



Greenfield Garden Club

Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 10

October 2014

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

Terry Atkinson 773-7428
rosebushmusic@hotmail.com

October Meeting

October Meeting: Movie Night featuring the film: "Chihuly: Gardens and Glass." October's meeting will be held on Wednesday night, October 15th, from 6 - 8pm in the LeVanway Room of the Greenfield Public Library. Dubbed "the Picasso of 20th-century glass," American sculptor Dale Chihuly has earned international acclaim for both his breathtakingly beautiful blown-glass sculptures and his collaborative approach to art and creativity. This documentary chronicles Chihuly's 2002 installation of glass sculptures at Chicago's historic Garfield Park Conservatory, one of the oldest and largest greenhouses in America. The exhibit was seen by over a half million people. Amazon's rating gives this video 5 full stars! Runtime is 90 minutes, so we will be starting the film shortly after we assemble in order to be finished and cleaned up by library closing time (8PM). Please feel free to bring a snack to share for this event. Cold beverages will be provided. Please enter the LeVanway room via the back entrance of the library. The library is located at 402 Main St, and there is plenty of parking in the lot between the library and the post office. As always, you are encouraged to bring a friend!

Laura Schlaikjer

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Wednesday, October 15 6 pm
Please note change in date!!!!!!
Movie Night!

"Chihuly: Gardens and Glass"
Greenfield Public Library's
LeVanway Room

Feel free to bring a snack to share.

Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 23 6pm
Home of Jean Wall, 40 High St

President's Report

October is here - with all the glories of fall: Warm days and cool nights; fresh local apples and cider; trees heading for dormancy in a blaze of color. Fall has always been my favorite time of year. The warm weather has given me a reprieve from rushing to get my houseplants cleaned up, perhaps repotted with more room and fresh soil, and then brought inside. Garlic gets its final clean up before coming in from the shed, and potatoes are being dug. Cherry tomatoes are still being eaten fresh off the vine, although this was not a good year for tomatoes in my garden. It's time to put the gardens to bed, and bring in any coleus cuttings to root. What is on your to-do list? I hope you are planning on taking part in the many fine local events - from the just past Garlic and Arts Festival, to Just Roots Fall Farm Festival on October 26th, and Pumpkifest in Turners Falls on October 18. Celebrate the harvest, and take good care of your small piece of the planet. Cheers!

Laura Schlaikjer

Pumpkin Fest

Join the fifth annual Pumpkin Fest celebration on Saturday, October 18 Avenue A in Turners Falls! The event runs from 2-9pm, with FREE shuttling from Turners Falls High School and Sheffield School! Bring a carved pumpkin or two and be entered for a chance to win prizes. Pumpkins can be dropped off starting at 11:00 am in front of St. Kaz or noon at the end of 2nd Street. Some of the more coveted prizes include gift cards to Turners Falls Pizza House, Chandler's Tavern, Yankee Candles, and an autographed picture of Red Sox pitcher Clay Buchholz courtesy of the Boston Red Sox Community Foundation!

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the November Newsletter, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, October 25, at 1:00pm. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Jean Wall

Balance as of September 28, 2014: \$5,522.19!

Income: \$168.14!

Expenses: \$17.05!

Income: Interest, Franklin County Fair Prize, Dues

Expenses: Newsletter printing

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

Gardening in October

by Dolly Gagnon

Fall is a spectacular time of year for gardening. The weather is cooler and much more comfortable to be outside. It's a great time to get out and enjoy one's garden. Top tried and true garden plants for late summer color have not only stood the test of time, but offer long lasting blooms and rich colors that complement the fall season.

1. Sedum Autumn Joy (or Stonecrop) tops off the list as a showstopper and a must for any perennial garden. Its rugged succulent stature stays neat and tidy. By late summer pink flower heads begin to color up and gradually turn a coppery color. Many gardeners prefer to leave the flower stalks on through the winter. A favorite for Sedum groundcovers is the yellow evergreen foliage of Angelina, which takes on tinges of orange in the fall.

2. Ornamental grasses add height and texture to the perennial garden. Miscanthus steals the fall show with its texture and stately plumes. Pennisetum or Fountain Grass has a graceful look with arching foliage that turns golden brown in the fall.

3. Rudbeckia or black Eyed Susan boasts golden yellow daisy flowers lasting from July to October. Dark green foliage turns a mahogany color in fall.

4. Perovskia or Russian Sage is a woody-sub-shrub with fragrant long stems of lavender blue flowers with scented gray foliage.

5. Oakleaf Hydrangeas are some of the best overall shrubs for the garden. Oak-leaf types turn a burgundy color and the bark is interesting too.

6. Buddleia or butterfly bush is invasive and does not support a native food web. If you plant it you must remove the spent blooms. Try instead to plant native host plants, like butterfly weed, other milkweeds, joe-pye weed, and oak trees. Non-natives support less than ¼ of the species of insects that natives do.

7. Burning Bush is highly invasive – try Amsonia, Fothergilla, Viburnum, High Bush Blueberry or Oak-Leaf Hydrangea instead if you are looking for great fall color in a native deciduous shrub.

8. Caryopteris or Blue Mist Shrub has fragrant foliage and flowers. Deer-proof and drought tolerant, late summer brings on numerous fragrant blue flowers just

when one's garden needs that burst of late season color.

9. Asters are known for the late season charm. Wood's Light Blue is an easy care sun-loving groundcover growing 12 o 18 inches high.

10. Coreopsis or Tickseed boasts late season color. They combine well with shrubs and medium size perennials.

Note: Too late to plant now. Save this list for next year's garden planning and planting.

Holiday Gathering - Save the Date!

The club's annual holiday gathering will be Friday, December 12th at 7pm. Mark your calendar now!

Stockbridge Herbs

Tuesday, October 7

Cooking Class: "Market Fresh Fall Herbs and Vegetables"

Northampton Different Drummer's Cooking School
6:15-8:45 PM

Tuesday, October 21

Cooking Class: "Food Noir"

Northampton Different Drummer's Cooking School
6:15-8:45 PM

The Resilient Gardener – Carol Deppe

Submitted by Susan Farber

For many gardeners, what we enjoy most about gardening is not so much what we grow as who we become. We gardeners are healthy, joyous, natural creatures. We are practical, patient, and optimistic. We declare our optimism every year, every season, with every act of planting. We engage in regular, purposeful exercise. We eat a large variety of delicious foods we harvest and prepare with our own hands. We notice everything. We accept everything. We use everything that comes our way. We feel the birth and ebb and flow of everything. We are part of the pattern. We are rooted firmly in the natural world, as aware of the plants, soil, winds, and weather as any other natural thing. We gardeners are fully connected to the land of our living.

Garlic!!!

Linda Tyler

Garlic time is almost upon us. New England has some great hard neck garlic varieties. Denise, from Stockbridge Herbs, who just so happens to be the Queen of Garlic, only plants German White, a tasty variety that stores quite well.

Garlics is best planted about 5 weeks before the ground freezes, so in our area, November is a good time to get your garlic in the ground. Garlic likes well drained soil and sunshine. Garlic requires a lot of nitrogen so an organic fertilizer or composted manure is a good addition to the bed. The first thing you need to do is separate the individual cloves and then plant

them pointy top up about 2 to 3 inches deep. Leave about 5 to 8 inches between cloves. Water deeply so the cloves get a chance to develop healthy roots before the ground freezes.

As the cold weather approaches it is best to cover your garlic with a thick layer of mulch. Mulched leaves or straw are both good choices. In the spring as the garlic begins to sprout, pull the mulch back to expose the tender sprouts. Garlic does not like competition so keep the bed weed free. I like using mulched leaves which I then leave between the rows to deter weeds. In the spring garlic appreciates a dose of fish emulsion to encourage larger bulbs.

In June the garlic will form scapes. The garlic sends up a hard stalk that is capped by a curly top. If allowed to keep growing, the scape will become a flower that will drain energy from the bulb. You want to remove the scapes before it is allowed to bloom. Cut off the stalk. The hard stock itself can be used as a skewer for the grill that adds flavor to the meat as it cooks. The scapes add a mild garlic taste to recipes. Two tips I picked up from Denise and her sister, Mary Ellen, at the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival were to make a scape pesto which you can then freeze and use throughout the winter or roast the scapes on the grill. The great thing about the pesto which is just the finely processed scapes with a little olive oil is that it keeps its bright green coloration. Mary Ellen says she also just freezes scapes straight from the stock for use later in the winter.

Your garlic will be ready to dig about mid-July. You can tell it is ready when about a third of the leaves start to dry and turn brown. After digging, the bulbs should be dried for a couple of days out of the sun then stored in a mesh bag or something similar that allows some air flow. Bulbs that lose their skin should be used quickly as they will not last well. The bulbs should be stored in a cool dry place. Never store where it might freeze. Your garlic will last well until about February at which time it will start to form a green sprout in the middle of each clove. At this point your garlic is still usable but you want to remove the green sprout before using it. When mine starts to sprout I then roast it and mash it slightly before freezing it in small amounts for use in recipes throughout the rest of the time until my new crop is ready! □

Help Wanted

Jeanne Canteen

The committee organizing the Garden Club Tour for 2015 needs some additional members. There are currently 4 of us doing everything and we would like some help.

We need a publicity coordinator as that was our missing link this year. We could also use one or two more people to help find gardens.

Thanks to all of you who helped weed and act as host/hostesses this year. We couldn't have done it without you. Perhaps you would like to take on a bit more for next year.

If you are interested, please contact Jeanne Canteen: Email - jeanne@trowbridgegroup.com or phone - 413-774-6605

Fall Folklore

Linda Tyler

It seems New England is rich in weather related folklore. Some that may or may not hold true this winter are if flowers are still blooming in late fall it will be a bad winter. Since we have not yet had a frost in Greenfield by the end of September perhaps we are in for a bad winter. We will have to see if the leaves fall early or late. The saying goes that if the leaves fall early, winter will be mild and if they fall late a bad winter is on the way. Thunder in the fall is also supposed to be an omen of a bad winter.

Then there are the woolly bear caterpillars. As I have gone about putting my garden ready for the upcoming winter I have run into quite a few woolly bears and all of them have had wide middle bands of rusty brown and very little black on the ends. Between 1948 and 1956, Dr. Curran measured the reddish brown segments of woolly bears and his study suggested that if the band took up more than a third of the caterpillar's body then the winter would be mild. He did realize that his study was very small so the data was not completely scientific. His study did accomplish one thing though... The Woolly Bear is the most recognizable of all caterpillars. Curran, his wife and some of their friends did form The Original Society of the Friends of the Woolly Bear most likely as an excuse to travel to the mountains and have an opportunity to appreciate the fall foliage.

One much more scientific bit of lore is you can approximate the temperature by counting the chirps of a cricket.

Crickets chirp faster the warmer the temperature. If you count the number of chirps for 14 seconds and then add 40, you will have the temperature in Fahrenheit.

Another more predictable piece of folklore is "Clear Moon, frost soon." This one is more reliable. When you have a cloudless sky, the Earth's surface cools more quickly since there is no cloud cover to retain the heat, making it more likely that a frost will occur.

Two other quotes I had not run into before include; "For every fog in August there will be a snowfall."

"If the first week in August is unusually warm, the coming winter will be snowy and long." Hmm, guess we will just have to wait and see. ☺



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.