Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

August 2023 Vol. 31, No. 8

August is Time to Plan the GGC Fair Booth!

* * Fair-At-A-Glance * *

Dates: Sept 7 – 10, 2023

Booth Set-Up: Sept 5 & 6

2023 Fair Theme: "Larger Than Life"

GGC Booth Idea: Inside a Garden Shed

MEET: Mon, Aug 7, 5:15pm, 27 Madison Cir

FAIR BOOTH MEETING: Please join us on **MONDAY, August 7th at 5:15pm** at the home of Nicki & Frazer Shipman, 27 Madison Circle, Greenfield. We will discuss the project, and draft both a layout and a list of supplies we will need to turn this idea into a reality. We also want to add a hide and seek element for the younger folks, so if you like to paint rocks, please let us know! We are thinking of placing brightly painted ladybug rocks around the scene, a great suggestion by Doris Brown, who has also quilted a nice hanging we will put up on the wall. Who's ready for a rock-painting party in August?! (*Photos of Doris' quilted work and the rocks on page 8*)

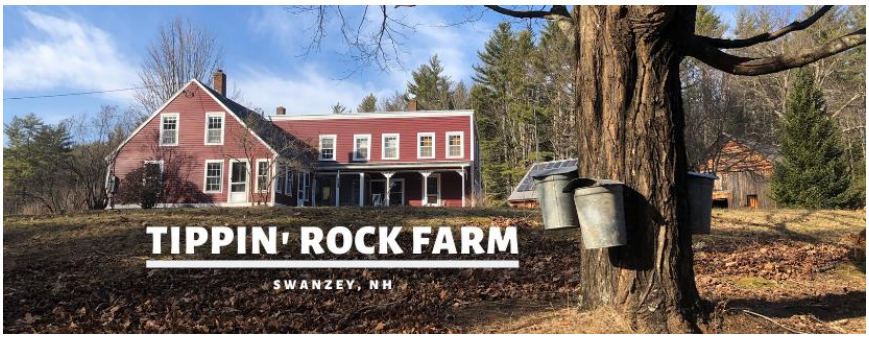
August President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

What a rainy July! I saw on the news that Conway received over 21 inches, and it was the wettest July on record for the state! I have to say that my veggie garden is not looking that great. Overnight temps will be in the 40's tonight – great for sleeping but not so great for heat-loving plants. We hoped to not have to cancel our July trip to Saint-Gaudens and Path of Life, but we finally had to call it off the morning of the trip. Interest is high though, so we are going to reschedule for a later date. There is no *official* plan for August, but if folks want to visit the Bridge of Flowers or perhaps Three Sisters Sanctuary, we can – email the club and we'll co-ordinate. We do have the Fair Booth to plan and rocks to paint! We have also settled on the date for the bus trip to the High Line – Sept 23rd – and are looking forward to it. Our last bus trip to the NY Botanical & Chihuly exhibit was back in 2017! The paper flower work shop 7/30 was lots of fun; see photo at right. Happy Gardening! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1 – Full Sturgeon Moon. The first of 2 Supermoons this month!
August 7, 5:15pm – Steering and Fair Committee meeting combined
August – Bridge of Flowers or Three Sisters? Email the club to make plans
August 30/31 – Full Sturgeon Blue Moon – only Blue Moon in 2023

Oh, the summer night, has a smile of light, and she sits on a sapphire throne ~ Barry Cornwall



Herbal Teas & Bitters for Better Digestion

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 AT 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

"My digestive system always works perfectly"—said no one, ever. We all struggle with at least occasional gas, bloating, indigestion, nausea, etc.—and plants are here to help! Easy-to-grow herbs like peppermint, chamomile, anise-hyssop, catnip and fennel are classic tummy tamers in tea form after dinner. If you want to take it to the next level, you can stop indigestion before it starts by taking bitters. Yes, those same bitters you add to cocktails are great for your gut—and easy to make! People have been using them for generations because they work. And they can be really tasty!

Join us **Tuesday, August 8, 5:30-7:30 pm** at Tippin' Rock Farm in Swanzea, NH to learn about Teas and Bitters for Better Digestion. During this 3rd summer Phyte Club class, we'll take a weed walk to see what's blooming, and meet the herbs for digestion. We'll talk about hot and cold infusions and decoctions, and together we'll brew a batch of bitters to take home! Your tummy will thank you. Pre-register now, as space is limited! Visit https://linktr.ee/tippinrockfarm to learn more and to register! Classes are $35 pp, or come with a friend or family member for $30pp.

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

AUGUST

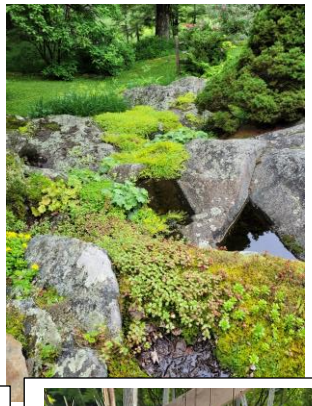
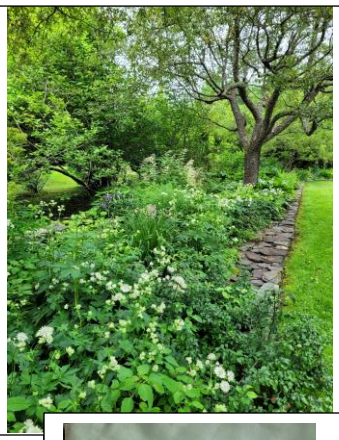
August rushes by like desert rainfall,
A flood of frenzied upheaval,
Expected,
But still catching me unprepared.
Like a matchflame
Bursting on the scene,
Heat and haze of crimson sunsets.
Like a dream
Of moon and dark barely recalled,
A moment,
Shadows caught in a blink.
Like a quick kiss;
One wishes for more
But it suddenly turns to leave,
Dragging summer away.

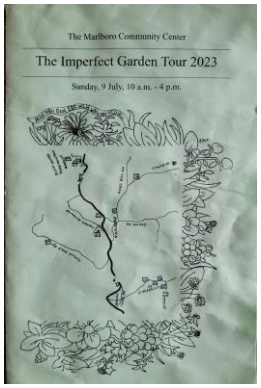
- *Elizabeth Maua Taylor*

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; Michelle Tirrell

The Imperfect Garden Tour in Marlboro/Brattleboro, VT on July 9th was AMAZING! Make sure to look for it again next year. We only managed to get to 6 of the 12 gardens on the tour, and what we saw was remarkable. Here is a small sample of some of the gardens open to the public.



O'BRIEN NURSERY OPEN GARDEN DAYS AUGUST 2023

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

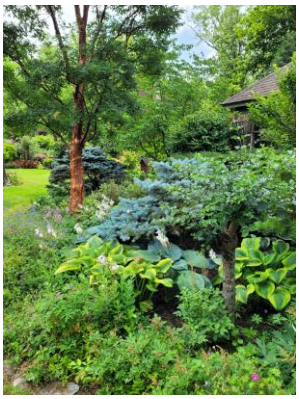
August 25, 26 & 27 – Polygonatums, Many Special Selections of Solomon Seal

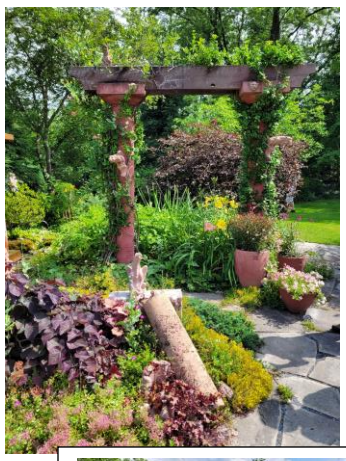
Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)

O'Brien Nursery – 40 Wells Rd – Granby, CT 06035

860-653-0163

Several GGC members went to 4 very different gardens in Williamstown, MA on the **Garden Conservancy Open Days** on July 15th- a much better weather day than the cancelled Saint-Gaudens trip on the 16th when it poured buckets up in Vermont!





TRIP TO NYC TO WALK THE HIGH LINE & VISIT CHELSEA MARKET

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

SPACES ARE LIMITED – RESERVE YOURS TODAY!!

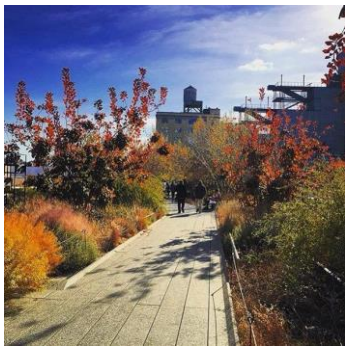
We are using First Choice Tours in South Deerfield, who did such a great job on our bus trip to the NY Botanical Gardens and their Chihuly exhibit in 2017. We will leave from the commuter lot off Route 5 in South Deerfield at 7am. We aim to arrive in NY around 10:30am, and will visit Chelsea Market first (purchase food there, or pack a lunch from home), We will walk the 1.75 mile High Line (gardens designed by Piet Oudolf), enjoying the gardens, views and public art, and will be picked up at the northern end at 5pm, getting home around 8:30pm. Cost should be somewhere between $60-$70pp, depending on how many seats we fill. Email the club with your desire to reserve a space and be on the event email list. We look forward to a full bus and a fun day in the city! Please email with any questions: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Sign up to receive emails about the High Line, and download the Bloomberg Connects App and explore the High Line's art, design, and gardens like an insider! Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app, takes you behind the scenes at the High Line with exclusive videos, details on our gardens, and the latest on our current initiatives.

Use the app to plan your visit, then easily access helpful insights on site. Afterward, dive deeper into your favorite works at home–or anywhere, anytime! Search for or scroll to the High Line to start planning your visit! And don't forget to bring your headphones.

Available for iOS and Android.

Download now



THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS - Connecticut - AUGUST

(There are no Open Days in MA, NH or VT in August – but there are some in NY)

August 19th: 10-12; 12-2; 2-4

Sleepy Cat Farm • SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 • GREENWICH, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CT, 06831 THREE SESSIONS: 10-12; 12-2; OR 2-4

The thirteen acres of Sleepy Cat Farm have evolved over the last 25 years in close collaboration between the present owner and Virginia-based landscape architect Charles J. Stick.

(*Click on photo to learn more*)

August 19th: 12-4

Roxana Robinson – Treetop • SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 • WEST CORNWALL, LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CT, 06796 12 NOON TO 4PM

On the grounds of a family Arts and Crafts house built in 1928 is an idiosyncratic hillside garden incorporating granite ledge, steep ravines, placid greensward, and a wooded slope leading down to a lake. The gardens themselves are separated into two areas – well-mannered and wild. Digging Deeper – The Garden and the Wild 10-12 noon (*click on the photo and above link to read more)*

August 19th: 10-1 **OR** 1-4

Falls Village, CT (Litchfield County)

Bunny William's Garden - Interior designer and garden book author Bunny Williams's intensively planted fifteen-acre estate has a sunken garden with twin perennial borders surrounding a fishpond, a seasonally changing parterre garden, a year-round conservatory filled with tropical plants, a large vegetable garden with flowers and herbs, a woodland garden with meandering paths, and a pond with a waterfall. There are also a working greenhouse and an aviary, a mature apple orchard, a rustic Greek Revival-style poolhouse folly, and a swimming pool with eighteenth-century French coping.

August 26th: 12 noon – 4pm

Old Barlow's Carriage House and Garden • Saturday, August 26 • RIDGEFIELD, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CT, 06877 • 12 NOON – 4PM

Past countless stone walls and acres of manicured turf, you will find a particularly small road leading into a forest.

(*click on photo to learn more*)

Digging Deeper: Seeds and Sow On from 10am – 12 noon

AUGUST RECIPE:

BLUEBERRY PUDDING (GGC Cookbook – Marie Beeching)

Ingredients:
1 QT Blueberries (4 cups)
1/4 cup flour
2 cups hot milk
2 cups soft bread crumbs (cubes?)
¾ cup sugar
Juice of ½ lemon (1TB)

Wash and drain blueberries thoroughly. Sprinkle flour over berries and let stand ½ hour. Pour hot milk over soft bread crumbs. Add sugar. Add milk, crumb and sugar mixture to berries. Add lemon juice. Pour into a greased baking dish (an 8x11 is just large enough). Dot with butter. Bake 45 minutes in a 350-degree oven. Serve as a dessert with your favorite hard sauce. It's also delicious as a breakfast dish. (**Compare this to your favorite bread pudding recipe and adjust quantities as you see fit.)

Winter Wreaths at WILDER HILL FARM (Bows will available thru Stacey Chapley)

We are working with Lilian at Wilder Hill to either run our own daytime workshop in late November on a weekend, or go to her Open House. Please email the club with your interest, and your preference. Our Holiday Party will take place Friday, December 8th. We will arrange a Sunday about a week in advance (12-2pm) with Stacey if anyone wants to buy a bow, as I believe Lilian does not provide them.

Wreath-making workshop and Studio Open House
Sat. December 2 and Sun. Dec. 3
9 am-4 pm
$20/wreath, $15/swag
Drop in anytime between 10:00 and 4:00 to learn the traditional art of wreath-making. Use fresh, mixed greens from Wilder Hill Gardens to craft beautiful wreaths, swags and garlands. All materials provided. Instruction included. Mixed bundles of greenery will be available for your planters and home decorating. Enjoy a glass of hot, mulled cider by the fire, view the stupas and the 12 ft. long porcelain mosaic. Shop for original prints, pottery, herbal hydrosols, dried Asian pears, and hand-bound books by Wilder Hill Press.

BRIDGE OF FLOWERS CLOSING FOR A YEAR – reopening in spring 2025 – There will be a fall art show and sale this October 14-15. Read all the news HERE.

Visitors can still enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the bridge's floral displays until the end of October 2023. Among the planned improvements are new railings, a refreshed path-way, and additions to the existing array of vibrant plantings. A new water main and essential infrastructure repairs are in the works to reinforce the bridge's structural integrity. They will run some other programs during 2024 – like a garden tour and more.

PAINT a LADYBUG for our BOOTH at the FAIR!

Let's get the kids counting ladybugs in our display at the Fair! We will gather up some smooth, oval rocks of various sizes (not too large!) and paint them in bright colors as per the photo to the right. We thank club member Doris Brown for the suggestion. This might be a fun project to do with an older child or grandchild. We will find a date and location soon. Please email the club if you are interested, and if you might have some paintbrushes and paints handy. If you want to keep your rocks after the Fair, you can put your initials on the underside. For advice on which paints, brushes, and sealants to use when painting rocks, visit this link. Rocks will need to be washed and dried before being painted. In order to achieve a bright, glossy look like the stones at right, the rocks may need to be painted with an undercoat first. Once we know who is interested in painting rocks, we can decide as a group if we need two sessions – one to paint the rocks black, and then another to make the final designs once that base coat has dried. Acrylic paints do tend to dry quickly though, so we might be able to do both in one session. So let the photo inspire you and email right away with your interest. Tempus fugit! (Time flies!)

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 15, 2023.....$9.519.81

Income $40.23
Interest $0.23; Dues $40

Expenses $23.16
$23.16 refreshments

Balance as of July 16, 2023 .....$9,536.88

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Sunday, August 27th
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