



# Greenfield Garden Club

## Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 5

May 2014

### President

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### May Meeting

Visit to Seeds of Solidarity - Orange, MA - 6pm. We have been invited to visit the farm and gardens of Seeds for Solidarity with their owner, Deb Habib. Seeds of Solidarity Education Center is a non-profit organization that 'awakens the power of youth, schools, and families to Grow Food Everywhere to transform hunger to health, and create resilient lives and communities.' The organization is based at 165 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange, MA within the North Quabbin region. Long abandoned, the site is now vibrant and healing with abundant no-till gardens, solar greenhouses glowing with healthy greens, and energy efficient and artistic buildings. All electricity for the farm, education center, home and farm stand is provided by the sun. You can read more about them, see their newsletters, and visit their blog from their website: [Seeds of Solidarity](http://Seeds of Solidarity). Deb will give us a walking tour, so dress for the weather and for walking. We might want to bring a folding chair and bug spray - you know the drill! Carpool from Cherry Rum Plaza to leave at 5:25pm. It's about a 28 minute drive from Greenfield. Questions? Please email the club: [greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com)

*Laura Schlaikjer*

Directions: Route 2 east to exit 14: Holtshire Rd. Turn right onto Chestnut Hill Rd (you'll see Lake Mattawa ahead on the left), and take first left to stay on Chestnut Hill Rd. Destination is on the left.

### President's Report

*Laura Schlaikjer*

May Greetings to our members! We have a lot going on in May! Our trip to Pickity Place is May 3rd. There is a small group making the trip to see their spring gardens, get tempted in their herbal store, and eat a high quality, 5 course herbal luncheon. If there are any plants for sale along the way, you know we'll stop and see what can fit in the car! The following Saturday is our much-anticipated annual plant Extravaganza. I hope you are already working in your gardens and are seeing if there are any volunteers you can pot up to give to the sale. We also need garden-related items for the tag sale, and if you have any new or high quality gift items for the drawing, they would be much appreciated. Back this year will be hanging baskets and annuals to complement our perennial offerings. We are partnering with Spatcher Farm in Leyden this year for many of these plants. May 15th is our monthly meeting at Seeds of Solidarity in Orange - come for a first-hand look at how they turned under-appreciated soil into a healthy, vibrant garden using no-till methods. I can't wait to see and hear all about it. I am enjoying the view as I crawl around my garden beds, cleaning and trimming. The sunny daffodils and heady scent of the

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Thursday, May 15**  
**6 pm**  
**Seeds of Solidarity**  
**Orange, MA**

**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 29 6pm**  
**Home of Jean Wall, 40 High St**

**19th Annual Extravaganza -**  
**May 10, 2014**  
**Trap Plain 8am to 1 pm**

**Plant Drop off Extravaganza**  
**May 9, 2014**  
**Trap Plain 5pm to 6:30 pm**

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the June Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, May 24, at 1:00pm. Thank you!*

hyacinths make this spring job such a pleasure, especially so up close and personal! I will take photos to help me determine where I need to plant more bulbs this fall. And the spring peepers! Can you hear them where you live? What a thrilling sound! Isn't it great to be alive and gardening in Franklin County? See you at one of the many May plant sales!

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Jean Wall**

Balance as of April 27, 2014: \$5,227.50

Income: \$.18

Expenses: \$2,345.43

Income: Interest

Expenses: Newsletter printing, grants, memorial contribution

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

or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

### **May Gardening Tips And To Do List Dolly Gagnon with help from WeekendGardener.Net**

Use this list to help you figure out what gardening tasks you want to accomplish this month.

**Planting** Plant seed or seedlings of warm-season crops like tomatoes, peas, beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplants, melons, peppers, pumpkins, and summer squash. For a step-by-step tutorial, complete with pictures about How To Start A Vegetable Garden, go to their website:

[www.weekendgardener.net/vegetable-gardening-tips/starting-garden-050705.htm](http://www.weekendgardener.net/vegetable-gardening-tips/starting-garden-050705.htm)

Sow beets, carrots, lettuce, and radishes.

Plant herbs such as thyme, sage, parsley, chives and basil.

Plant spring flowering shrubs like rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias.

Plant or sow summer annuals such as geraniums, marigolds, lobelia, impatiens, sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, alyssum, and phlox.

Transplants become less stressed when they are set out on a cloudy, calm day. Unfortunately, gardeners may need to transplant when they have the time, regardless of the weather. Strong sun and wind are hard on new transplants, so set out plants in the late afternoon when the wind calms down and the plants have overnight to acclimate. Provide shade and wind protection with berry baskets, small crates, or screens. Mulching helps since it lowers the rate at which water evaporates from the soil and controls the soil temperature. For a complete tutorial on 'How To Use Mulch Properly,' and 'The Wonders of Mulch,' see their website: [www.weekendgardener.net/garden-plants/mulch-060806.htm](http://www.weekendgardener.net/garden-plants/mulch-060806.htm)

**Maintenance** Feed roses after their first bloom, then repeat feeding every four to six weeks. Try a complete fertilizer like a 10-10-10 granular or liquid soluble

Fertilize everything right now. Annuals, fruit trees, fuchsias, perennials, shrubs, etc. Use a higher phosphorous fertilizer like a 10-60-10 for better flower, fruit, and vegetable set.

Feed spring-flowering shrubs like azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons with an acid based fertilizer as soon as they have finished flowering. Later in the month, thin fruit on heavily bearing trees. With triples and doubles, prune to singles.

To revitalize and encourage branching remove spent flowers from camellias, roses, azaleas, fuchsias, geraniums, rhododendrons, impatiens, and all annuals. This will lengthen the flowering time for each plant and keep it shapely and compact.

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered deeply every week or two until fall rains begin.

Water established trees and shrubs deeply and infrequently to help withstand summer heat.

Mulch soil to save water, smother weeds, and keep soil cooler. Spread 1-3 inches (2.5-7cm) of bark chips, compost, wood shavings, or other organic material under shrubs, trees, annuals and vegetables. For that complete tutorial on 'How To Use Mulch Properly,' and 'The Wonders of Mulch,' (it's worth repeating!) see: [www.weekendgardener.net/garden-plants/mulch-060806.htm](http://www.weekendgardener.net/garden-plants/mulch-060806.htm)

### **Changes Coming to Downtown Greenfield-Jean Wall**

The Garden Club has been working closely with the Rejuvenators and the Department of Public Works to get Main Street and the downtown area ready for the Spring/Summer season.

Last year the DPW removed all the grates that were around the trees because they were harming the trees' growth and presented tripping hazards for the pedestrians walking on the sidewalks. This presented an opportunity to re-purpose the grates as benches to protect the trees and provide seating areas throughout the area. Mark Leonard, the shop teacher at Greenfield High School, took some of the grates to his classroom where he and the students designed benches using the grates. Several of these benches will be sandblasted, painted, and installed during the next few months. The attached picture shows one of the plans being considered.

Nancy Hazard accepted the job of planting flowers in some of the areas where the grates were removed. She is working with the DPW to get loam and/or compost to replace the soil in those areas. The students at Four

Corners School are planting seeds and growing plants for the area using money donated by the Garden Club as part of the Grant Program. Nancy is also working, planting the flowers near or beneath the benches.

The Garden Club is also funding the planting of the containers which will be placed along the medians on Main Street, Bank Row, and Deerfield Street. Stacey with Chapley Gardens will be planting the containers and placing them on the medians as soon as the weather permits. The DPW is working with the Rejuvenators to keep the plants watered during the summer. If a consistent source of water is achieved, the next step will be to place hanging baskets on lamp posts throughout the town.

The Rejuvenators will be starting a fundraising program in the next few weeks to fund the construction of the benches. Anyone who wishes to purchase a bench with an attached plaque or if you wish to contribute to the cost of the materials needed by the school to complete the project, please contact Jean Wall at 413-773-9069 or [jeanwall1@verizon.net](mailto:jeanwall1@verizon.net) for more information.



Also keep an eye on the new Chapman/Davis Parking lot behind Wilson's Department Store. It will have a new design and plantings to make it more

attractive and environmentally friendly. The DPW hopes to have it finished in a couple of months. The money from the parking meters is enabling the town to start working on the lots so they won't be huge slabs of hot pavement.

#### ***Grant Committee Report***      ***Laura Schlaikjer***

Letters were mailed to all schools in Franklin County, and articles were placed in the Recorder to advertise this year's grant program. The committee met on Thursday, March 27 in the boardroom at Taylor's Tavern, to discuss the 12 applications that had come in from area schools and libraries by the deadline. There were 14 very interested and enthusiastic club members involved with listening to the grants, taking notes, and discussing the project's merits, all while enjoying their meal. The good mood was palpable! All 12 grants were either fully or over-funded. We were impressed with all the creativity and spark the applicants displayed, and know the children involved will benefit immensely from these projects. In all, we gave away over \$2300 to these worthy causes. If you would like to learn more about any of the grant proposals, please contact the club president. Here are the 2014 winners: Seeds of Change - Mohawk Regional School

Greenhouse Program - Leverett Elementary School  
Community Garden - Shutesbury Elementary School  
Omnivore's Dilemma/Local Food Study - 8th Grade Academy at GHS

Edible Gardening Program - Gill Elementary School  
Beautify Greenfield - The Rejuvenators of Greenfield  
Kinder-Gardeners - Conway Grammar School

Schoolyard Restoration - Colrain Central School  
Story Hour Garden - Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange

Planting Project - Greenfield Recreation Dept

Certified Monarch Waystation - Heath School

Learning About the Birds and the Beets - Pearl Rhodes School, Leyden

#### ***19th Annual Extravaganza - May 10, 2014***

Usually the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, warmer springs have seen us moving the sale back two weeks. This is our much-anticipated plant sale, with garden-related tag/book sale and drawing. Mother's Day hanging plants will return in 2014, along with annuals and herbs. Held rain or shine at the Trap Plain gardens at the junction of Federal St and Silver St in Greenfield. Come early for best selection! Sale starts at 8am and goes until 1pm.

#### ***We Need Your Help!***

**As you do spring cleaning in your garden please keep the club's Extravaganza in mind as you go about your chores. We will need plants, plants, and more plants. Plants can be dropped off at Trap Plain on Friday, May 9 between 5pm and 6:30pm. Please pot up some nice specimens for this sale. We also are collecting garden related tag sale items and new items for the drawing. Thanks!!**

#### ***Stockbridge Herbs***

Tuesday, May 13

Cooking Class: Cast Iron Cooking

Different Drummer's Kitchen, Northampton, MA

6:15-8:45 PM

#### ***Expand Your Gardening Experience Walker Farm, Dummerston, Vermont***

Seminars will be presented at Walker Farm on selected weekend days April through May. There is no charge for these talks but classes are limited to 30 attendees and reservations are requested. Please call 802.254.2051 or email [walkerfarmvt@gmail.com](mailto:walkerfarmvt@gmail.com)

**May 10, 2014 10 AM:** "Raspberries, Blueberries and Strawberries: Creating and Maintaining the Berry Patch of Your Dreams." Jack Manix, Organic Farmer and Owner of Walker Farm & Ezekiel Goodband, Orchardist and Manager of Scott Farm

**May 17, 2014 10 AM:** "Pots in the Garden: Designing, Planting and Placing Seasonal Containers in the Garden" Garden Designer Michaela Harlow



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 only when your card is presented.

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  
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.