



# Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 3

March 2014

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**March meeting: Thursday, March 20, 7pm** 114 Main St, Greenfield, MA  
Making a Tabletop Fountain with Stacey Chapley

This month we are playing with water and electricity! Stacey will be helping us to bring together a pot, a pump, some stones and other found objects into our very own tabletop fountain masterpiece. It would be advisable to wear work clothes, and bring all the ingredients you think you might use (rocks, stones, shells, glass, pottery, etc.). Please make sure the stones you use to hide the pump are no smaller than 2 inches to avoid blocking the vents. The club will purchase 10 pumps (70 gallon) that folks can sign up for at \$20 each. Contact the club immediately if you think you want to purchase a Japanese-style bowl, or bamboo spouts, as Stacey will be ordering them by March 4th. Photos and prices are going out in a separate email. Otherwise, please bring your own to the event. You may also wish just to observe, which is fine too. Stacey will be showing slides as well as demonstrating. If you choose to bring your own bowl, please make sure that it is at least 4 inches deep to cover the pump. Please email the club with any questions. We will be meeting in the kitchen space at 114 Main Street in Greenfield.

## President's Report

*Laura Schlaikjer*

A big thank you goes out to all who were able to support the club at our February meeting. There were 34 in attendance at the lovely Discovery Center Great Hall, and our speakers were quite informative. Mother Nature kindly held off with the worst of the precipitation until after the last slide and questions! I do believe that I am quite through with winter! Looking forward, I want to invite to the March Meeting all those who are interested in voting on the 2014 budget and the dispersal of funds to certain projects around Greenfield. Before we start our fountain creations, there will be a short business meeting to address these club topics. You don't need to stay for the craft, but please feel free to pop in to cast your vote right at 7pm. I will also be passing around a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in being on a special 25th anniversary committee. I think we should start planning the 2016 calendar early! If you are interested but cannot make the meeting, please email the club and we will put you on the list. Looking towards April, we think that the trip to Pickity Place will conflict with Easter and then school vacation, so the steering committee has decided to make the date Saturday, May 3rd. There should be even more to see in their gardens at that date, and we will plan on lunching there at the 12:45pm seating. Think Spring!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Thursday, March 20 7:00 p.m.**  
Craft Night - Making a tabletop fountain Pre-ordering of materials required; or bring your own.  
114 Main Street, Greenfield, MA

**April meeting pushed ahead to Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Carpool from Cherry Rum Plaza at a time to be determined.**

Pickity Place, Mason, NH  
Tour gardens and shop the store.  
Herbal lunch: 12:45pm seating.  
Reservations will be required.  
Adults are \$21.95 plus tax.  
www.pickityplace.com

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the April Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, March 29 at 1:00pm. Thank you!*

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Jean Wall**

Balance as of February 25, 2014: \$7,595.94

Income: \$205.18

Expenses: \$184.89

Income: Interest, Annual Meeting, Dues, Donation

Expenses: Annual Meeting, Newsletter printing,  
Program space rental and speaker

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

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

## **March 2014 Gardening to Do List Prepared by Dolly Gagnon, with help from Organic Gardening.**

As I prepare this, it's one of the coldest days of the month ... and I think, "Are they kidding me." Let's hope it warms up soon.

Starting to get the itch to do some gardening. A lot of the following is starting plants indoors under lights ... something I've always wanted to do. Maybe this year.

- Start warmth-loving crops—such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants—indoors under lights.
- Start annual flowers, such as marigolds and zinnias, indoors under lights.
- Transplant early tomatoes into larger pots, planting the stem deeper into the soil for additional root growth. (Maybe after the snow is melted!)
- Tie up ornamental grasses, and use a serrated bread knife to cut them back to a few inches above ground level.
- Trim dead or damaged branches from trees, shrubs, and roses.
- In the vegetable garden, begin to plant potatoes, peas, lettuce, radishes, and carrots.
- Late in the month, transplant pansies outdoors; also, sow seeds of nasturtiums and sweet peas.
- At month's end, transplant an early tomato outdoors, protected by a Wall O'Water. Before you plant, fill the planting hole with warm water.
- Start seeds of perennials—such as columbine (*Aquilegia* spp.), campanula, bellflower (*Campanula* spp.), blanket flower (*Gaillardia* spp.), globeflowers (*Trollius* spp.), and pyrethrum (*Tanacetum coccineum*)—indoors under lights.

## **Mass Appeal**

Recently the club was contacted by Seth Stutman who is host and producer on the 22NEWS show Mass Appeal. Mass Appeal for those who are unfamiliar with the show is an hour long lifestyle program and is on Monday to Friday at 11:00 A.M. The show is an assortment of cooking, entertainment, fashion, health, community, and beauty segments. He is interested in talking to us about the Greenfield Garden Club. Pretty exciting, right? We'll let you know what develops

from this contact. If you wish to learn more about the show check out the following web site:

<http://wwlp.com/category/mass-appeal/>

## **Grant Program**

The 2014 Grant Program deadline is midnight on March 1st, and the committee will be meeting in the boardroom at Taylor's Tavern on March 27th to go over the proposals. Those who indicated on their volunteer forms that they would like to be a part of this have been notified by mail. If you would like to join us, please contact the club president for further details.

## **Smith and Mount Holyoke Bulb Shows**

Both shows run March 1-16. Plan to go early for the freshest blooms! Smith's show is called "In the Pink" and is open 10-4 daily, with extended hours on Fridays till 8pm. There is a \$2 suggested donation. Mount Holyoke's Spring Bulb Show is free, and open 10-4 daily.

## **10 Things You Can Do to Help Bees**

<http://www.queenofthesun.com/get-involved/10-things-you-can-do-to-help-bees/>

1. Plant bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in your garden and yard.
2. Weeds can be a good thing - let your lawn live a little with dandelions and clover.
3. Don't use chemicals or pesticides.
4. Buy local, raw honey and support your local beekeeper.
5. Bees are thirsty. Make sure you have a fresh water source on your property – even a small bowl or birdbath.
6. Buy local, organic food from a farmer that you know.
7. Learn how to keep bees sustainably.
8. Don't fear honeybees; they are not "out to get us"
9. Share solutions with others in your community.
10. Let Congress know what you think.

## **7 Questions When Asking for Bee Friendly Plants**

### **Tom Sullivan**

1. Do you carry bee and pollinator-friendly plants: Bee Balm, Echinacea, Hyssop, Cosmos, Zinnia, Asters, Lobelia, Wild Geranium, Squill, Hyacinths, Liatris, Lavender, etc..
2. If no, would you consider carrying them?
3. If yes, Do you know what is in your potting soil?
4. If no, is your potting soil a mix of sphagnum moss, perlite with some fertilizer, or does it have some pesticides. If no pesticides, thank them for being responsible stewards.
5. If they don't know, ask if it contains systemic pesticides (Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Thiamethoxam, etc.)

If they are selling soil, grass or plants with these products, tell them about the harmful effects they are having on pollinators - these products move up from the bees to their pollen and honey. Pollinators need us now more than ever. Visit Tom's website: <http://www.pollinatorswelcome.com/> to see the expanded version of this list, and to see what local nurseries are Bee-Safe (Nasami Farm is the closest one in our area.)

### **Tomatoes**

**Linda Tyler**

I never tire of tomatoes! I have my favorites... Green Zebra, Chocolate Stripe, Cherokee Purple, but I am always willing to try out another heirloom to see what they have to offer. With the help of "A Way to Garden.com" (<http://awaytogarden.com/top-tomatoes-try/>), I have begun researching varieties for this year - for I know that at some point all this poor man's fertilizer will melt and we can start planting again. Some that are on my radar are Black Krim, Paul Robeson, and Carbon for black tomatoes. I love the color of black and taste tomatoes, so some of these may make it into my garden this year. I have not found a black cherry that I was happy with although I have seen some in the Round House that have made me green with envy. Wish the variety was listed on the info cards, but because they are not I am still in search of the perfect black cherry. This year I hope to find Indigo Rose. Although larger in size (more like a plum) it is said to have a truly black skin and was developed by Oregon State University.

If you are looking for a good sauce tomato why not try Juliet. It is a "sturdy hybrid" and forms clusters of tomatoes with about a dozen per cluster. Amish Pink is said to be good for both sauce and salads so might be an interesting addition to the garden. Gilbertie is supposed to be a great paste tomato as well.

The Cornell-North Carolina State breeding program has developed a "triple-resistant" tomato, so if you had problems with diseased spotted or dropping leaves you may want to give Iron Lady a chance.

I am not big fan of most yellow tomatoes because of the texture, but Sun Gold has always been a standard in many gardens. This year keep your eye out for Esterina, which is more crack resistant than the Sun Gold. You could also try Galina as well.

For the cherry tomato lover, how about saving some space for Matt's Wild Cherry or Chadwick's Cherry. If you are planning on growing your tomatoes in a pot you should look into obtaining Whippersnapper.

Looking to win the heaviest tomato category at the fair? A good contender is said to be Upstate Oxheart. This huge tomato is said to be not only huge but tasty as well. Sounds like a win/win situation to me!

Now all we need to do is wait for the weather to cooperate because all this talk of fresh garden tomatoes has got me craving a lettuce, tomato, and cheese sandwich!

### ***Peach-Berry Cobbler - from The Cook's Garden, a cookbook by Ellen Ecker Ogden***

Makes 4-6 servings

#### Filling:

1/2 cup sugar

1 TBSP cornstarch

1/8 tsp ground cinnamon

2 pints fresh blueberries

1 pint fresh raspberries or blackberries

6 ripe peaches, peeled, pitted and sliced into wedges

1 lemon, zest grated and juiced

*\*\*note: I used all frozen fruit, and it was fine.*

#### Topping:

1 cup unbleached, all-purpose white flour

2 TBSP yellow cornmeal

1/4 cup sugar, plus 2 tsp for sprinkling

2 tsp baking powder

1/4 tsp baking soda

1/4 tsp fine sea salt

4 TBSP (1/2 stick) cold, unsalted butter, melted

1/3 cup buttermilk

1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract

1/2 tsp ground cardamom

1/8 tsp ground cinnamon

*\*\*Serve with vanilla ice cream.*

Preheat oven to 375° F

Stir sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt together in a large bowl. Add the berries and peaches and mix gently until evenly coated. Stir in the lemon zest and juice and transfer to a 13x9 inch baking dish. Place on a baking sheet and place in the hot oven and bake for about 25 minutes.

For the topping, whisk the flour, cornmeal, 1/4 cup sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt together in a large bowl. In a small bowl, whisk together the melted butter, buttermilk, vanilla, and cardamom. In a very small bowl, stir the remaining 2 tsp sugar and cinnamon and set aside until the berries come out of the oven. A few minutes before the hot berries emerge from the oven, assemble by adding the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir until just combined.

Remove the hot bubbling berries from the oven; increase oven to 425F. Spoon out 8 equal pieces of biscuit dough and place evenly on the hot berry filling, spacing them at least 1/2 inch apart. Sprinkle with the cinnamon sugar, and bake until the biscuits are golden brown and cooked through, and the filling is bubbly, about 15 minutes. Cool slightly before serving with vanilla ice cream.



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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.