox for those of us living in the Northern Hemisphere. For those living in the Southern Hemisphere it is the arrival of the autumnal equinox.

### ***Vernal Pools***

***Linda Tyler***

A vernal pool is a temporary pool that develops during the spring from the winter rains or snow melt. Some pools do retain water for much of the year but most are dry for at least a portion of the year. The pools have no fish so they are a perfect environment for amphibians such as frogs, toads and salamanders. They are a vital part of our ecosystem.



Greenfield Garden Club  
23 Hastings Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Colorful\\_spring\\_garden.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Colorful_spring_garden.jpg)

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.