



# Greenfield Garden Club

# Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 11

November 2014

## President

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## Corresponding Secretary

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Chapley Gardens Greenhouse  
Topic: Annual wreath-making and kissing balls

Fee: Wreaths: \$10

Kissing Balls: \$20

Feel free to bring a snack to share.

**Pre-register by calling 413-522-**

**1686 or at**

**greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

Thursday, November 20 6pm

Meeting will take place in conjunction with Wreath Making

## November Meeting

**Laura Schlaikjer**

Once again this year we are offering both kissing balls and wreaths at Chapley Gardens. Stacey will help those who wish to make the kissing balls, and members will help those who wish to make a wreath. Supplies will be provided (greens and the wreath ring), but participants are welcome to bring any greens they wish to incorporate or share, as well as decorations - cones, feathers, dried grasses, seed heads, etc.. Stacey will have bows and other small decorations for sale. Participants are also encouraged to bring a pair of clippers, light work gloves, a spool of florist wire, and a folding chair since seating is limited. Dress in layers since the greenhouse will be cool.

The club will provide hot mulled cider, and participants are encouraged to bring a small plate of cookies or other sweet to share with the group.

The cost for making a wreath is only \$10, and for a kissing ball, \$20. Please RSVP for this event, letting us know which decoration you are choosing to make, as we need at least 10 people to make it worth turning on the heat in the greenhouse! **You must preregister so we will know how many are coming! You may send your reply to: [greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com).**

Directions: Chapley Gardens is located at 397 Greenfield Rd - otherwise known as Routes 5 & 10 - in Deerfield, MA. Heading south, start looking for the sign on your right shortly after you pass the Bridal Barn and Tux Shoppe. (If you reach Magic Wings, you've gone too far.)

See you there!

## President's Report

**Laura Schlaikjer**

The recent warm(er) weather has been a blessing in many ways - longer time for procrastinators such as myself to get the garlic planted and put the garden to bed. I still have a large area of swiss chard and kale to harvest - the chard might have to get picked shortly as temps in the 20's will be too cold. I should look into season extender possibilities. I have always been intrigued by that idea, especially after reading books by Eliot Coleman and his wife, Barbara Damrosch. You can find out more about them and their Four Season Farm here: [www.fourseasonfarm.com](http://www.fourseasonfarm.com). The steering committee has been working diligently on next year's schedule - if you have an idea, it's not too late to let us know about it! I am looking forward to the final 2 club events of the year - both are very social gatherings: our wreath-making and our holiday party. Both provide wonderful opportunities for sharing food, drink, and good conversation. I hope there are many events you will seek out locally this month, including Cider Days which will be over by the time this missive arrives in your mailbox. It is, however an annual event the first weekend in

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Jean Wall*

Balance as of October 29, 2014: \$5,542.27!

Income: \$68.14

Expenses: \$48.05

Income: Interest, Donation, Dues

Expenses: Newsletter printing, 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.

## **(President's Report Continued from page 1.)**

November, so put it on your calendar for next year. Visit an orchard to stock up on great varieties of apples and support the local farming community. Wishing you hearts full of thanksgiving this soon to be chilly November!

## **Gardening To Do List — November in the Garden, compiled by Dolly Gagnon**

In General:

1. Rake leaves and make leaf mold or compost.
2. Clean, sharpen and oil garden tools.
3. Finish winterizing your water garden.
4. Start forcing bulbs like paperwhites, hyacinth and amaryllis for the holidays.
5. Add organic matter to beds.
6. Cover compost so that rain doesn't flood and leach the nutrients.
7. Keep weeding.

## **Frosty Zones (Zones 6 and down)**

1. Protect your roses by mounding soil around the crown and covering the bud union. Tie down climbing rose canes to protect them from cold winds.
2. Clean up garden debris and cut back and remove any diseased or infected foliage.
3. Protect evergreens from deer damage by circling with stakes and burlap.
4. Protect young trees from mice damage by wrapping wire around the bottom portion of the trunk.
5. Protect plants from vole damage by not mounding much too close to the plant.
6. Get those bulbs into the ground NOW.
7. Drain and store hoses.
8. If you're planning on buying a "live Christmas tree" with the intention of planting it this winter, dig the hole now, before the ground freezes. Remember to keep the soil covered, so that it too does not freeze and can go back into the hole.

## **Indoor Plants**

1. Check that indoor plants are receiving enough water, humidity and air circulation.
2. Keep an eye out for pests like spider mites and scale, and take care of them before they become a problem.

## **Bird Feeding 101 information provided by the**

*National Wildlife Federation*

*Compiled by Laura Schlaikjer*

Bird feeders offer a fun and entertaining way to observe birds up close and connect with nature. They also supplement the natural food sources available for birds in your yard or garden. Different species of birds prefer varying types of feeder foods. Nourishment for wildlife should come primarily from natural food sources such as native plants. Feeders should only be supplied to complement birds' natural diets.

- Clean your feeders regularly with hot water, and mild soapy water; let them air dry completely. Also keep areas under and around the feeders clean.
- Provide multiple feeding stations in different areas of your yard to disperse bird activity. Feed in moderation, with only a few feeders per acre.
- Keep seed clean and dry, and watch for mold.
- Use a seed blend designed for your feeder and the types of birds you feed. Blends that contain filler seeds and grains (milo, sorghum, and red or golden millet) are not typically eaten by birds, and will often end up on the ground.
- If you find a dead bird near the feeder that has not been killed by a predator, disinfect the feeders with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.
- Place bird feeders in locations that do not provide hiding places for cats and other predators. Place feeders 10 to 12 feet from low shrubs or brush piles.
- Many bird species will not eat from a feeder. Some species eat only fruits or insects. Provide for these species also by planting native plants and not using pesticides in your yard or garden.
- Black oil sunflower seed is a favorite of just about every seed-eating species.
- Suet feeders are a favorite of woodpeckers and other insect-eating birds. You can make your own suet or buy blocks of suet from a wild bird store. Typically suet blocks are placed in a wire cage that hangs on the side of a tree. Do not put suet out in warm weather or it will go rancid.

## **Interesting Tid-bits**

*Laura Schlaikjer*

According to Purdue University's publication, Effects of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants, collards, leeks, lettuces, onions, peas, and potatoes are very hardy and can withstand temperatures down to the upper 20s for short periods of time. Beets, broccoli, cabbage, and squash can withstand light frosts. Beans, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes are injured or killed by light frost. Among flowers, cornflowers, pansies, violets, and zinnias are very hardy, while calendulas, coreopsis, snapdragons, and sweet peas are frost-

tolerant. Tender plants include begonias, cosmos, impatiens, petunias, salvias, and sweet alyssum.

### **2015 Grant Program**

The Garden Club's 2015 Grant Program will begin soon. Anyone in Franklin County who works with children in projects that involve gardening, plant science, ecology, or any related subject matter may submit a proposal to the Greenfield Garden Club. The proposal should meet the guidelines listed on our website and in the letter that will be mailed to schools and organizations. If you know of an organization that needs a letter, please contact Laura at the club email: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.

### **Holiday Party**

The Garden Club's Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 7:00PM at the home of Becky George. This year we will be having a pot-luck. Mark the date. More information will follow in the December issue. We will once again be having a Yankee Swap. Participation is voluntary. If you are interested start shopping for a gift in the \$10 to \$20 range. To clarify rules of a Yankee Swap I did a bit of research and found many variations. So that we are all on the same page I am including the rules we will be following for the Yankee Swap.

### **Yankee Swap Rules**

Before the start of the swap each participant chooses a number to determine the order of the swap. General rules include once you touch a gift you must choose that gift and once opened your gift must remain in sight. Person number one chooses a gift and unwraps it. Person number two then chooses a gift and can either choose to unwrap it or swap it with any opened gift. If the gift is swapped that gift is then unwrapped. Participants proceed in order until the last gift is unwrapped. At this point participant number one may swap their gift with any gift.

### **Leon Jenks**

*web site leonjacobs.com*

About ten years ago I was shooting a commercial for organic vegetables on the West Coast of South Africa. Before the cameras rolled, I took a walk with the farmer to inspect the crops. The soil in that part of the world is white and fine - like beach sand. I was amazed that anything grew in it, let alone bulbous aubergines and lush lettuces that were fit for the finest food stores in the world.

She explained to me that her job was not to farm the crops, but to simply take care of the soil. To make sure it is healthy, full of nutrients and regularly rested.

Good crops, she explained, are just the byproducts of happy soil.

As we talked, she spotted something unusual in the distance. She bolted towards it and triumphantly lifted

the largest pumpkin I had ever seen. It was growing wildly in the sand amongst the lettuces. The beachy desert sand on her farm had become a fertile hotbed. Whatever seed fell on it just sprouted effortlessly.

It dawned on me recently that everyone of us is farming. No matter what your occupation, you're growing crops. Your soil is your life. The people you come across. Your family. Friends. Coworkers.

Many of us abuse the soil to grow as many crops as quickly as we can. But a select few understand that what we get back is simply the byproduct of a life well lived.

I am in no position to tell anyone how to take care of their soil, but I have a feeling that being kind, respectful and empathetic to everyone you encounter would be a good start.

The universe is just a big black void filled with atoms filled with voids that operates on a strict set of physical laws. It cares not for our ideas of justice. The oceans crash on the beach in the dead of night just as they do during an awe inspiring sunset.

Good things happen. Bad things happen. In the end all we can be sure of is that the physical laws of nature dictates that good soil will yield great crops. Perhaps that is what all the religions and philosophies are trying to get at with their own versions of 'reaping what you're sowing.'

The kindness and respect and empathy you show today might not come back to you tomorrow. But perhaps - in a summer to come - you too will find a giant pumpkin in your lettuces.

It was a privilege writing to you all. I would enjoy hearing from you - on email or twitter. My handle is my first and last name.

Leon Jacobs, Cape Town, South Africa

[listserveleon@gmail.com](mailto:listserveleon@gmail.com)

### **Broccoli Salad**

*Linda Tyler*

*This is a family favorite! ☺*

broccoli cut into bite size pieces (about 6 cups)

1 sweet onion- minced

10 slices of crisp fried bacon- chopped

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

¾ cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons cider vinegar

1/3 cup sugar

Mix mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar and set aside. Chop broccoli. Stems and stalk may be used along with the flowerets just be sure to peel off any tough portions of the stalk. Add minced onion and bacon and stir. Pour on dressing and mix thoroughly. Stir in cheese. Refrigerate 1 to 2 hours before serving.

*Save the date: Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 18, 2015*



Greenfield Garden Club  
P. O. Box 309  
Greenfield, MA  
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 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.