Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2025 Vol. 33, No. 4

Warm Colors Apiary Tour and Talk

Warm Colors Apiary
2 South Mill River Rd
Deerfield, MA 01373
5:30 PM Thurs April 17th

Dan and Bonita Conlon, owners of **Warm Colors Apiary**, are inviting the GGC back for a visit and to talk about all thing's bees. Dan is a wonderful speaker with a warm sense of humor. Warm Colors Apiary was founded in 2000 to produce regional honey from flowers in western Massachusetts. Located on eighty acres of woodland, open fields, and wetlands, the land provides a variety and abundance of nectar & pollen plants that bloom from early spring to late fall. Having a location with flowering plants blooming successively throughout the warm months makes their apiary ideal for honey production and the raising of honeybees. Remember to ask Dan how he discourages bears from visiting the hives! **RSVP** for a headcount and for the carpool: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com. Watch a video interview of Dan Conlon on WGBY (September 2019)

April President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Greetings earth-lovers! April means Earth Day, Arbor Day, and a greening up of the world around us. Yup, that's me on the left as an invasive Spotted Lanternfly, when I attended the Vermont Flower Show up in Essex, VT. They hold the show every other year, and I attended 2 out of 3 days with lectures, exhibits, and vendors. Did you get to attend a garden show this year? Agway has a full yard of nursery plants already. Dee admitted she had to cover it all up some nights. I'm not even going to buy pansies yet! But all the local garden centers are getting their plants in and if not already open will open soon. Try not to clean up your gardens until temps are consistently 50 or above, and the soil has dried out. Give native insects a chance to thrive on your property. I hope to see you at Warm Colors Apiary on 4/17! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2, 6-7:30pm – Get Involved Expo – GCC Dining Commons
April 5 – 10-1 – Final Winter Farmers Market at GPL
April 3-6 – Festival of Flowers at the Springfield Museums
April 16 – 5pm – Steering Committee Meeting at GBA offices
April 17, 5:30pm – tour and talk at Warm Colors Apiary
April 22 – Happy Earth Day!!
April 25 – Happy Arbor Day!

Whoever is happy will make others happy too.
~ Anne Frank

The EXTRAVAGANZA is coming!

Saturday, May 24th 8:30am – 12:30pm

John Zon Center on Pleasant Street

We need your help!

Our grant program is taking off and we need to earn money in order to send it back to the community.

Tag Sale – please be thinking about and put aside any garden-related tag sale items for this popular sale.

Bake Sale – please consider baking for the bake sale. Breakfast goodies are popular. We will serve coffee/tea.

Plant Sale – please think about dividing and potting up plants EARLY so they will look good on the day of the sale. If you are planting seeds, consider planting extra and giving some to the club. Please label plants with name and bloom color if you know it. Please pot up a heathy amount of the plant as they sell better than small, sad-looking plants! Annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, trees, and houseplants are all welcome! Plants should be dropped off at the John Zon center between 4-6pm. This event runs rain or shine. Please let us know if you can volunteer to price plants Friday or work a table on Saturday. Many hands = light work!

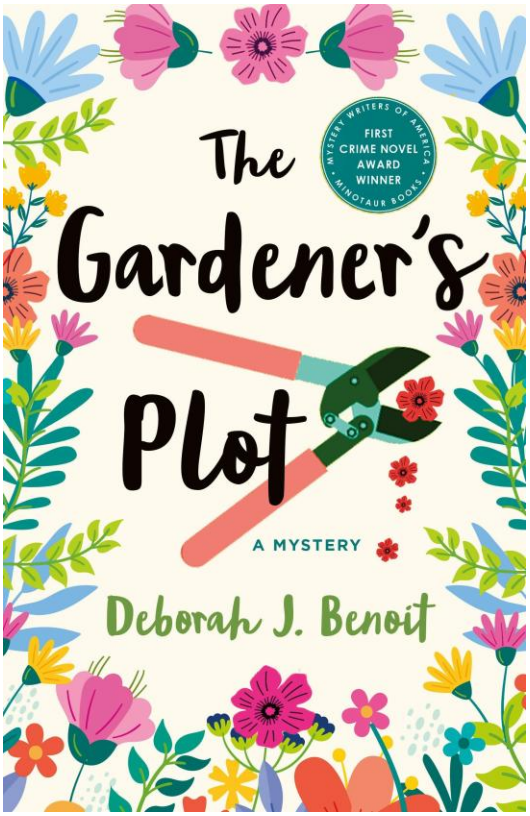
*Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden Chores** on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

DID YOU KNOW?

John LaSalle has rescued all the heirloom mums from the now defunct Smith College Fall Chrysanthemum Show. He already had many heirloom mums, and this adds to his collection. Contact LaSalle's Florist if you are interested in growing mums. Another supplier that he recommends is Harmony Harvest Farm.

Officers 2025:

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; Celt Grant; Jane Alexander



The next NEPM Book Club meeting is coming up fast! We'll be reading "**The Gardener's Plot**" by Deborah J. Benoit for our next virtual get together on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

About the novel: After life throws Maggie Walker a few curveballs, she's happy to be back in the small, Berkshires town where she spent so much time as a child. Maggie has always loved gardening, so it's only natural to sign on to help Violet Bloom set up a community garden. When opening day arrives, Violet is nowhere to be found, and the gardeners are restless. Things go from bad to worse when Maggie finds a boot buried in one of the plots… and there's a body attached to it. Suddenly, the police are looking for a killer and they keep asking questions about Violet. Maggie doesn't believe her friend could do this, and she's going to dig up the dirt needed to prove it.

Sign up for the meeting now at nepm.org/bookclub.

Delight your senses as the galleries of the Springfield Museums are filled with color and fragrance during the 12th annual Festival of Flowers. Talented florists and garden club members will creatively interpret objects in the art, science, and history museums. Welcome spring and explore the museum collection while enjoying this beautiful show!

Festival of Flowers After Hours – April 3, 5:00 - 8:00pm

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while touring the interpretive floral arrangements in all four museums. Experience floral fashion, make your own wearable floral accessory, celebrate Vincent van Gogh's artwork, and get creative with floral-inspired art activities. Live music, complimentary food, and cash bar. Catered by NOSH.

Contact Marsha if you'd like to carpool: 413-773-0201

GREENFIELD GARDEN CLUB's
28th Annual Plant Sale
EXTRAVAGANZA
Saturday May 24, 2025
8:30am – 12:30pm
John Zon Community Center
35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield, MA
Rain or Shine
Perennials, Herbs, Annuals, Shrubs, Trees

Greenfield Garden Club

- **Houseplants**
- **Dahlia, Canna, & Calla Bulbs**
- **Morning Coffee & Baked Goods**
- **Drawing &Tag Sale**

***Plus*: Special Plant & Craft Vendors**
Soil pH Tests 9-11 *with* W. MA Master Gardeners $2 (bring soil sample)

All proceeds to support the many community projects of the Greenfield Garden Club

Earth Day at the Garden Cinema April 22 at 6:30pm: The Garden Cinema is showing **Acres of Clams**, a feature-length video history of the Clamshell Alliance's direct-action campaign against the Seabrook nuclear plant in the 1970s. Acres of Clams combines archival film footage and music with the personal remembrances of the activists themselves to reveal how disciplined nonviolence can have an out-sized impact on the world—when people take action together. Tickets are $5.

Get Involved! Expo

Join your neighbors in the Greenfield Community College Dining Commons on the evening of **Wednesday, April 2nd, 6:00pm – 7:30pm**, for a follow-up to the film screening of *Join or Die*, the story of America's "civic unraveling" over the past 50 years as perceived by legendary social scientist Robert Putnam, who contends that joining a club, volunteering and participating in civic life has a powerful positive effect on individual personal well-being *and* on community health. Learn about different opportunities in Franklin County—and meet vendors and organizations that help us to…

- Get Outside! — Outdoor recreating, gardening, nature
- Help! — Charity, volunteering, mutual aid, service
- Make! — Building, crafting, journalism
- Play! — Sports, games
- Lead! — Local government, non-profit boards, foundations

Red more and register HERE.

Check this out if you are heading to RI in May

Sunday April 27, 1-4PM: Seeds of Solidarity

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: $40 to $60.**
Email deb@seedsofsolidarity.org to register. *Scholarships available*

Learn More HERE.

Soil Blocking in Five Easy Steps

Watch this video from Fruition Seeds about the benefits and the ease of making and using Soil Blockers. They also discuss the best seeds to use in both large & small soil blockers. Instead of buying one, you can check one out at the UMass Seed Library!

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2025

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT
sales@obrienhosta.com

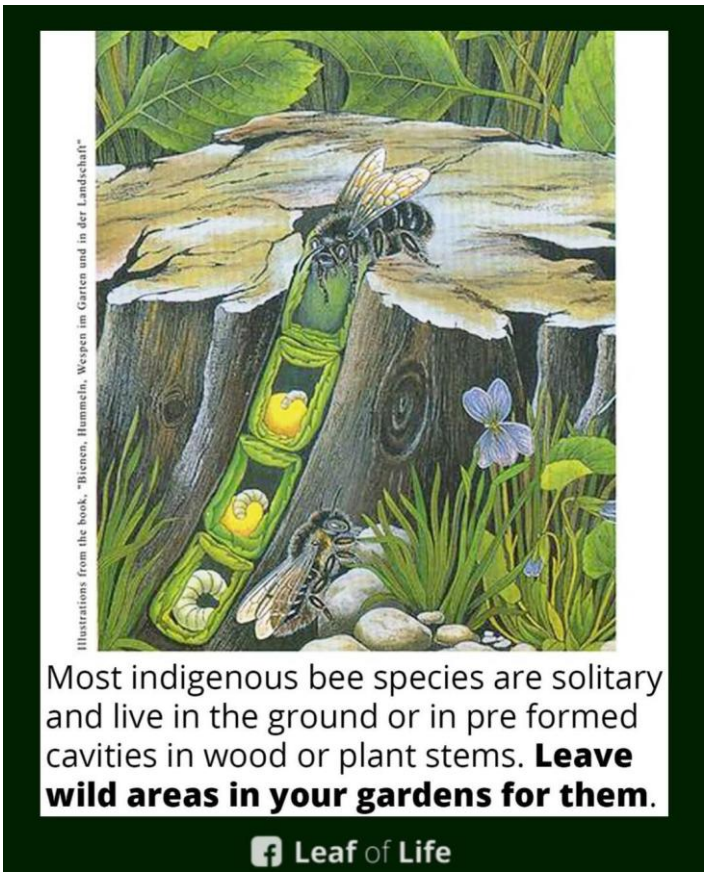
Use your 10% discount on your purchases!

March 28, 29 & 30 – Can't wait for Spring! Our best selection of Hellebores!
April 4, 5 & 6 – Daphne jezoensis, a Rarely Available, Yellow, Winter-blooming species
April 11, 12 & 13 – Spring Ephemerals; Bloodroot, Trilliums, Jeffersonia etc.
April 18 & 19 – Magnolia Season; Open Fri & Sat, Closed Easter Sunday
April 25, 26 & 27 – Don't miss our Favorite, Rhododendron 'April Mist'
May 2, 3 & 4 – Enticing Epimediums, Explore our Expanded Choices
May 9, 10 & 11 – Primroses, more selections than ever before.
May 16, 17 & 18 – Cypripediums – Lady-Slippers, easier than you think!
May 23, 24, 25 & 26 – Unfurling Japanese Maples, in a Rainbow of Colors!
May 30, 31 & June 1 – We are still adding new Itoh Peonies to tempt you with.
June 6, 7 & 8 – Krazy, Kuantities, of Kousa Dogwood Selections
June 13, 14 & 15 – Exotic Arisaemas, Japanese & Chinese Species
June 20, 21, & 22 – A Thousand Shades of Hostas, at their Best!

June 27, 28 & 29 – Japanese Stewartia, A Spectacular Four-Season Tree
July 4, 5 & 6 – Hazy, Hot & Humid, Checkout out Cool Ferns
July 11, 12 & 13 – Discover our Dazzling Daylily Display, for 2+ months, a Tradition
July 18, 19 & 20 – We offer Hardy Hydrangeas, that will bloom in your garden.
July 25, 26 & 27 – Is your Anemonopsis Blooming, or still teasing?
August 8, 9 & 10 – Hosta Dividing Demo, Each Day at Noon
August 22, 23 & 24 – Unique Conifers for the Winter Garden, ahh hell, Everyday!
September 5, 6 & 7 – Japanese Woodland Peonies! Granby Farm Day (Saturday)
September 12, 13 & 14 – Did you see dem, cooool Sedums?
September 26, 27 & 28 – Many Dwarf & Variegated Ginkgos, for Golden Fall Color
October 10, 11 & 12 – End of the Hosta Season Sale
October 31, Nov. 1 & 2 – Visit now for Amazing Fall Colors of Japanese Maples, etc.

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)
Also by Appointment – Please Call Ahead
They accept cash, check, or firstborn child – but not credit cards!

Walker Farm in Dummerston, VT hopes to be open by the first week of April. Stop by to see what's new! Click HERE to see their 2025 Plant Lists.



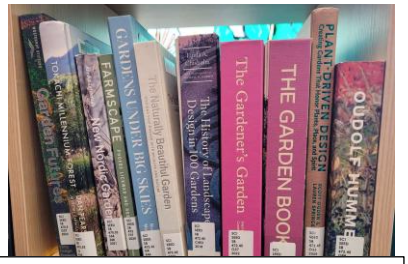
Seeds of Solidarity Opening Day 2025 April 26, 10.30-11.30 am. Grow Great Gardens: Q and A, 10.30-11.30 followed by optional self-guided tour. **Free, all welcome! No-preregistration.** It's also our farmstand grand opening day!

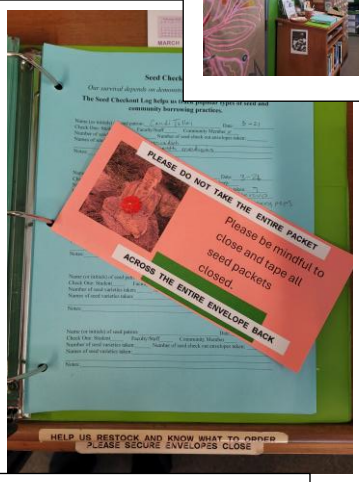
Kinsey-Pope Garden - Amherst, MA – Open Garden Days 2025

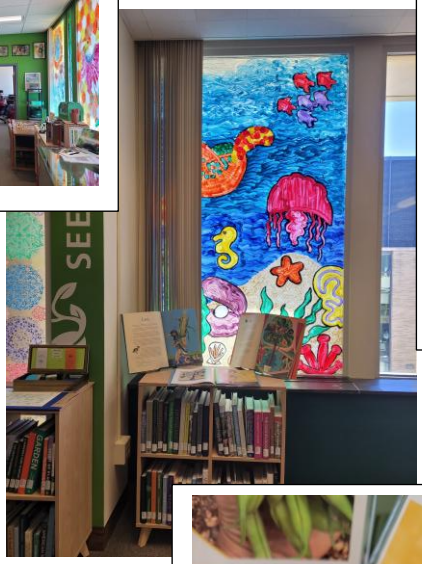
This is a garden begun by my late husband and me (both academics with no formal garden training) soon after we moved here in 1978, working and learning together for twenty years. I have been the primary garden designer from the beginning, and designer and gardener for another twenty years, now recently with some wonderful garden help. It is a landscape of many uncommon trees with strikingly beautiful bark and a wide variety of textures, flowers, berries, and great autumn color; many shrubs with more than one season of beauty; perennials flowering in three seasons; ground covers of unusual dramatic effect covering all beds during all seasons; and in winter offering a wide palette of interesting shapes, lovely bark, and many evergreen trees and shrubs. In addition, there are three bridges over a stone-lined swale, a hand-built screened gazebo and curved top arbor, a charming little pond, many benches and Japanese stone lanterns, large-stone walkways and stone walls, and a Japanese inspired fence surrounding all of the 1/2-acre garden. Register HERE for April 26th. TGC member price: $5pp

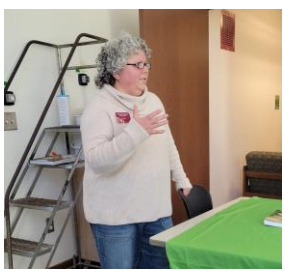
Open Days 2025: *April 26, May 31, and September 27.*
Hours: Two Sessions: 10–1, 1–5

Our trip to the UMass Seed Library was well-attended and lots of fun! Sunday is a good day to find parking, and we met up on the 3rd floor for a quick bit of history and then we were set loose with the seeds! We were also given a fast-track to receiving a Commonwealth Library Card so we could take out books or equipment that day. Thanks Paulina!!!!!









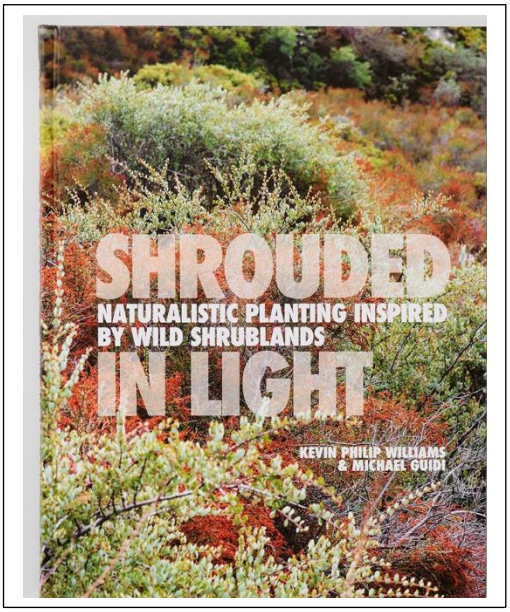
Frank A. Waugh Arboretum

At the onset of the 20th century, the university landscape prospered from the efforts of Frank A. Waugh (1869-1943), who first created a program of Landscape Gardening in 1903. In 1944, President Hugh Potter Baker officially designated the campus as the Frank A. Waugh Arboretum in memoriam to the many contributions Waugh made to the campus over his 40-year tenure.

Enjoy The Waugh Arboretum at UMass Amherst on Arbor Day (or any day!)

The Frank A. Waugh Arboretum is a campus-wide collection of trees. It supports a landscape for learning, research and exploration. Visit the Arboretum anytime or plan a visit on Arbor Day (April 25th this year). Tours average about one hour. Learn about our various collections, gardens, and notable champion and legacy trees and about other unusual specimens or uncommon accessions. Meet our arborists on Arbor Day and enjoy many activities including a tree climbing demonstration. Make sure to follow **the arboretum Instagram page**.

You can also take an in-person self-guided tour, identifying trees using their interactive tree map, or experience the arboretum remotely with their storymap 'walking' tour. The latter is a treasure trove of information, old postcards, and current photos.



BOOK CORNER

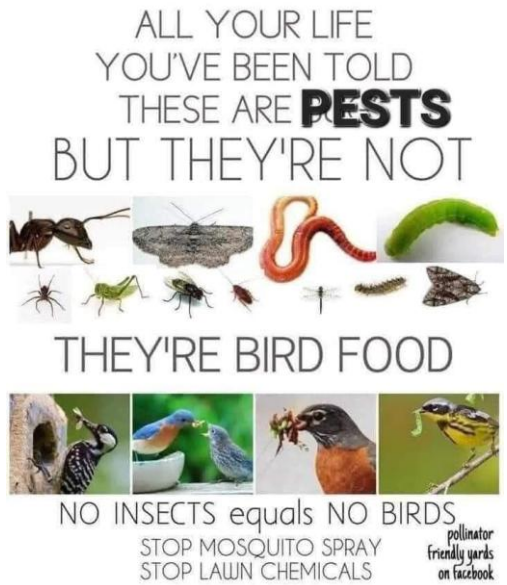
For decades, perennial meadows and prairies have inspired naturalistic planting design and now it's the turn of shrublands to stimulate a new paradigm in garden design.

Shrubs have a raw beauty and wild 'otherness' that make them a striking presence in the landscape and a rich source of inspiration for gardeners. Shrubs are tough: they thrive in the hottest of deserts roadcuts, make homes in abandoned pastures, and march reliably northward as we warm the earth.

Shrubs excel at sharing communities with other living things and this book demonstrates how their adaptability and reciprocities are so valuable in a time of global climate change. Profiling 12 wild shrublands from the USA and beyond, the authors identify the key shrubs and companion plants that define each plant community and the design takeaways including substitutions appropriate for a range of climates.

The final section of the book showcases gardens that exemplify new ways of gardening with shrubs. This book is a call to incorporate the aesthetic lessons from shrubscapes into our planted spaces and also a deeper challenge to bring their collaborative way of being into practice.

Kevin Philip Williams and Michael Guidi, Authors



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Feb 15, 2024 .....$10,081.05

Income $750.21
Interest $0.21; Membership & Annual Mtg: $750.00
Expenses $3,582.68
Annual Mtgs: $2,669; grants: $559; Holiday party: $24
Balance as of March 14, 2025.....$7,568.56

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 91 Smith St #111,
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

May NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Monday, 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
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

Floral Affairs ***NEW!!***
324 Deerfield St, Greenfield
10% off anything in the store