



Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

MAY 2015

Vol. 23, No. 4

We're putting the EXTRA into Extravaganza!

The Garden Club's Extravaganza – plant sale, tag sale, raffle and more! – is set for Saturday, May 23, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Greenfield.

We rely on this annual plant sale as a major fundraiser that allows us to give grants to garden-related education programs and to offer speakers and activities at our monthly gatherings. A successful Extravaganza allows us to be an active, growing force in Franklin County, so we look for every member's help. Read on for details.

The plant sale is MOVING!

Due to parking issues at Trap Plain, this year the Extravaganza will be at Saint James' Episcopal Church grounds, at the corner of Church and Federal streets in Greenfield. The church is no longer having a plant sale of its own, and there is plenty of parking and high visibility there, as well as a history of past plant sales so the community will connect with ours.

We're back to Saturday of Memorial Weekend!

For the past two years, the sale has been the Saturday before Mother's Day, but we have decided that this is too early, and having to purchase plants at wholesale to resell is not financially viable. We need to revert to our original date to give folks time to divide perennials and pot up plants and seedlings to donate to the sale. (Thank you for your helpful feedback on this earlier date experiment!)

New this year – VENDORS!

In order to bring more interest and an air of festivity to the sale, we are offering space to vendors for only \$10. We already have a few interested parties and are hoping for more. Please pass the word to any growers or crafters that you know. There will be room under the portico of the Whiteman Room for those who would like to be under cover. If there is enough interest, we can see if we can also use the Whiteman Room itself or the Parish Hall.

Needed: Your DONATIONS!

We are in desperate need of **plant donations**. Please consider sowing an extra tray of annuals; divide or make cuttings of your houseplants; divide and pot up perennials; purchase and donate plants. Plant drop-off will be Friday before the sale, when we will also price them. Please deliver them to the church side yard with ID tags from 5:00–6:30 p.m.

We also need donations for the **Tag Sale**. Items related to gardening are essential – books, hoses, old rakes, trowels, garden decorations, hats, gloves – you name it! If it's still functional, someone will want to put it back to use.

Raffle Items are needed! Please contact Linda Tyler to arrange drop-off (davidptyler@comcast.net).

Questions? Email us at: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.

And . . . we need YOU!

Many hands make light work. Please raise your hand to volunteer – at the sales table, the tag sale, and to sell tickets for the drawing. We need a dedicated group to arrive by 7 a.m. in order to set up the tents, tables, and to move the plants into rows. Please sign up for a shift between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Let us know when you want to work and for how long (from an hour to all day – whatever you can offer):

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com or call Laura at 413-774-4594. With everyone's help, we can have a successful sale.

Please plaster POSTERS!

Please either print one from the website or the email you received, or pick some up from the front porch of Linda Tyler at 23 Hastings Street. We need to get the word out!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are the third Thursday of each month.

May 21, 6:00 p.m. **Make a Glass Globe Terrarium**, Greenfield
See page 2 for details.

May 23, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. **Extravaganza**: Garden Club's annual fundraiser plant sale & more, Greenfield

June 18, 6:00 p.m. **Tour the Gardens of Julie Fisher**, Ashfield

Spring schedule at O'Brien

O'Brien Nurserymen (40 Wells Road, Granby, CT 06035) has more than 1,600 varieties of hosta along with many other shade-loving plants. The extensive display gardens with a wide variety of dwarf conifers and more than a hundred varieties of Japanese maples are well worth the trip. Show your Garden Club membership card to receive a 10% discount. O'Brien is open only on Open Garden Days with these featured plants:

May 8–9–10..... Epimedium

May 15–16–17..... Daphne

May 22–23–24–25..... Cyripediums (Lady Slippers)

May 29–30–31..... Arisaemas

June 5–6–7 Hosta at their best

O'Brien's Open Garden Days continue through November. See the full schedule at www.obrienhosta.com



Garden in Miniature: Create a Terrarium

Club members are invited to convene on Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. at the home of member Richard Willard to make their own mini-world in a hanging glass globe. Richard lives at 23 Pickett Lane in Greenfield, right off of Leyden Road.

We hope everyone who attends will make and take one or two terrariums home with them, as well as create several for the club to sell at the Extravaganza.

For the terrariums you take home, cost will range from \$5 to \$11 per globe, depending on whether you use your own plants, or purchase one or two air plants.

The club will provide the glass globes (5 1/2") and five kinds of Tillandsias (air plants). Each member should gather and bring miniature decorations such as sand, stones, shells, sea glass, marbles and glass beads, bark, or even tiny toys and figurines. Also bring ribbon, fishing line, or jute twine for hanging.

JoAnn Fabrics (in Hadley) and online sources (eBay, Etsy, etc.) carry the cutest miniature items meant for fairy gardens that will work well in your globe. There are wagons, wheelbarrows, mailboxes, clay pots, watering cans, baskets, bird-houses, gazing balls, garden gnomes, mini-mushrooms, and tiny animals that will fit into your new terrariums.

If you plan to use air plants, JoAnn Fabrics has a nice selection of dried and colored mosses that work well with air plants. They also carry colored sand and small shells as bottom filler. If you find other plants, please bring soil for your terrarium.

In the process of searching for Tillandsias, we found that Black Jungle in Turners Falls has closed and will become an online retailer and trade show vendor only. We are very sad to learn this!

Recipe for a Compost Pile

from Elise Schlaikjer

BROWNS (3 parts)

dry leaves ■ pine needles ■ straw
sawdust or wood shavings
woody vegetable stalks
corn cobs and corn stalks ■ paper

GREENS (1 part)

grass clippings ■ fresh weeds ■ green leaves
vegetable peels and leaves ■ eggshells
coffee grounds ■ fruit trimmings
feathers or hair ■ seaweed
rotted manure ■ alfalfa meal

Officers 2015

President: Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594 depalma_3@yahoo.com

Vice President: Dolly Gagnon 774-4031 dgagnon@recorder.com

Treasurer: Jean Wall 773-9069 jeanwall1@verizon.net

Recording Secretary: Jeanne Canteen 774-6605
jeanne@trowbridgegroup.com

Corresponding Secretary: Elise Schlaikjer 773-1683
roselise@verizon.net

MAY: What to do in the garden

Compiled by Dolly Gagnon

Planting: When the last frost is past, plant seed or seedlings of warm-season crops like tomatoes, peas, beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplants, melons, peppers, pumpkins and summer squash.

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.

Tips: Transplants become less stressed when they are set out on a cloudy, calm day. 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.

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 a 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.

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered deeply every week or two.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs and vines after bloom.

Warmer weather brings an excellent time to start or rejuvenate your compost pile.

Plan now to share your harvest

by Susan Farber

Are you a vegetable gardener? This year, consider growing a bit more than your household needs to eat, and donating the extra to your local food pantry or soup kitchen.

Franklin County Emergency Food Network lists many programs that might welcome your vegetable donations. You might choose a program now and call to find out if they accept donations of fresh produce (most do) and what kinds of vegetables are most needed.

Dino Schnelle, Food Pantry Director at the Center for Self-Reliance, Greenfield, said, "We already get, in season, lots of leafy vegetables – kale, chard, salad greens. It's things like tomatoes,

peppers, carrots, and other varieties that we don't get as much of."

A different food pantry or soup kitchen may have different needs, so it's always a good idea to call and ask.

Later, when you're ready to harvest, call to learn their receiving hours. It helps to deliver your produce in boxes.

The Western Massachusetts Food Bank tells us that 1 in 5 children in our area live in food insecure households, and that 1 in 8 residents face hunger. The vegetables you donate are likely to help feed children, the elderly, and adults who work but don't earn enough to feed their families.

These programs provide FREE emergency groceries:

Ashfield—Hilltown Churches Food Pantry: (413) 628-4470
Charlemont—Charlemont Fed. Church, Good Neighbors: (413) 337-4957
Greenfield—Community Action! Center for Self-Reliance: (413) 773-5029
Greenfield—Community Builders at Leyden Woods: (413) 774-4708
Greenfield—Dial/Self Outreach Program Pantry: (413) 774-7054
Greenfield—Salvation Army: (413) 773-3154
Greenfield—Tapestry Health AIDS Services: (413) 773-8888
Leverett—North Leverett Baptist Church: (413) 367-2619
Northfield—Northfield Food Pantry: (413) 498-5566
Orange—Franklin County Community Meals Food Pantry: (413) 772-1033
Orange—St. Mary's Church: (978) 544-6814
Shelburne Falls—West County Emergency Food Pantry: (413) 774-7034
Turners Falls—United ARC Positive Parenting Pantry: (413) 774-5558
Turners Falls—Franklin Area Survival Center: (413) 863-9549
Wendell—Friends of Wendell Meetinghouse: (978) 544-2533

These programs serve FREE hot meals:

Greenfield—Franklin County Community Meals: (413) 772-1033
Greenfield—Salvation Army: (413) 773-3154
Greenfield—Stone Soup Café: (413) 461-8770
Orange—Franklin County Community Meals: (413) 772-1033
Shelburne Falls—Trinity Church, Community Meals: (413) 625-9896
Turners Falls—Franklin County Community Meals: (413) 772-1033

Magic. Just add water.

—A memory from Janisse Ray, *The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food*

Later, a ubiquitous first-grade experiment in germination—bean-growing in a milk carton on a classroom windowsill—affected me deeply. A kid has no power, everybody knows that, and yet when I planted a hard little round rock in a handful of soil, after a week or two something started to wend up out of the dirt. Two pages of a green book opened and rose skyward on one slender leg. Days passed, more leaves opened, and the thing kept growing. I want to run and shout the news. Wizardry had happened, all because of me.

How could something so small shape-shift into something so big? Because seeds contain more than they are, life's design held in a speck of germplasm. They are the source of all life, miracles in tiny packages. Magic. Just add water.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of April 28, 2015 \$3,925.30
Income (March): \$117.00
Dues, Donation, Interest
Expenses (March) \$211.09
Newsletter, Stamps

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Jean Wall at 773-9069 or write to 40 High Street, Greenfield MA 01301.



Greenfield Garden Club

PO Box 309
Greenfield MA 01302-0309

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

These vendors have agreed to provide the listed discounts for members who show their membership card when making a purchase. We appreciate their support! Please respect their offers by remembering these generous discounts are for club members only and only when your card is presented.

Backyard Birds – 15 Strong Ave., Northampton
10% off regularly priced items except thistle birdseed

Baystate Perennial Farm
36 State Road (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

Chapley Gardens
397 Greenfield Road (Route 5/10), Deerfield
10% off regular priced plants and pond supplies

Five Acre Farm – 110 Hinsdale Rd., Northfield
10% off regular priced plants

Glenbrook Gardens
56 Glenbrook Drive, Greenfield
10% off regular priced plants and products

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)
269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden related

LaSalle Florists
23 LaSalle Drive (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

O'Brien Nurserymen – 40 Wells Road, Granby, CT
10% off plants

Silver Garden Daylilies – 23 Picket Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

Sugarloaf Nursery – 25 Amherst Road, Sunderland
10% off regular priced plants

Warm Colors Apiary
2 South Mill River Road, South Deerfield
10% off

Wilder Hill Gardens
351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway
10% off plants and consultations

Any vendors interested in offering our gardeners a discount, please contact the Steering Committee.