Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2017 **Vol. 25, No. 2**

Attract Bees and Pollinators to Your Garden

Pollinator Pinwheel

Tom Sullivan, of Pollinator's Welcome, will be sharing his considerable knowledge with us on Thursday, April 20, 7PM at the Discovery Center on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Tom will be speaking on what each of us can do to help our local pollinators (bees and butterflies) thrive in our gardens. Since 2009, Tom has been designing spaces and teaching the benefits of attracting these beautiful creatures. It all boils down to creating habitat for them to eat, and nesting opportunities for them to raise their young. We are lucky to live in an area where pollinators are respected, and where people are working hard to protect them. Helping to support native pollinators is relatively easy, and Tom will help us to identify the plants we should consider for food as well as for nesting material. You don't have to look very far to see that pollinators are on the decline, and that it could have serious implications for our food supply. Come join us to learn about creating a pollinator habitat to suit your site. Tom will talk about plant selection and will mention the six native plants that the club has purchased from Prairie Moon to sell at our Extravaganza on May 27th. Limited quantities will be available! Is your garden already pollinator-worthy? Sign up to be a registered Monarch Waystation, or join the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Enter your garden in the local BeeSpaces Award program. Join a Pollinator Protection Group: Pollinator Partnership, Xerces Society, Friends of the Earth, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are many ways to show the world that you are serious about contributing to pollinator health by adding habitat.

The meeting will be held in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Two Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA starting at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. Please spread the word among your friends and acquaintances!

President's Report for April

Spring has had a few set-backs, but nothing that will deter the finches from donning their bright attire, and birds in general chorusing with spring songs. The dirt road is a mud factory, but that too will pass. April is seeing a full crop of talks on pollinators (see Upcoming Events), and we are part of the trend. It seems that in order to counteract the loss of pollinator habitat, we must act together, so the more we know, the better our combined efforts will be. Let's help put the Green in Greenfield, and all the surrounding towns too!

We still have more seats available on the bus to the New York Botanical Gardens to view the new Chihuly glass installation. Many people I have mentioned this trip to have never heard of Dale Chihuly, and in fact, until a few years ago, neither had I! Here is a short description of the artist..

Dale Chihuly (b. 1941, Tacoma, WA) has led the avant-garde in the development of glass as a fine art. You can find his work in over 200 museums, and his work is especially celebrated for its large scale architectural installations. There are many videos available that show his skill in the studio as well as his many installations in botanical gardens and glass houses. Locally, you can see Clear and Gold Glass Tower in the atrium of the library on the campus of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley. You can also see Lime Green Icicle Tower at the MFA in Boston, and Black Niijima Floats at the Addison Gallery of American Art on the campus of Phillips Andover in Andover, MA. The last installation at NYBG was 10 years ago. Please join us for this very special trip!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Club programs are generally the third Thursday of each month.

Thursday, April 16: 1:30 – 2:30 PM – Planting for Pollinators with club member Pat Leuchtman at Leyden Town Hall (Leyden COA)

Thursday, April 20: 7:00 PM GGC Program on Pollinators with Guest Speaker Tom Sullivan from Pollinator's Welcome. Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day: www.earthday.org

April 22-23: 10 AM – 4 PM -Eco-Living Workshops & Better Greener Living Show. Franklin County Fairgrounds (Greening Greenfield)

Thursday, April 27: 7:00 – 8:30 PM Protect the Pollinators with Beekeeper Chris Wayne, Leyden Town Hall (Leyden COA)

Friday, April 28: 6:00 PM Steering Committee; 40 High St. Greenfield.

Monday, May 15: deadline to enter Bee Spaces competition

EXTRAVAGANZA: Saturday, May 27, 8am – 1pm

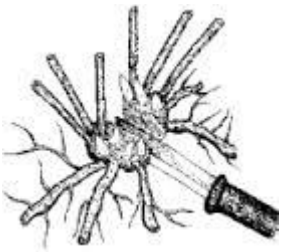
NEW!

Door to Door Pickup Service for Your Tag Sale Items!

Do you have any gardening items that you are not using any-more? Do you have any statues, plant stands, tools, or pots that need a new home? Do you have any gardening decor for the house? Gardening books? Please consider donating them to the Extravaganza. To make it even easier, Deb Loomer will pick them up right at your house on Thursday, May 25th or Friday, May 26th between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Please email her at: daloomer@yahoo.com and give her your address. If you would like to price your items ahead of time - that would be greatly appreciated. Who doesn't love a bargain!! (Please do not include small used plastic pots and trays.)

Plant Donations Needed!

The plant sale needs your help! As the soil warms and dries, start looking for plants that need to be divided. This will make your plants healthier (perennials should be divided every 3-5 years), and the extras will support the club's plant sale. We'll accept divisions of perennials and houseplants; rootings of forsythia and lilac suckers; volunteers from parent plants; rhubarb divisions, even plants you don't like anymore! Planting some annuals or vegetables from seed? Plant an extra 6-pack or two to donate to the sale. The more varied our selection, the more we'll sell!



Are you planning to apply to be a **BeeSpaces garden**? Here are some guidelines:

There is no entry fee. The garden can be residential, farm, community or business. An award will be given for each category. If you are a nursery or other grower of organic, neonicotinoid-free flowers, BeeSpaces would love to help gardeners find your plants! A BeeSpaces garden must be in Franklin County. You must be free of all pesticides and herbicides: Organic only. They are looking for a variety of pollinator-friendly/nutritious flowers that bloom throughout the season (clover, rappini, sunflowers). Having a water source is a plus. Please be thinking about how to provide complete habitats for native pollinators. Look for more information on BeeSpaces on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Officers 2017:

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Energy Park Update – *by Nancy Patteson*

The days are brighter. The sun is warmer. Spring perennials are daring to expose their tender leaves and colorful flowers. After a winter of highs and lows, spring is finally here and the Energy Park in Greenfield is getting ready for some major renovations.

Volunteer Workdays will be starting back up again in April on Tuesday afternoons from 12 to 4PM. A band of merry gardeners have been hard at work all winter planning stone path and stair ways; woodland, herb and medicinal gardens; a kids garden; and sites for shade trees. A generous donation from the Greenfield Garden Club is being used to purchase a variety of pollinator plants to increase host and nectar sites in a new and improved butterfly garden. Come join the friendly work crew every week or whenever you can to help keep the park vibrant and alive. On **Tuesday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 18**, Rick Stone from Just Roots Farm will be on hand to train us in the art of laying a stone path and building stone stairs. The town has donated stone dust and we will be upcycling some very large stones. The project will continue on **Wednesday, April 26** from 2:30 to 5:30PM when students from Deerfield Academy will provide additional strength and muscle power by helping to move and lay the stones into permanent pathways. On **Tuesday, May 2nd** from 9AM to 2PM, students from Charlemont Academy will be pulling sweet ferns and transplanting shrubs with Pat Leuchtman at the South Entryway garden. Stay tuned for a **"cookies and lemonade"** fund-raising event to take place later this spring. Garden Club members and all friends and family are always welcomed and encouraged to participate in Energy Park 'Greening of Greenfield' events.

On a reflective note…if you are like millions of Americans looking for some way to channel frustration with world and national politics into something good and positive, then consider planting a healthy garden that is welcoming to birds, bees and butterflies. Create a microcosm of beauty and delight while supporting local pollinators. Say "no" to harmful chemicals (neonicotinoids) to protect the bees and preserve safe habitats. Compost using living materials to enrich nutrients in the soil. Share your bounty with friends and neighbors in a gesture of warmth and community. Gardening is a great way to nurture your inner self and give life back to the ecosystems of the world.

Have fun, and happy spring to all!

WMMG Symposium Seed Take-Away

Margaret Roach's slide-filled lecture on Seeds, made us think twice about the seed that we purchase for our local gardens. She explained that much of the seed sold in mainstream catalogues comes from seed-raising companies that coddle their seed using high-chemical weed suppression and feeding. Many seeds are also grown in climates vastly different than our own. As an organic gardener, she will not be using chemical weed suppressants and fertilizers, and her garden in definitely zone 5. Seeds are alive, and over generations of breeding, "remember" these growing conditions that will not be replicated here in Franklin County either. Seeds in her words are alive, self-replicating, and adaptive. Here are some seed companies that Margaret recommends for our area:

Wild Garden; High Mowing: Turtle Tree; Hudson Valley; Uprising; Adaptive; Peace Seedlings; Siskiyou; Prairie Road. Also Johnny's and Fedco.

For more background on Margaret's thinking, read here.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 25, 2017 .....$5,586.78

Income $598.17
Bus Tour, Dues, Annual Mtg, Interest

Expenses $2,460.50
Newsletter, Extravaganza, Grants
All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to the club Treasurer:

Jean Wall

413-773-9069

40 High Street

Greenfield MA 01301

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.

Backyard Birds – 15 Strong Ave., Northampton
10% off regularly prices items except thistle birdseed

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

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

Five Acre Farm – 110 Hinsdale Rd., Northfield
10% off regular priced plants

Glenbrook Gardens
56 Glenbrook Drive, Greenfield
10% off regular priced plants and products

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

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

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

Sugarloaf Nursery – 25 Amherst Road, Sunderland
10% off regular priced plants

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

Any vendors interested in offering our gardeners a discount, please contact the Steering Committee.