Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2023 Vol. 31, No. 4

Bonsai Demo and Workshop with John Rough

Date: Thursday, April 20th at 6:30pm
Speaker: John Rough
Location: 170 Main St, Greenfield (Franklin Community Coop/Green Fields Market Community Room)
RSVP: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

In April of 2021, the club offered a slide discussion of Bonsai via zoom with John that was very well received. We'd like to offer an in-person demonstration version, so people can see the trees up close and personal and ask questions. John is currently attending the Annual Spring Festival of the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies in Parsippany, NJ.

BONUS: Hands-on Workshop with John **Sunday, April 30** at 3pm. John has graciously offered to take a small class (limit: 10) and do a beginner to intermediate hands-on workshop with a growing season's worth of support generously included. Sign up at the meeting on the 20th, or contact the club with your interest at the email listed above.

April President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Happy April to everyone! Spring has sprung and local plant nurseries are opening up, freshly stocked for the season. Make a plan before purchasing willy-nilly and making them wait in their pots too long! Thank you to everyone who made the Five Seasons movie a blockbuster event! We sold 147 tickets and I don't think I have ever seen the theater so full! I want to note that this was not a fundraiser. The club paid $250 for the movie, and since we sold many more tickets than expected, Isaac used some of the ticket proceeds to pay more to the distributor. He kept the rest. We wanted to keep it affordable for the community. There is so much going on this month – I hope you have the time to read all the info presented here. With rain in the forecast to start the month, that may be true! We look forward to seeing your happy faces - like these pansies! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1, 8:45 – 11:45am – WMMG Spring Gardening Symposium
March 30 – April 2 – 10th Annual Festival of Flowers in Springfield
April 6, 10:30am – John Forti speaking in NH (see page 3)
April 6, 2:00 pm – Bulb Gardening virtual presentation (see page 5)
April 7, 1-3pm – Opening Reception: A Recipe for Saving Seeds (see page 7)
April 20, 6:30pm – Bonsai Demo with John Rough (see page 1)
April 22 – Happy Earth Day!!
April 28, 5:00pm – Steering Committee meeting
April 30, Sunday, 3-5pm – Bonsai Hands-On Workshop

April is a promise that May is bound to keep.
~ Hal Borland

Newspaper Plant Pots

Looking to make some inexpensive pots for your seedlings? Try folding (soy-based ink) newspapers into simple vessels you then fill with soil. Check out this link. (*Make sure not to click on the obnoxious ads when you read articles like this online!)*

Grant Committee Meeting Update

The first meeting of the Grant Committee was Tuesday, March 28th. We discussed rolling submissions – maybe seasonally, with dead-lines for spring, summer and fall. We discussed to whom and how to reach people in the community, electronically if possible. We are going to work to create an online application. We are excited by all the ideas presented and look forward to debuting our freshly re-invented grant program to the community.

Extravaganza Committee Meeting Update

The first meeting of the Extravaganza Committee was Wednesday, March 29th. There was a consensus on running the annual club fundraiser this year on **May 27th** (Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend – our historical date) from 8:30 to 12:30. We will ask members to dig plants early to establish them in pots, target unusual plants over common and even invasive plants, and submit larger specimens. We will explore selling booth space to plant vendors and artisans not selling at the Farmers Market. We will encourage the donation of houseplants. We will invite the W. MA Master Gardeners to participate. We will look for a quality item for the Drawing. We will explore purchasing plant material from other growers, if not for this year, then for future years. **START LOOKING AT WHAT YOU COULD DONATE FOR THE PLANT SALE!!** 😊 😊 😊

*Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden Chores** on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Becky George, our Club Treasurer, will be happy to accept your membership check for 2023. Individuals are $20 and families are $25. Becky's address is 61 Madison Cir, Greenfield, MA 01301. We thank you in advance for your continued support. Remember that memberships make a nice gift!

(*Please contact the club if your annual member card has not arrived in the mail.)*

Officers 2023:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website: Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President: Marsha Stone
Treasurer: Becky George
Recording Secretary: Pamela McBride
Corresponding Secretary: Eva Carrier
At Large Member/s: Nicki Shipman; Wayne Gelineau

The Greenfield Farmer's Cooperative is offering a new Scholarship Program for students pursuing a future in agriculture beyond high school - including those pursuing a "non-traditional" pathway. The deadline is May 1st. You can find their easy application form on their website. Awards of up to $1000 will be awarded after the successful completion of at least 1 semester of study (your first semester for new applicants). Share this widely!

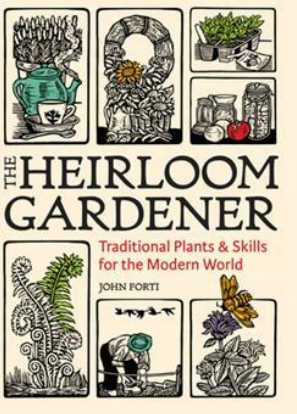
Edible Landscapes - for Health, Habitat, Family & the Future ~ with John Forti

The Amherst Garden Club in Amherst, NH is hosting this event on **Thursday, April 6**, **10:30AM** at the Messiah Lutheran Church (303 NH Route 101, Amherst, NH). It is open to the public at no charge.

John has won numerous awards for historic garden preservation, children's garden design, herbal and historical education and the 2021 Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs, one of the nation's most-recognized nonprofits and largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

John is presently the Executive Director at Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. Bedrock Gardens is an emerging public garden that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into an inspiring landscape journey. (Bedrockgardens.org). John will be selling his latest book, The Heirloom Gardener-Traditional Plants and Skills (see below).

Part essay collection, part gardening guide, **The Heirloom Gardener** encourages readers to embrace heirloom seeds and traditions, serving as a well-needed reminder to slow down and reconnect with nature." --Modern Farmer Modern life is a cornucopia of technological wonders. But is something precious being lost? A tangible bond with our natural world--the deep satisfaction of connecting to the earth that was enjoyed by previous generations? In The Heirloom Gardener, John Forti celebrates gardening as a craft and shares the lore and traditional practices that link us with our environment and with each other. Charmingly illustrated and brimming with wisdom, this guide will inspire you to slow down, recharge, and reconnect.



Looking for a new destination? Check out the Hollandia Nurseries **Spring Garden Expo** taking place **April 12 – 19** in **Bethel**, **CT**. Exclusive Seminars, tours, and 20% off in-stock merchandise. It's a bit of a hike – if anyone wants to get a carpool going, send an email and we can alert the membership and organize one – preferably with enough cars with room for people and purchases!!

INTRODUCING A CITY OF GREENFIELD POLLINATOR CORRIDOR ~ *with Tom Sullivan*

Tom addressed the GGC Steering Committee at their last meeting about creating long pollinator "meadows" along the strips next to the new skate park at the back of the Wilsons building, which will help to form a pollinator corridor from Energy Park and the new Fiske Ave Pocket Park over to the Jon Zon Community Center gardens. There are 4 potential linear meadow spaces in the tree belt, 2 on Chapman Street and 2 on Davis Street, as well as the strip between the old Wilson's parking lot and the skate park area. Tom is offering to lead in the design work and pick out appropriate native plants. He envisions leading teams of community members and students in the maintenance of these areas – perhaps groups can adopt a strip. If the lovely garden at John Zon is any indication, these will look terrific when they are planted and have a chance to fill in. If you are interested in learning more about this project, which is still in the very early planning stages, please contact Tom at sullivan08@csld.edu.

Planting the Jon Zon pollinator gardens in 2019 with Dorothea Sotiros

Tom with Nancee Bershof and Wisty Rorabacher in the now more mature garden.

Tom leads a group of inquisitive children interested in the finer points of pollinator habitat in Amherst!

Bulbs are nature's little packages all ready to produce a beautiful flower for you. Find out about the history of common and not so common bulbs and how to bring spring and summer beauty to the garden for years to come.

Led by Kathi Gariepy, a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, volunteering more than 10,000 hours, past Vice President of the MMGA, past chair of the Master Gardener Advisory Board, and past president of the Attleboro Garden Club. Owner of the garden design company Pleasant Vistas, Kathi has also worked as lead teacher for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, education coordinator for Mass Audubon and studied landscape design at Rhode Island School of Design. She is also the recipient of the MMGA's Lifetime Achievement Award (the Golden Trowel) and the MHS Silver Medal and is currently the chair of the Attleboro Conservation Commission. Kathi teaches children and adults about the wonders of nature. Kathi lives in an old farmhouse with perennial borders, herb gardens, a vegetable garden, grapes, blueberries, raspberries and some very old, still producing, apple trees.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Tewksbury Library and the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library. (**NOTE**: This program will NOT be recorded.)

Register **here** for this 2:00 pm program on **Thursday, April 6** that is shared by the Tewksbury Public Library.

Long Hill Garden First Annual Symposium

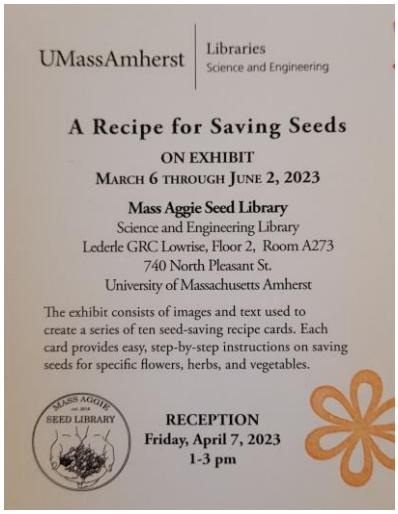
The Trustees of Reservations is pleased to announce the first annual Long Hill Garden Symposium, which will be held over two days (**Sat May 6 & Sun May 7**), and will bring together an internationally renowned group of plant specialists and horticultural professionals. Their fantastic line up of speakers have been featured on a wide variety of media outlets, from *Oprah* to *Shark Tank* and *The New York Times* to *Fine Gardening*. This unique event will be held across the Long Hill property in Beverly, MA, and will ask attendees to *think about the plant world in a creative way.* The event is broken down into two days:

Day 1 (Saturday, May 6th) features a series of guest speakers, all of which are included with lunch and tea/coffee for a single fee. The wide range of topics ranges from ecological horticulture to decorative design. There will be 3 workshops in the morning and 3 after lunch. Speakers include Joann Vieira, Rebecca McMackin, James McGrath, Tom de Witte, Loria Stern, and Abra Lee.

Day 2 (Sunday, May 7th) features a series of a la carte workshops, which are individually priced. More details can be found here: https://thetrustees.org/program/long-hill-symposium/

They are offering an **Early Bird Discount** for **Day 1** of the event for anyone who books **before April 9th**. Trustees of Reservations members will be $195pp and non-members $220pp. Read through the topics and bios of the speakers at the link above and you will see that the fee is well worth your investment. It comes out to only $32.50/$36.67 per lecture. By contrast, individual fees for the workshops on May 7th range from $32 to $250 each (member price). Starting on April 10th, fees will increase to $250pp for members and $275 for non-members. Reserve your spot early!

Join Paulina Borrego for the opening reception on Friday, April 7th, 1 – 3pm at the Mass Aggie Seed Library at UMass, Amherst. Please Join us!



APRIL RECIPE: SPICY CRUSHED OLIVES WITH PISTACHIOS meets CRUSHED OLIVES WITH ALMONDS, CELERY & PARMESAN

Adapted from: *Smitten Kitchen Every Day* & *Smitten Kitchen Keepers* – *Deb Perelman*
Served at a recent Steering Committee meeting – we were not surprised that it was from Smitten Kitchen. Nicki made a combined recipe and we loved it!
Serves 4 as a snack or appetizer.

INGREDIENTS:

4 strips of orange zest, removed with a vegetable peeler (save the orange for a snack)
½ cup shelled. roasted, salted pistachios
½ tsp red pepper flakes, or more to taste
1 TBSP finely chopped fresh rosemary
2 TBSP olive oil, plus more, as needed
Flaky sea salt
2 cups large green (ideally Castelvetrano) olives, crushed and pitted
1 cup diced celery
2oz grated parmesan
1 peeled, chopped garlic clove
1 TBSP white vinegar

DIRECTIONS:

On a cutting board, slice the orange zest into thin matchsticks. Chop the pistachios into tiny pieces, and transfer the orange zest, pistachios, pepper flakes, rosemary, and olive oil to a medium bowl. Stir to combine, seasoning well with salt. Add the remaining ingredients, and stir to coat everything evenly, adding more olive oil and/or salt to taste.

O'BRIEN NURSERY OPEN GARDEN DAYS 2023

March 31, April 1 & 2 – Come select your Hellebores, while they're blooming!

April 14, 15 & 16 – Spring Ephemerals – Bloodroot, Trillium, Jeffersonia

April 21, 22 & 23 – Yellow Magnolias, Kinda New, Kinda Different, Really Special!

April 28, 29 & 30 – Hundreds of Japanese Maples for Great Spring & Fall Color

May 5, 6 & 7 – Enticing Epimediums – Explore our Expanded Choices

May 12, 13 & 14 – Diverse, Dynamic, and Deliciously Fragrant Daphnes

May 19, 20 & 21 – Intriguing Iris; Dwarf, German, Crested, Species

May 26, 27, 28 & 29 – Dicentra – more Bleeding Hearts than ever before.

June 2, 3 & 4 – Cypripediums! Yes, Lady-Slippers, hopefully enough to meet demand!

June 9, 10 & 11 – We are still adding new Itoh Peonies to tempt you with.

June 16, 17 & 18 – Did you see how that Hosta has Grown? Hosta, at their Best!

June 23, 24 & 25 – Exotic Arisaemas, Japanese and Chinese Species

June 30, July 1, 2 & 3 – Lilium canadense, not to be missed when in bloom.

July 7, 8 & 9 – We offer Hardy Hydrangeas, that will bloom in your garden.

July 14, 15 & 16 – Discover our Dazzling Daylily Displays, for 2+ months

July 21, 22 & 23 – Hazy, Hot and Humid; Check out our Cool Ferns

July 28, 29 & 30 – Heuchera, Foliage in many Color Variations.

August 11, 12 & 13 – Hosta Dividing Demo, Each Day at Noon

August 25, 26 & 27 – Polygonatums, Many Special Selections of Solomon Seal

September 1, 2 & 3 – Toadlilies – Great, Late Summer Flowers for the Shade

September 15, 16 & 17 – Dwarf & Variegated Ginkgos – Granby Farm Day (Saturday)

September 29, 30 & October 1 – Unique Conifers, for the Winter Garden!

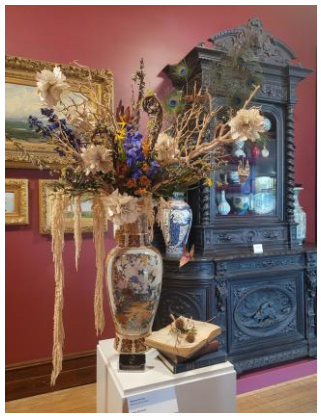
October 13, 14 & 15 – End of the Hosta Season Sale

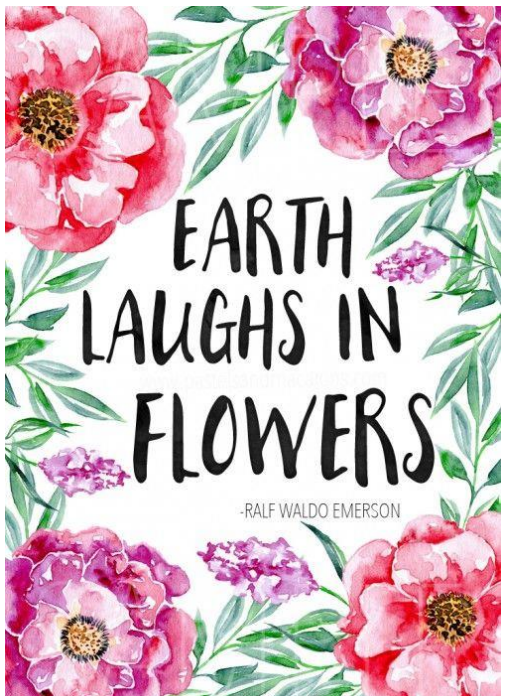
October 27, 28 & 29 – Amazing Fall Color of Japanese Maple, Ginkgo, Fothergilla, etc.

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)

O'Brien Nursery – 40 Wells Rd – Granby, CT 06035 – 860-653-0163

Festival of Flowers After Hours at the Springfield Museums on March 30th





Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Feb 15, 2023 .....$8,907.60

Income $100.18
Interest $0.18; $100 membership
Expenses $1,775.33
Annual Mtg: Printing, Champney's Restaurant, flowers, speaker
Balance as of March 16, 2023.....$7,232.45

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 61 Madison Cir
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, April 26th
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

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.

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

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

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

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

Any vendors interested in offering our club member - gardeners a discount, please contact a member of the Steering Committee – thank you!!

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

Mill River Farm Market – Conway Road/corner 116 & Rtes 5/10. S. Deerfield
10% off plants in Spring and Fall

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