Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

August 2024 Vol. 32, No. 7

Volunteer at The Weldon House Garden Party

Put on your best garden party hat and make plans to volunteer for a few hours to help The Weldon House residents learn about house plants and pot one up for their apartment. Danielle Lucier will provide excellent instruction and guide folks in the process. GGC volunteers will help residents as needed, and will chat with residents about gardening. The party will start at 1pm and finish up around 3pm on Thursday, August 8th. Foul weather will chase us indoors, but will not dampen our enthusiasm. Light refreshments will be provided. Volunteers should park in the lot behind the building, accessible from High or Union St. Enter the building using the door at the far left (no awning). RSVP to volunteer.

August President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Oscar being Oscar

Welcome to the month of August! Many of you might be on vacation this month, but we have several volunteer opportunities coming up that we hope you will consider. We need volunteers for the Weldon Garden Party (above) and for our Fair Booth (page 3). Please help us make these 2 events a community effort. If anyone has the time and the inclination to post updates to our Facebook and Instagram feeds, I would love to have help. I have been busy with elder care and many things have fallen by the wayside. I had a great crop of blueberries this year, which maybe makes up for the fact that I did not have time to grow a proper veggie garden. I hope to rid the garden of all weeds (and varmints) before the next growing season. I hope your garden harvests are plentiful! See you at our upcoming events. ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 8, 1:00 pm – Weldon House Garden Party
August 15, 6:00pm – Mayor's Walk at Green River Park
August 19, 2:26 pm – Full Sturgeon Moon – first Supermoon of 2024
August 16, 5:30 pm – Steering Committee Meeting/Fair Planning
September 3, 6-9pm – Fair Booth Set up day
September 4, 3-9pm – Fair Booth Set up day

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better ~ Albert Einstein

MAYOR'S WALK A CHANCE TO TALK WEEDS

Submitted by Celt Grant

The recent announcement that Mayor Ginny Desorgher will be hosting a monthly "Walk in the Park" series from July to Oct, sparked a conversation at the July GGC Steering Committee meeting. Could that event afford an opportunity to focus attention on the woeful neglect of Greenfield's parks and public spaces? Many of these are shabby and overgrown with weeds and debris. (Photos below show examples in downtown Greenfield, and on Deerfield St.) Perhaps a constructive dialogue between the city and interested groups could formulate a plan to maintain and beautify our public spaces for all to enjoy and appreciate.

The next Mayor's Walk is scheduled for **Aug 15 @ Green River Park**. This followed by Sept 19 @ Shattuck Park and Oct 17 @ Hillside Park. Start time for all is 6:00pm. GGC Members and friends are encouraged to attend these events, and hopefully focus the mayor's attention on this lack of resources/oversight.

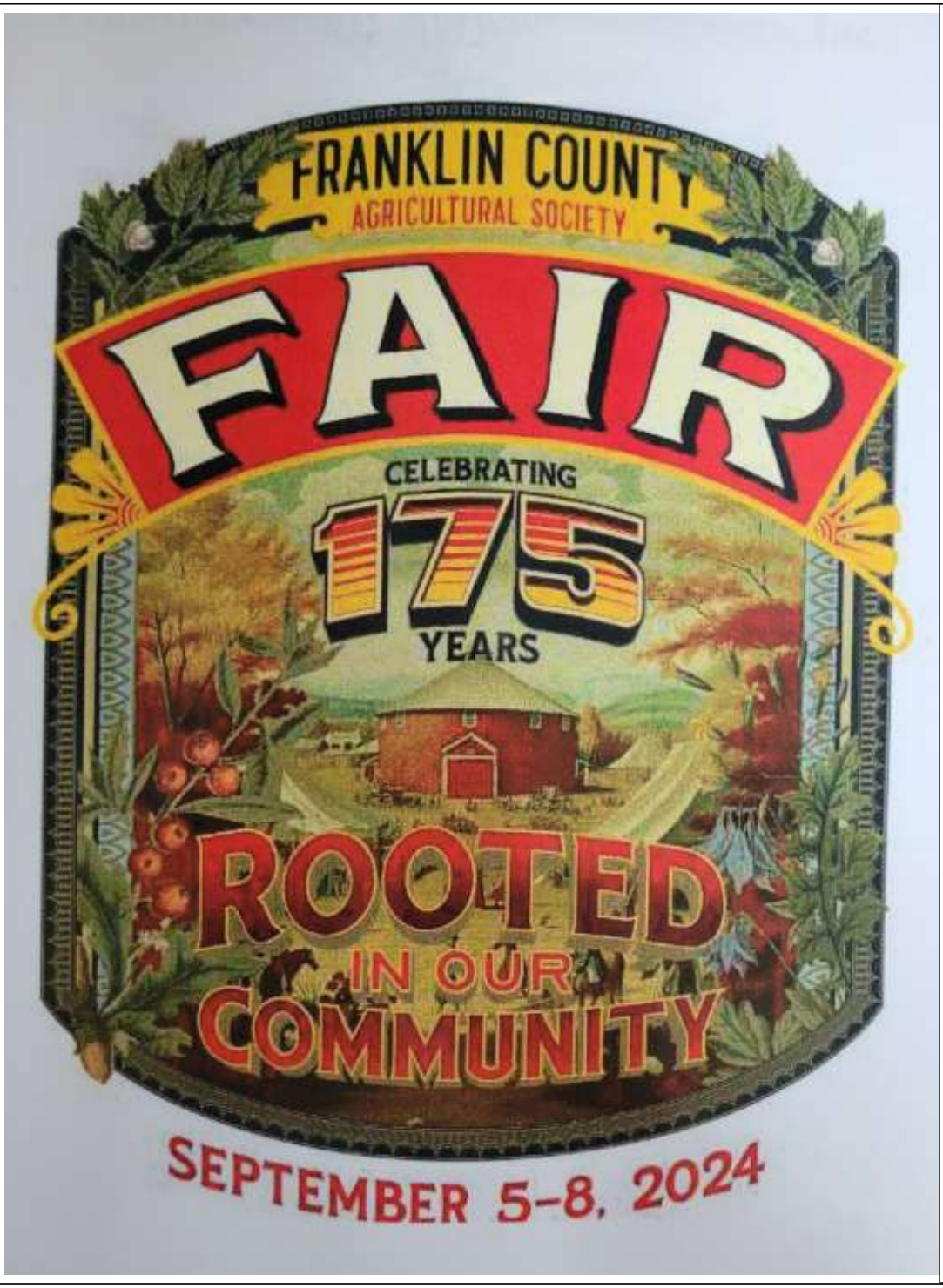
Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent ***Monthly Garden Chores*** *on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

HEAT STRESS IN PLANTS

Plants grow best in temperatures ranging between 56 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit. When there are sustained temps of 90 degrees and over, plants grow more slowly and can show signs of stress: dry leaf edges, wilting, leaf rolling and cupping, blossom and fruit drop, bolting, sunscald or sunburn, and blossom end rot. Reducing heat stress can include watering, mulch, providing shade and humidity, avoiding planting or transplanting, waiting to fertilize or prune, avoid applying chemicals, and reduce competition from weeds. For more detailed information on these issues & remedies, go to the Clackamas County Master Gardener page and the OSU Extension page. Also UMass.

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



Did you know?

Our annual booth display at the Fair in the historic Round-house, depicted in the poster at left, has consistently earned a blue ribbon. Only 1st and 2nd place are awarded in the Garden Club Display category. If we did not deserve a 1st place finish, even without a competitor, we would not receive the top prize. We should be proud of our work. We love to appeal to children and many times have asked them to find certain things in the booth. Our "I Spy" booth was a hit with both adults and children. A blue ribbon comes with a check for $150. Many times, we donate the money to the Round-house. This is just one of the many ways that we stay **Rooted in Our Community**, as in this year's theme.

*** * * * * 175th Franklin County Fair - GGC Booth Planning Meeting * * * * ***
Friday, August 16, 5:30pm at 41 Meadow Lane

The Fair theme this year is very apropos for the club: **Rooted in Our Community.** We will meet to brainstorm an idea to match the theme, and figure out what resources we will need to find before set up. Don't let the club's booth remain empty in this anniversary year! Once we have the idea, the implementation should fall into place. Please email the club ASAP to indicate if you have the time to brainstorm. The set-up days are Tuesday, September 3rd from 6 to 9pm and Wednesday, September 4 from 3 to 9pm Let's do this!!

August 16-18 - 106th Annual Heath Fair, Heath

Pulls and Draws, Agricultural Tent, Sheep, Rabbit and Cow Shows, Midway, Fair Food, Local Arts and Crafts, Live Music, Beer Tent, Square Dancing, Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, Fireworks and much more. No pets on grounds or in cars and no smoking or vaping on grounds. Free parking. Admission: $14, seniors $12, 12 and under Free. 3-day pass: $30, seniors $24. IMPORTANT: there is no ATM or cell service at the fairgrounds. Held at the Heath Fairgrounds, Branch Hill Road off Route 8A in Heath. For more info visit www.heathfair.org

August 22-25 - The Cummington Fair, Cummington

Thursday & Friday 4-9:30pm, Saturday 7am-9:30pm, Sunday 7am-7pm at 97 Fairgrounds Road in Cummington. Horse and Ox Draws, Truck Pulls, Demos, Ride Wristbands, Great Food, Live Music, 4H Shows, Exhibit Buildings and More! All shows are free to ticket holders (no additional fees for Demolition Derby on Saturday, August 24th at 6pm or Concerts). Advance tickets (singles and packages) discounted until August 22nd online at cummingtonfair.com. Parking is not included with online tickets. Tickets prices starting August 22nd: Adult $15, Senior 65+ $12, Veteran/Active Military with ID $12, Youth 10-15 $7, under 10 free. (No packages available at the gate.) For more information on all of the events and the hours the fair is in operation, please visit the website at www.cummingtonfair.com or email info@cummingtonfair.com or you can call 413-634-5091

August 24 - Shelburne Grange Fair, Shelburne

9am-4pm at Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Road in Shelburne. Free admission! Registration for Exhibit Hall exhibits is on Thursday, and Friday, August 22 & 23 and is open to all ages. Premium books and schedule of events are available at www.shelburnegrange.org. Musical entertainment, educational displays, tag/craft sale, bounce house, reptiles, Mad Science, and a chicken barbecue at noon. Teacup auction to benefit the H.A.Y. program at Hawlemont Regional School. Contact Barbara Giguere at 413-297-5700 for more information.

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association Information Session

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener? The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (WMMGA) is now accepting applications for their 2025 Master Gardener program. Stop by the **Greenfield Public Library** on **Wednesday, August 14**, from 5-7 pm to talk with WMMGA members to learn more of what Master Gardeners do, their volunteer projects, what the training class is like and what skills they'll be looking for in applicants. WMMGA is a member-managed nonprofit organization dedicated to the educational mission of promoting good and sustainable gardening practices. Each Master Gardener has completed an in-depth training program, including hands-on activities in gardening and public education, and has made a commitment to participate in WMMGA-sponsored public programs each year.

WMMGA: affiliate of the national Master Gardener program of the American Horticultural Society.

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WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 14
5:00 - 7:00 PM
MAIN LOBBY

Bedrock Gardens Tour
with
The Greenfield Garden Club

Tour a unique 20-acre garden with
"Heirloom Gardener" John Forti.

Located in Lee, NH, Bedrock Gardens is a public garden that integrates unusual botanical specimens, garden design and art.

Saturday
September 7, 2024
10:00 am
$20.00
RSVP by August 17

For more information & to reserve your spot on the tour,
email Becky George at:
beckygeorge1962@gmail.com
or call (413)441-6164

Greenfield Garden Club

Floral Affairs

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Join us for our hands-on floral and plant workshops at Floral Affairs!
Learn with expert guidance in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS :

- INTERACTIVE LEARNING
- EXPERT TIPS & GUIDENCE

324 Deerfield St. Greenfield MA

REGISTER YOURSELF AT
WWW.FLORALAFFAIRSOFGREENFIELD.COM

**** Workshop Dates ****

Terrarium Workshop – June 17, July 19 and August 14
Designing with control – June 25

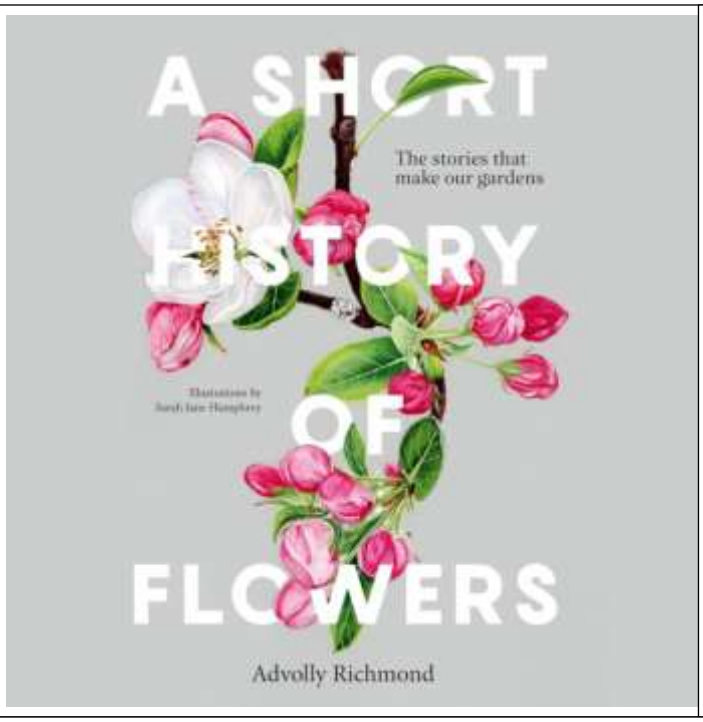
Mystery Class – June 26
4th of July Flower Arrangement Workshop – July 2

Hydrangea Arrangement Workshop – July 10, August 9
Bring your own! Flowers and vases! – August 10

Designing with control – June 25

Sunflower Topiary – September 18

Ikebana – giving life to flowers class – September 9
Private Parties Available



A Short History of Flowers: The Stories that Make our Gardens
Thursday, August 8, 2 – 3pm

Live on Zoom

$5 for Garden Conservancy members. Call 845-424-6500, 9-5, and let them know you are with the Greenfield Garden Club to purchase. A recording of every webinar will be sent to all who register in case you cannot watch live.

Advolly Richmond's beautifully illustrated talk highlights some of the flowers featured in her upcoming book, *A Short History of Flowers*. Many of the plants we love and grow as ornamentals first appeared in early herbals for medicinal and culinary use. But how often do we stop to think about how these beautiful flowers ended up in our tiny corner of the world?

Flowers have played pivotal roles in societies for centuries, from the wild fuchsia hedgerows of Ireland, to the lily of the valley bringing luck and making a bold fashion statement in Paris. All of these blooms hold a treasure trove of stories. Have a giggle, shed a tear, but most of all, enjoy the tales of exploration in disguise, enduring love, cultural appropriation, and hybridization that Advolly will bring to life in this webinar. You will also get a glimpse of some of the gorgeous, specially commissioned botanical illustrations which appear in the book.

About the Speaker:

Advolly Richmond is a plants and garden historian, TV and radio presenter, and independent researcher in social history based in England. She lectures on garden history subjects from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries, contributes garden history features on BBC *Gardeners' World*, presents plant history profiles for BBC Radio 4's *Gardeners' Question Time*, and produces *The Garden History Podcast*.

Bridge of Flowers Committee member Ann Lofquist marks wisteria on the Bridge of Flowers so it can be cut into pieces and offered for sale at the Second Annual Bridge of Flowers Art Show & Sale, August 17th & 18th. (Photo by Lynda Leitner)

* * * * * * NEW IN 2024 * * * * * *

This year the show will feature the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy pieces of the beloved and iconic wisteria from the bridge. To accomplish the repair work, the wisteria (c. 1984) had to be removed. It was carefully cut into sections that will be available for purchase at the show.

The show is still accepting art. To submit your work, visit bridgeofflowersmass.org

The Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club's Bridge of Flowers Committee will host the **2nd Annual Bridge of Flowers Art Show & Sale** on Saturday, August 17th and Sunday, August 18th from 10am until 5pm at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center on Main Street in Shelburne Falls. An **artist's reception** will take place Friday, August 16th from 5 to 8pm.

After a hugely successful inaugural show in 2023, this year's event will feature more than 100 works – including painting, drawing, photography, and fiber art – by hilltown artists from around the region.

Admission to the show and reception is free. Fifty to one hundred percent of the sales go directly to benefit the bridge, which is currently undergoing a $3 million repair project before its gardens are replanted for the 2025 spring/summer season.

A group of about 12 members had a wonderful visit at the home of fellow members Beth Schreier and John Kick in Amherst this past July. Beth and John are filling their space with all sorts of shapes, colors and textures, mainly from trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. They are currently battling voles and a woodchuck. I am sure many of us can sympathize!

Vole traps everywhere!

TIDBITS FOR THE GARDEN FROM HARVESTING HISTORY

The months of August-November present many opportunities for planting flowers, vegetables and herbs, FROM SEED, that will mature throughout the fall or during the spring/summer of the following year. Mid-season and fall planting is easier, with higher rewards than spring planting. The "Rule of Thumb" is to add 2 weeks (14 days) to the time to maturity EXCEPT if you are planting in containers or raised beds where most vegetables/ flowers mature more quickly. Also be aware of frost dates. Many vegetables (beets, kale broccoli, Swiss chard, turnips, rutabaga, etc.) improve in flavor when exposed to frosts, but many vegetables will be killed. Also, once the ground freezes it is impossible to harvest root vegetables – so keep this in mind. Mulching heavily with straw will prevent the ground from freezing for a while and will allow you to extend your fall harvest for several weeks.

Harvesting History Heirlooms has several YouTube videos on mid-summer planting and related topics. They can be found at the following links:

Mid-Summer Planting – Bloomsdale Longstanding Spinach

Mid-Summer Planting – Detroit Dark Red Beets

Mid-Summer Planting – Dwarf Siberian Kale

Mid-Summer Planting – Planting Peas for a Fall Harvest

Mid-Summer Planting – Musselburg Leeks

Mid-Summer Planting – Lupine

Lettuces – Their Strengths and Weaknesses

Mid-Summer Maintenance Copper Fungicide

Horehound is a great container plant. It requires a fairly large pot (8-10 inches) for a single plant (only put one plant into a pot). For millennia, Horehound has been credited with curing a number of ailments. Most of these claims are unfounded, but one is not. Horehound is an effective cough suppressant and a soothing agent for sore throats. Horehound cough syrups have been used since the 1600s.

The Horehound plant contains substantial amounts of tannin, marrubin (which does not exist in the living plant but is created when the plant undergoes stress during the extraction process), Vitamin C and mucilage. Some combination of these chemicals appears to suppress coughs, soothe sore throats, and act as a purgative and a laxative.

Native to southern Europe, central and western Asia and north Africa, Horehound, named after the Egyptian god of sky and light, Horus, has been cultivated for thousands of years. Brought to the US in the 1700s, Horehound became very popular with the Shakers.

O'Brien Nurserymen, Granby, CT
Open Garden Days for August

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 (no credit cards)**

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?

Franklin County Community Meals Program is in the process of altering their volunteer models to incorporate Individual and Group attendance. One of the most prominent Group Initiative volunteers is the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield, MA, led by Jan Gabriel.

SCC has donated hundreds, if not thousands, of hours providing hot meal service to our community for well over 20 years! Jan has participated in leading 2 meal services a month, providing recipes, logistics and a welcoming smile. The SCC group provides quality meals and exceptional customer service. Participants rave about her BBQ Coleslaw and homemade red sauce! Check out the Parmesan Hoagie below and stop by next time she's cooking!

The Greenfield Meal Site at Second Congregational Church (16 Court Sq.) is ready for service every Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:45 - 5:45 PM. (Pictured below on the left is club member and FCCMP volunteer Pat Leuchtman. Please consider joining her!)

Be the sunflower in a field of wildflowers.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 15, 2024.....$8,551.30

Income $0.21
Interest $0.21
Expenses $485.56
All expenses are Garden Tour expenses
Balance as of June 15, 2024.....$8,065.95

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

September NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Friday, August 30th
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