



# Greenfield Garden Club

## Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 9

September 2014

### President

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### September Meeting

Another beautiful garden awaits us in the glowing hills of Ashfield. If you have never been to Bug Hill Farm, then you are in for a treat! Our host is Kate Kerivan, the owner, gardener, and purveyor of a line of fine fruit cordials, shrubs, spreads, chutneys, and preserves. I had the pleasure of going to her open house in July of 2013, and can tell you that the gardens are well worth the visit. Kate will be able to fill us in on the history of the farm, and her history in the fields of plant science, hospitality and food. Kate has been interested in plants for a long time, with her undergraduate degree being in Plant Science (University of New Hampshire), and a second degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University. She is also one of the many fine graduates of the Conway School of Landscape Design. So the land is her primary concern, and the product line is a happy offshoot - and it pays the bills! We will meet rain or shine, as there is room to meet out of the elements if needed. If it's rainy, do bring raingear and umbrellas so we can do an abbreviated walk to admire the various gardens and greenhouses. As usual with meetings in other towns, we will meet at Cherry Rum Plaza to carpool. We will depart for Ashfield at 5:30pm.

*Laura Schlaikjer*

Directions: From Ashfield Village: Turn left onto route 112 and then take an immediate right onto Lilliput. Follow it until it ends at a T (This is Bug Hill Rd) and take a right. Kate's place is the first farmhouse on the right (Yellow with a big front porch) that you can see from the road (across the street from a hayfield).

### President's Report

By the time you read this, we will either be working diligently on the Franklin County Fair booth in the Roundhouse, or it will be done and we will be waiting to see if we earned a blue ribbon. We are working in conjunction with the Valley Fermenters and the Franklin County Beekeepers booths to promote interest in and knowledge of the life of the honeybee and other pollinators, and how we can promote their health and well-being in our backyards and gardens, as well as in our buying habits. We will also make the information child-friendly as one of our main aims is to introduce and increase the interest of area youth in all aspects of gardening. I hope you will come to the Fair and enjoy all that the Roundhouse has to offer, including our booth. As fall approaches, I hope you are enjoying the weather and getting out to area garden center sales to fill in empty areas in your gardens, or looking for new ways to pickle or preserve your harvest. If anyone knows an easy way to keep birds out of the orchard, or stop deer from eating hostas, I am all ears! We still have some wonderful events on our 2014 calendar, so I hope you will carve out some time to attend. See you at the Fair!!

*Laura Schlaikjer*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Thursday, September 18 6 pm**  
Bug Hill Farm  
Garden of Kate Kerivan,  
Ashfield, MA  
Car Pool leaves Cherry Rum  
Plaza at 5:30

**Steering Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, September 25 6pm  
Home of Jean Wall, 40 High St

*Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletters. For the **October Newsletter**, please send to Linda Tyler by Saturday, September 27, at 1:00pm. Thank you!*

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Jean Wall*

Balance as of August 29, 2014: \$5,371.10

Income: \$.14

Expenses: \$43.78

Income: Interest

Expenses: Newsletter printing, Memorial

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 September, taken from The Garden Helper, compiled by Dolly Gagnon.***

### **Fall Care of Annuals, Perennials, and Bulbs**

\*It is time to plant perennial seeds and bulbs! After soil temperature drops below 60 degrees, the spring flowering bulbs of Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Siberian Squill, Dwarf Irises, Anemone and Crocus should be planted. Select healthy, disease free bulbs. Add bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole as you prepare the soil.

\*Winter Pansies, Ornamental Kale and Cabbage and fall blooming Chrysanthemums can be planted now to give a little color to the garden when the summer flowers have faded away.

\*Scatter the seeds of wildflowers in rows or in open beds this month so that the young seedlings will be ready to be transplanted into their permanent spot next spring.

\*As the weather cools, perennials that have overgrown their space or become crowded should be dug and divided or moved to a new area of the garden.

\*New and replacement perennials should also be planted this month.

\*Tender bulbs like Dahlias should be dug up and stored in a cool, dark area after first frost.

### **Shrubs and Trees**

\*Fall is an excellent time to shop for plants, trees and shrubs. Fall planting encourages good root development, allowing plants to get established before spring. If weather is dry, provide water up until the ground freezes. Stop fertilizing your trees and flowering shrubs to allow this year's growth to harden off before winter.

### **Fruits and Vegetables**

\*Although most fruits and vegetables are best when eaten fresh on the day they're picked, you can extend the season by freezing, drying, storing or canning.

\*Plum trees should be pruned right after harvest, to insure a bountiful crop next year.

\*Once the tops of onions have withered, the bulbs should be lifted and dried in a warm, dry, sunny location for about 10 days. Then they should be stored in a cool, dark, dry place.

Some root crops, such as carrots, onions and parsnips can be left in the ground in cold climates and dug up as needed. Apply enough mulch to keep the ground from freezing, and the crop will be kept fresh until needed.

### **Lawn Care**

When fall rains arrive, fertilize your lawn with a slow-release 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer.

### **Spring Bulbs**

Pot up some spring flowering bulbs for indoor color during the winter. Store the pots in a cool, dark place, until new growth emerges from the soil, and then move them to a bright window.

### ***The 16th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival***

*Linda Tyler*

Be sure to check out the festival that stinks!!! This is the festival's 16<sup>th</sup> year! There will be over 100 vendors there for you to browse through as you enjoy the sights and sounds. This solar powered event is very green producing a minimal amount of trash over the two days. There are demonstrations, games, performers, crafts, and food, food, food! The food of course often features garlic. Be brave and sample the garlic ice cream offered by Bart's Homemade or the garlic fudge offered by Sweetest Memories! Don't miss Stockbridge Herb's very own Mary Ellen and Denise's cooking demo at 1PM Saturday and stop by and visit them at their booth. Another familiar face will be Tom Sullivan giving a talk on pollinators on Saturday at 2PM. Parking is available on site if there are at least 3 people in your vehicle or park in one of the lots and catch a free bus up to the event.

September 27 and 28, 2014 at Forster's Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange, MA

### ***Stockbridge Herbs***

Wednesday, September 17. Cooking Class: Love Those Lemons. Different Drummer's Kitchen, Northampton, MA. 6:15-8:45 PM.

### ***Chapley Gardens Linda Tyler***

I can't say enough about Stacy Chapley! Stacy did a bang up job with the planters in downtown Greenfield which the Garden Club sponsored this year. She is a gracious host to our annual wreath making meeting in November. When I was looking for plants for our fair booth, I gave Stacy a call and her response was come on down! She donated a wide array of annuals for the booth. Stacy is definitely a true friend of our club.

Chapley Gardens has started their fall hours. They are open Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday from 10-3. If you can't make it or have a special request give them a call at 413-773-7663 and they will set up an appointment to meet with you.

## **Tomatoes!!!!**

**Linda Tyler**

With fall fast approaching and too many green tomatoes on the vine: What to do? What to do? There is a method called "root-pruning" which is supposed to expedite ripening. Using a spade you cut into the soil about 6" deep circling the plant about 1' from the base. If this doesn't get all those tomatoes ripe and cold nights are threatening keep those cover cloths handy since even after the first frost there is usually another warm spell. Of course the way this crazy weather has been going... Who knows! You can also pull the entire tomato up and hang it upside down in the cellar to allow the tomatoes to continue ripening on the vine. Then again there are always fried green tomatoes and green tomato salsa.

Why do tomatoes turn red? Same reason leaves turn colors in the fall. The chlorophyll breaks down allowing other colors to appear. The tomatoes also increase in softness and sugar content attracting animals who will then eat them and help disperse the seeds. The flavor change is caused by a drop in tannins which cause the sour taste that deter animals from eating them when they are green.

## **Cardboard or Newspaper Gardening! Linda Tyler**

Corrugated cardboard or layers of newspaper is a great way to prep a vegetable or flower garden spot for planting next year. Start by weeding the area destined to be a garden bed or simply cover the area with multiple layers of wet newspaper or corrugated cardboard to smother the weeds. Place stones or stake it down so it remains in place over the winter. Done in the fall the corrugated cardboard or newspaper will degrade over the winter. In the spring simply plant your plants right through the corrugated cardboard or newspaper. In the flower bed add a top layer of compost or soil around the plants. For the vegetable garden you can just leave the bed as is.

Corrugated cardboard or newspaper is great in established vegetable garden to deter weeds as well. I have not weeded my vegetable garden in years! In the spring I water the garden well and then line the entire bed with corrugated cardboard. When ready to plant seedlings I cut X's in the cardboard and pop in the plant. If planting in rows of seeds I use the edge of layers of wet newspaper to delineate the edge of the row and more newspapers between rows. Mulched leaves are also good for between rows of seeds. Using this method there will be very few areas that need a little weeding and you can spend more time in your flower garden!

## **Untitled**

if corporations are people,  
then trees are people, too,  
with rights and responsibilities  
as planetary citizens.

as portrayed by the image below,  
forests are the lungs of the lungs,  
-- key component in the climate system of planet earth,  
trees are the active, functional tissues  
-- the living lining on the surfaces  
of the planet's breathing organ.



earth has an advanced case of lung cancer.  
deforestation & desertification are increasing  
-- accelerating  
-- more advanced than even in the image above.  
the biosphere can't breathe fully, deeply,  
anymore.

kicking fossil fuel addictions in just one small step  
toward a sustainable planetary future for humanity.  
reforestation to regenerate watersheds, biodiversity &  
ecosystems  
will be a giant leap to a true global solution.

a forest isn't just trees.  
it's a community.  
trees provide shelter, shade, soil, moisture, oxygen....  
-- superstructures for the full ecological community.

so, it is simple reasoning to understand  
communities are a primary human social form  
to advocate, regenerate & defend forests  
-- old and new.  
community forests.  
which requires community forestry.  
community foresters.

currently, communities are so colonized & disempowered  
they have little influence over their water, watershed,  
soil, farmland, or air quality  
-- much less over their forests.  
we have a lot of work ahead.

may the forest be with you,  
david yarrow



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 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.