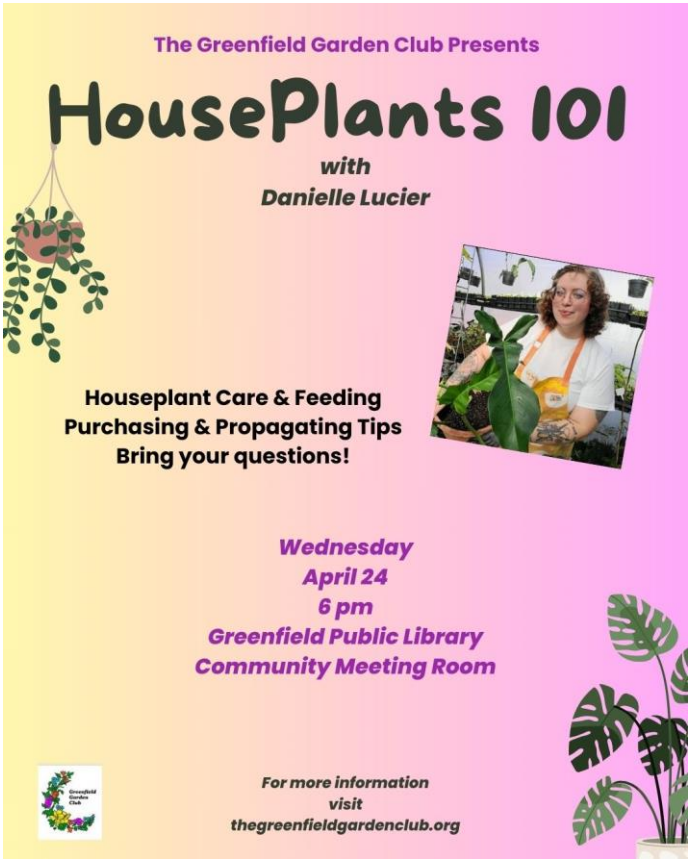
Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2024 Vol. 32, No. 3

Houseplants 101 with Danielle Lucier



Greenfield native Danielle Lucier has been working with plants since childhood. Growing up with two garden-loving grandmothers, she always had an interest in caring for plants and learning how to make them grow to their best potential. She has worked as a nursery head at a local exotic plant greenhouse for over 3 yrs and owns her own indoor plant consultation business called Danielle.Grows. She's built a personal plant collection of over 280 species of rare plants that she tends to daily. In this workshop Danielle will go over house plant care - including choosing plants based on your lighting, where to purchase plants, and how to care for them once you get them home. She will also review different types of propagation, types of soil and potting mediums, and how to choose what's best for each plant in your collection. Refreshments will be served.

April President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

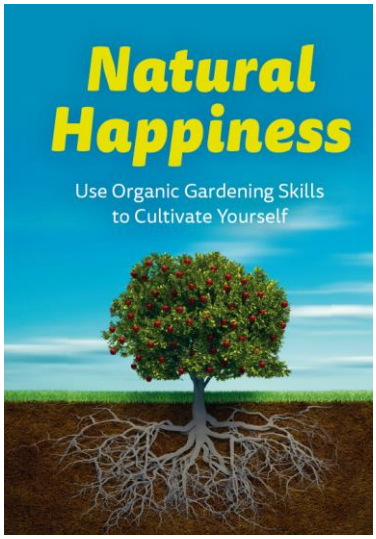
Welcome to April, when pansies are finally for sale and snow is in the forecast! Before you are truly too busy in the garden to take a day trip, I highly recommend you check out Seed to Stem, A Lifestyle and Plant Boutique in Worcester, MA. (I posted many photos on our Facebook page.) It knocked my socks off! I also found The Plant Ward, at Tatnuck Square, with lots of unusual plants available. You might want to visit either before (or after) our April meeting on houseplants. Do you know of other treasures further afield from Greenfield? Let us know! We noticed folks mucking about on the far side of the Swimming Area, and we hope you will come to the GPL on the 6th to hear about the work of identifying and removing invasives with Wisty. Also, many hands make light work! Now, if I have missed any other opportunities between here and Springfield, let me know so I can send it out to the membership. Happy Spring! ~ Laura

SEED TO STEM

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4, 5-8pm – Flowers After Hours at the Springfield Museums
April 6, 6:00pm – Reclaiming space for native plants (article at right) at GPL
April 19, 1-3pm – Photo exhibit opening reception at the UMass Seed Library
April 18, 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meeting
April 22 – Happy Earth Day!
April 24, 6:00pm - Houseplants 101 at the Greenfield Public Library

April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year
~ Vita Sackville-West



Natural Happiness: Use organic gardening skills to cultivate yourself

In these stormy times, this book will help you to dig deep and stay cheerful: it shows how gardening methods like composting, mulching, and crop rotation can be used to cultivate human nature too. A gardener applies skills like observation, patience and creativity, and you can adapt them to deal with daily stresses and big issues like climate change. Alan's approach is positive and practical, easy to use for gardeners and others.

The book explores Alan's Seven Seeds of Natural Happiness, which grow from twenty years' experience of helping people learn from Nature, and from creating gardens and an organic farm. They are:

1. **Nourish your roots**, and your ground condition.
2. **Use natural energy sources**, like appreciation and enthusiasm.
3. **Compost your troubles:** turn setbacks into useful energy!
4. **Shaping uncertainty: the co-creative way:** new ways to dance with challenges.
5. **Cultivating community**: learn from gardens about cooperation and using diversity.
6. **Growing through climate change**: how humans and Nature can raise resilience and adapt together.
7. **Natural inspiration**: find purpose and perspective through Nature.

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

Working to Reclaim Native Plants and Their Habitat in Greenfield.
Did you see the Opinion piece in the 3/28 Recorder written by Wisty Rorabacher? She lays out her observations and a call to action to preserve the ephemerals and other native plants over by the Green River Swimming Area. This area is in danger of being crowded out by a horde of invasive plants. By practicing "carbohydrate starvation" – stripping leaves and cutting invasive plants back repeatedly, the native seedbank can start to recover and refill the area. Wisty and friends are asking others interested in learning the technique and possibly willing to volunteer their time here and there at the swimming area to come and learn about the process on **Monday, April 8th at 6:00pm at the Greenfield Public Library** in their large community room. Come and learn how we can move forward together, how you can be actively involved in identifying plants, and cutting back invasives to make room for the native plants and seeds waiting in the forest soil.

Officers 2024:

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

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY – Open Garden Days are Back!

New this year – gardens are open in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties. Some gardens are open more than once. Most tickets are on sale now. Call and say you are a member of the GGC and you can purchase tickets at the member rate of $5 per garden.

MAY 11th	**Hampshire County** - Kinsey Pope Garden in Amherst
 JUNE 1st	**Franklin County** – GGC club member Elise Schlaikjer's Phoenix House Garden in Greenfield; GGC club member Bill Hodgeman's Swampfield in Sunderland; and Maples of Silver Lane in Sunderland. **Hampshire County** – Culver's Garden in Florence and Flying Pig Farm in Amherst. **Hampden County** – Our Color-Filled Retreat in Springfield.
JUNE 8/9th	*** * * GGC GARDEN TOUR * * * GGC GARDEN TOUR * * ***
 JUNE 29th	**Franklin County** – Earthworks Garden in Leverett; Mary Chicoine's Garden in Greenfield **Hampshire County** - Kinsey Pope Garden in Amherst **Hampden County** – Suburban Garden in Transition in West Springfield
 AUGUST 3rd	**Hampden County** – A Country Garden in the City – Springfield; Rock Valley Paradise in Holyoke; Our Color-Filled Retreat in Springfield. **** Support your friends and neighbors by visiting their gardens, all of which are open to the public for the very first time this season.*
SEPT 8th	**Franklin County** – Earthworks Garden in Leverett
 OCT 19th	**Franklin County** - Bill Hodgeman's Swampfield in Sunderland **Hampshire County** - Kinsey Pope Garden in Amherst **Hampden County** - Rock Valley Paradise in Holyoke

O'Brien Nurserymen, Granby, CT Open Garden Days 2024

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On the dates below only)
Also by Appointment (please call ahead) – GGC members receive a 10% discount
NOTE: *John does not accept credit cards. Prices are on the website. (there are 19 pages of Hostas alone!)*

March 22, 23 & 24 – Earliest Opening Ever, Let's Celebrate Spring!

April 5, 6 & 7 – Lenten Roses, Leading into Spring, first to Flower

April 12, 13 & 14 – Delicate Native & Asian Woodland Ephemerals

April 19, 20 & 21 – Magnolias, Many Special Selections to choose from

April 26, 27 & 28 – A Perfect Time to catch the Primroses in Bloom

May 3, 4 & 5 – Bishop's Hat, Horny Goat Weed, It's Epimedium Season

May 10, 11 & 12 – Deliciously Fragrant Daphnes

May 17, 18 & 19 – Cypripediums – Lady-Slippers, easier than you think!

May 24, 25, 26 & 27 – Conifers unfurling their New Growth and Showy Cones

May 31, June 1 & 2 – Don't miss our Itoh Peonies in Bloom

June 7, 8 & 9 – Japanese Maples, Spectacular from Spring to Fall

June 14, 15 & 16 – Elegant, Amazing, and Exotic Arisaemas

June 21, 22, 23 & 24 – Hostas at their Best! Hosta Convention in New England

June 28, 29 & 30 – Cool, Floating Foliage of Variegated Redbuds

July 4, 5, 6 & 7 – Yes, Open the 4th! Featuring, Polygonatum odoratum 'Fireworks'

July 12, 13 & 14 – High Season for Daylilies, Checkout our Display Tables

July 19, 20 & 21 – Do you call them Heuchera, Hoochaira or Coralbells?

July 26, 27 & 28 – Summer Blooming Azaleas, for Fragrance in the Garden

August 9, 10 & 11 – Hosta Dividing Demo, Each Day at Noon

August 23, 24 & 25 – Franklinia starts blooming now for Two Months!

August 30, 31 & Sept. 1 – Do you Grow Japanese Woodland Peonies for their Seedpods?

September 13, 14 & 15 – Dwarf & Variegated Ginkgos – Granby Farm Day (Saturday)

September 27, 28 & 29 – Unique Conifers – Abies, Picea, Larix, Pinus; Oh My!

October 11, 12 & 13 – End of the Hosta Season Sale

November 1, 2 & 3 – Amazing Fall Color of Japanese Maple, Ginkgo, Fothergilla, etc.

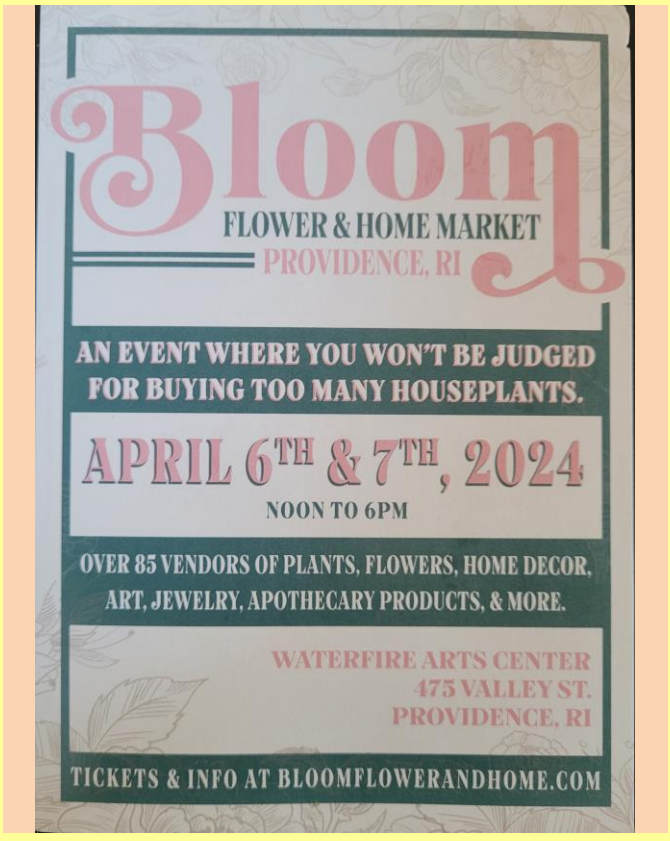
Western MA Master Gardeners'
GARDENING IN CHANGING TIMES

Upper Valley Symposium
April 13, 2024
8:45am – Noon

Frontier Regional High School
South Deerfield, MA

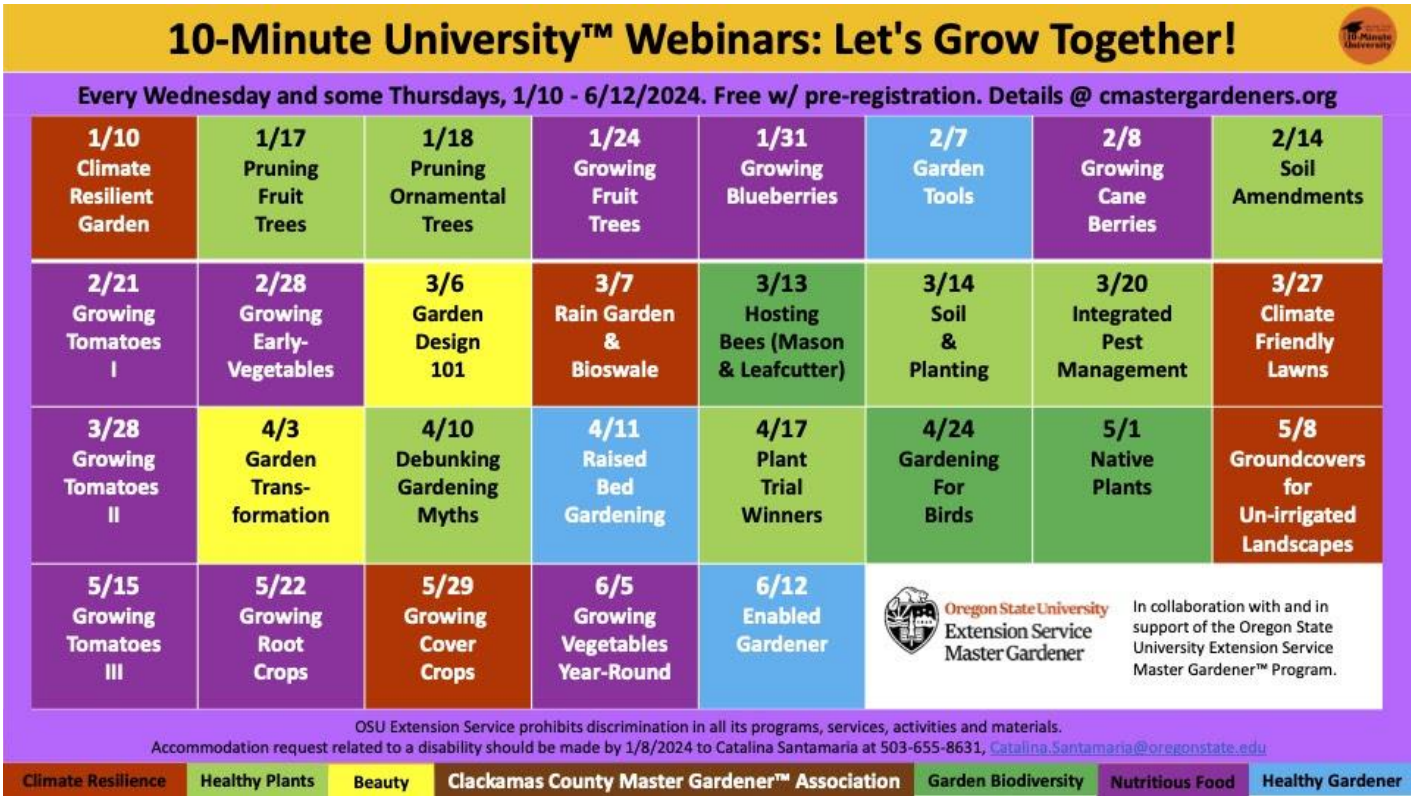
Download the **flyer**

Register **here**



GCC seed LIBRARY

A collaboration between the Nahman-Watson Library and the Greenfield Community College Science Department



Let's Grow Together! Webinars

Free, Online, Attend Live or Register to Receive Recording

Noon - 1 PM

Every Wednesday & some Thursdays

Registration required

Click HERE to access the recordings of the January – March episodes

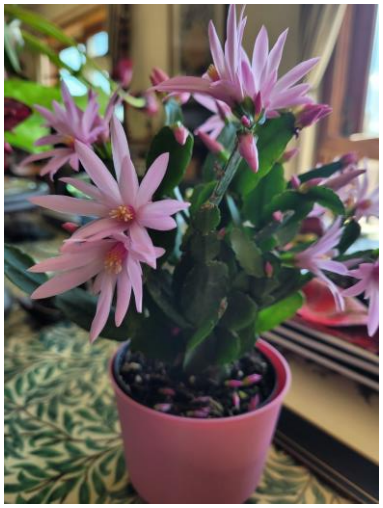
Click HERE to sign up for the April offerings

Growing Easter Cacti - Rhipsalidopsis

Rhipsalidopsis comes in a variety of cultivars, each with its distinct characteristics and flower colors. Some popular varieties include:

- **Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri:** This variety features bright pink flowers and is known for its compact growth habit.
- **Rhipsalidopsis rosea:** With delicate pale pink flowers, this variety is sought after for its elegant beauty.
- **Rhipsalidopsis truncata:** Known for its striking red flowers, this variety is a standout among its counterparts.
- **Rhipsalidopsis x hybrid:** This category includes hybrid cultivars that showcase a wide range of flower colors, including red, pink, orange, and white.

Rhipsalidopsis thrives in an environment that mimics its natural habitat. It prefers temperatures between 65°F to 75°F (18°C to 24°C) during the day and slightly cooler temperatures at night. It is essential to provide the plant with bright, indirect light to ensure healthy growth and abundant flowering. Placing your Easter Cactus near a north or east-facing window is ideal. Avoid exposing the plant to direct sunlight, as it can lead to sunburn and damage the delicate foliage. *The specimen at right was recently purchased at Seed to Stem in Worcester, MA.*



Seeds of Solidarity April Events

April 27, 10.30-11.30 am. Grow Great Gardens: Q and A, 10.30-11.30 followed by optional self-guided tour. Free, all welcome! No-preregistration. It's also our farmstand grand opening day!

Sunday April 28, 1-4PM: **No-till Gardens and Farms: Healthy Soil, Heal Climate**. An experiential learning-packed afternoon suitable to farmers or enthusiastic gardeners seeking to learn and use no-till methods that use simple tools, build healthy soil, reduce labor and cost inputs, and promote climate resilience. A perfect time of year to learn and introduce several no-till techniques that build healthy soil while promoting climate resilience. Led by Seeds of Solidarity farmer, co-founder Ricky Baruc, known and published for his no-till farming successes and invigorating teaching style. **Pre-registration required. Sliding scale: $35 to $60. Proceeds will be donated to 1for3.org to support their school and community gardening programs for Palestinians in the West Bank.**
Email deb@seedsofsolidarity.org to register.

Kerry Ann Mendez presents Adrian Bloom

An Inspirational Guide to understanding Plants and Gardens with Adrian Bloom

We are all in for a memorable gardening treat when **award-winning Adrian Bloom joins us from the UK** to talk about his new book, ***Foggy Bottom – A Garden to Share*****. On Saturday, April 13 at 11:00 a.m. ET,** Adrian will share inspirational pictures of Foggy Bottom, a six-acre garden offering spectacular, year-round color. **He will also talk about some of his favorite plant combinations, as well as practical design tips that can be replicated in our gardens**. The one-hour presentation will be followed by Adrian addressing as many questions as he can within the 1.5 hour allotted webinar timeframe.

The presentation includes a CEU form for Master Gardeners and green industry professionals. **Note: you do not have to attend the scheduled live broadcast to enjoy this colorful, info-packed lecture.** Within 72 hours of the broadcast, all registrants receive an email with the video link and password. The video can be viewed anytime and as often as you wish.

Foggy Bottom – A Garden to Share**, is now available from the Book Bin**. **Click here** to order it. For more information about the book, visit Adrian's **webpage.**

This fast-approaching special webinar is only $18.95. To learn more about Adrian's lecture and to register before registration closes, click HERE.

Note: *registration closes one hour prior to the live broadcast.*

A river of Geranium Rozanne. Photo by Richard Bloom

The Greenfield Garden Club's two March floral arranging events that took place at Floral Affairs on Deerfield Street in Greenfield with owner Becky Guyer, were lots of fun. Both groups went home with a lovely spring bouquet perfect for an Easter or Spring table. Becky offers workshops throughout the season, so make sure you check her social media often.

NASAMI FARM – 2024 PLANT PREORDER

Our 2024 Native Plants Price List is posted below in two formats, so you can plan your garden even before the season starts. For ordering instructions using the plant list, see the box below, **How to Order Plants and Other FAQs**. Here are a few more tips:

- **Once our Garden Shops open in Whately on April 27th, we strongly recommend shopping in person** rather than placing an order online. While you may continue to order online, our staff becomes so busy that online plant orders can pile up, adding as much as two weeks to your pick-up time. By shopping in person, you can take your plants home with you that day. Should we be out of a plant you want while shopping, we will order it for you if still available.
- You'll find the same stunning selection of robust native plants for sale in our Garden Shops at both **Garden in the Woods** and **Nasami Farm**. Our expert sales staff can help you choose plants for a wide variety of conditions.
- Our plant list is updated once a week during the season and contains the latest information about what is in stock and what is sold out at both locations.
- We also offer curated plant collections (see below) and kits for particular purposes and conditions, as well as **useful books, tools, garden ornaments, and home accessories**. Proceeds from the shop sales help support our **mission**.

expect our list to include an ever-increasing selection of genetically diverse New England natives that will enhance resilience and create wildlife habitat throughout the region.

- **DOWNLOAD OUR 2024 PLANT LIST - PDF**
- **DOWNLOAD OUR 2024 PLANT LIST - EXCEL**

Even small landscapes have varied conditions and planting needs. That's why we created our eight native plant collections. **Choose from eight collections that provide the opportunity to discover exciting new plant species or to fill a specific niche in your garden.**

- Pollinators' Feast
- Spring Ephemeral Collection
- Moisture-Loving Collection
- Summer Blaze Collection
- Roadside Collection
- Coastal Plantings Collection
- Woodland Bloom Collection
- Understory Collection

All collections consist of 8 plants (1 of each species) and will be available for pick-up at Garden in the Woods or Nasami Farm. Herbaceous plants are in 2-quart or 1-gallon containers. (Exception: Some plants in the Spring Ephemerals Collection come in 3-inch pots.) To order, please send an email: **gardennatives@NativePlantTrust.org**, specifying collection names, quantities, and pickup location.

Festival of Flowers April 4-7.

Flower Lab, Docent Tours, Family Day

Festival of Flowers After Hours – April 4th 5:00 – 8:00 pm. $25 non-members and $15 members

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while touring the interpretive floral arrangements in all four museums. Experience floral fashion, make your own mini bouquet, and get creative with floral printmaking and origami. Live music, complimentary food, and cash bar. It gets better every year! Reserve now!

Dr. William Moomaw at All Souls UU April 7th

Dr. Moomaw is one of the Earth's foremost scientists grappling with the great challenge of our lifetime: How can we lower greenhouse gas in order to allow the living beings, whether they be people or trees, survive and thrive a climate meltdown? he also serves on the Board and as a scientist on the Woodwell institute, just retired from very active engagement at the meetings of the international Panel on Climate Change. His compatriot in our area, Bart Bouracious, reminds us that Dr. Moomaw made the acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize. His resume alone speaks of a stunning history.

https://www.woodwellclimate.org/staff/william-moomaw/

Garden Cinema/Earth Week

April 15, Monday 6:00pm

A Passion for the Planet

Composed by Geoffrey Hudson. An hour-long oratorio on climate change. The lyrics blend together scientific prose, poetry and sacred texts from many faiths.

April 20, Saturday 10:00am

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

A classic tale of a forest creature and enduring hope in 3D-CG.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Feb 15, 2024 .....$9.889.02

Income $550.21
Interest $0.21; Annual mtg; memberships
Expenses $2,363.64
Annual Mtg; In Memorium; Website renewal; Supplies
Balance as of March 16, 2024.....$8,075.59

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

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Sunday, April 28th
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

Shelburne Farm and Garden ***NEW!!!***
355 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne
10% off anything garden-related

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