Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2022 Vol. 30, No. 4

Get to Know our Farm Friends at Laurenitis Farm

Thursday, April 21 at 5:30pm
247 Amherst Rd, Sunderland, MA
Carpool leaves 5:10pm from Cherry Rum Plaza in Greenfield – or meet us there.
RSVP to give us a headcount to: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Get ready to indulge your senses with a visit to Laurenitis Farm in Sunderland. We will be spending an hour or so in the company of Karina Laurentitis to hear a little about the history of the farm, and ask questions. If the weather stays warm, we should be able to buy plants while we are there. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers as we walk among the plants. Find out what's new, what's tried and true, and what plants have caught their attention in 2022.

April President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Ah, April! Spring is finally here! I took my mom to the Capital Region Flower and Garden Expo and we attended all 3 days (March 25-27). I understand that there were not as many displays this year as in pre-covid times, but we thoroughly enjoyed what was there, including the vendor area and the lectures. I put photos of the trip on the club Facebook page. Pictured at left is one of Thomas Jefferson's favorite vines, the Snail Flower Vine, or Caracalla Bean. Elise purchased one from Barbara Melera, one of the lecturer's we particularly enjoyed. Her company is called Harvesting History, and you really need to click on the link and read about her and her open-pollinated seeds, among other things. She was the owner at 225 year-old Landreth Seeds and is a powerhouse in the field of heirloom seeds as well as potatoes, bulbs, corms, tubers, etc.! I encourage you to explore their website! I hope you all are making sure to wait until we've had about a week of solid above 50 degree days before starting the spring clean-up to help overwintering insects complete their hibernation! Happy Spring! ~ *Laura*

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7-10: Festival of Flowers (Evening Reception 4/7) Springfield Museums
April 28, Thursday 5:00 pm – Steering Committee Meeting
April 21, Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm – visit to Laurenitis Farm

"Spring: the music of open windows."
~ Terry Guillemets

Grow Native Massachusetts

Kohl Gardens

Wendell, MA 01379
kohlgardens@gmail.com
Exclusively native. E-mail to make an appointment or order plants.
A micro-nursery offering about 50 native species grown from local wild seed. Located at a private residence. Most species are offered as landscape-ready plugs; some in containers up to 1 gallon.

Helia Native Nursery

95 East Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266
413-528-1400
Exclusively native. Open only one day per week.
A small nursery growing some of its plants from seed harvested in the Berkshire-Taconic region. Selling many perennials, sedges, grasses and ferns, and some woody plants in small sizes. They also offer seed mixes and educational programs.

Earth Tones Native Plants

212 Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury, CT 06798
203-263-6626
Exclusively native. Open 6 days per week during the growing season (closed Mondays.)
This is one of the largest of the small nurseries, a trek from Massachusetts, but worth it! They grow and sell several hundred species, herbaceous and woody, all propagated from wild collected seed. Sizes range from 1 quart to 5 gallon. A respected source with a landscape architect and a wetlands ecologist on staff.

Native Plant Trust

Garden in the Woods | 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701
508-877-7630
Nasami Farm | 128 North Street, Whately, MA 01093
413-397-9922
Sells exclusively native plants at both locations. Will also contract grow some species.
Excellent selection of herbaceous plants and small woody plants. Great source for New England wildflowers, especially hard to find species such as Lady's slippers and trilliums.

GGC MEMBERSHIP: Please continue your membership by sending in your dues for the new year ($20 per person, or $25 per house-hold). Remember, memberships make a nice gift for the gardener in your life! Please make checks payable to: Greenfield Garden Club; and send them to: Greenfield Garden Club, c/o Schlaikjer, PO Box 309, Greenfield, MA 01302. Thank you for your continuing support!

Sugarloaf Gardens opens on Route 116 in Sunderland (25 Amherst Rd) – formerly Sugarloaf Nurseries. Snow & Sons Landscaping is the new owner. They plan to be open 7 days a week, from March to November, 8am-5pm. They plan to offer a wide variety of trees, perennials, and annuals, as well as mulch, manure, and compost. When they add a storefront, they will be open all year.

Officers 2022:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website:
Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President:
Marsha Stone
Treasurer:
Becky George
Recording Secretary:
Annette Kilminster
Corresponding Secretary:
Eva Carrier
At Large Member/s:
Nicki Shipman

GROWING PANSIES

Pansies are grown as short-season perennials, or annuals. They pair well with spring bulbs. When buying pansies, choose plants that are stocky, bushy, and have plenty of buds. Avoid plants full of open blooms as they will be stressed. Deadhead the faded blossoms to encourage more blooming. Pansies grow best in full sun to partial shade, but will perform their best in cooler, part shade environments. They prefer loose, rich soil that is slightly acidic soil (Ph 6.0-6.2). They are heavy feeders, so be sure to plant them with some compost to help them flourish. Pansies prefer to be moist but not soggy. They will start to fade as summer arrives with its hotter weather (they prefer the cooler days of spring).

THERE WILL BE NO EXTRAVAGANZA THIS YEAR DUE TO THE ASIAN JUMPING WORM. WE WILL BE RUNNING THE GARDEN TOUR THE WEEKEND OF JULY 9/10.

Robin Wall Kimmerer – Thursday, June 23rd at GCC

Save the date! Robin is coming to Greenfield, sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and Greening Greenfield. Her talk is *Restoration and Reciprocity: Healing Relationships with the Natural World*. Here is a short video in which she walks us through the woods in March, showing us how to see the gifts of the forest & learn from the land.

Spring Bulb Appeal

I am writing as the Co-Advisor for the Class of 2024 at Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. We have a Spring Bulb Fundraiser currently underway for the class, and thought I would contact you to see if you could share the website. The bulbs are from the well-known Holland Bulb Company's Fundraising division "Flower Power." All orders are submitted online and will be sent directly to the customer at the appropriate time for planting. The fundraiser goes through **May 14th, 2022**. I have included the website address here: http://FCTSclassof2024.fpfundraising.com

Thank you for your time!
Lori Johnson-Davis

Praying Mantis

Brown twig with a scored, russet skirt of wings,

you cling to the side of the garbage can

where the lid fits, and, except for a slight twitch

of your pointed mandible, hold wholly still.

When you finally move, it's just to shift

your strandlike, green back legs

one at a time, each leg tapping to find

the next foothold, the way a blind man tests

with his stick, seeming to feel your way

towards a next meal that is nowhere evident.

Unlike the lion as it inches through the grass,

for you the hunt is never in pursuit

but in opportunity—what comes to you

as you wait, forearms set for the next

approaching life: bluebottle, fruit,

even horseflies might do if only they'd appear,

swoop down and so, by accident, choose you,

drawn by the stench of refuse—coffee grounds,

rinds, all the sticky, fleshy things.

How can you stand the suspense?

I cannot stand the suspense, and yet

as the morning sun moves imperceptibly forward,

I sit on the piled newspapers I came to throw away,

I sit at your feet, so stilled that in time

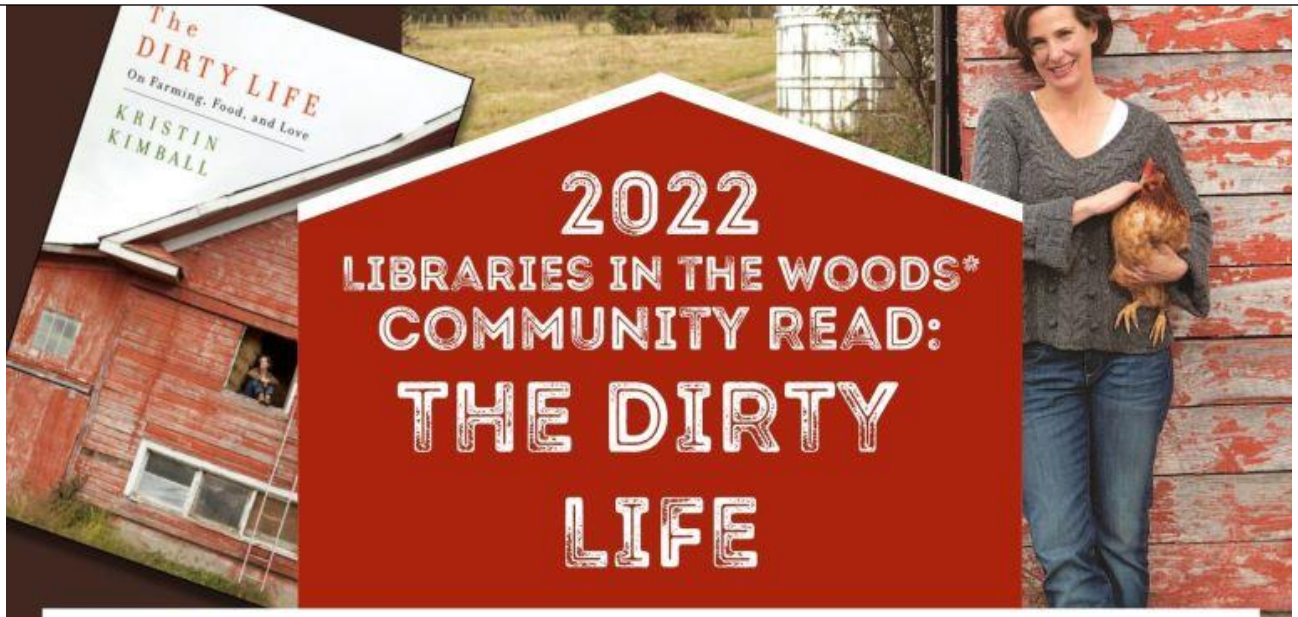
the air breaks into hums of many registers

as it swirls and startles and catches with flies.

Click on the image below to order a hatching kit!

Copyright 1996 Sandy Solomon. From Pears, Lake, Sun (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1996).
Sandy Solomon teaches at Vanderbilt University.

Libraries in the Woods (LITW), an entity made up of 27 local rural libraries, is hosting a Community Read of The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love by Kristin Kimball, throughout April and May. Below is the collective list of programs, events, and workshops offered by the participating libraries. Cushman Library will be offering tours and visits at seven local farms that are either female owned/run or female-driven. Contact the library for info.



2022 LIBRARIES IN THE WOODS* COMMUNITY READ: THE DIRTY LIFE

April 12, 7:00 pm (online)
Gardening for Birds
Montague Libraries

April 20, 7:30 pm
Book Discussion
Pelham Public Library

April 21, 6:30 pm
Book Discussion
Tilton Library, Deerfield

April 22, 11:00 am
Tour of Upinngil
Cushman Library, Bernardston

April 22, 1:00 pm (outside)
Seed Starting for Children
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls

April 24, 2:00 pm
Sustainable Gardening
M.N. Spear Mem. Library, Shutesbury

April 26, 1:00 pm
Tour at Coyote Hill Farm
Cushman Library, Bernardston

April 26, 6:00 pm
Garden Design 101 with Mary Jo Maffei
Pelham Library

April 29, 6:30 pm
Book Discussion
Arms Library, Shelburne Falls

May 7, 10:00 am
Intro to Backyard Chickens for Families
Wendell Free Library

May 7, 1:00 pm
Composting Workshop
New Salem Public Library

May 11, 6:00 pm (Hybrid)
Book Discussion
Sunderland Public Library

May 12, 4:00 pm
Tour at Picadilly Farm, Winchester, NH
Cushman Library, Bernardston

May 12, 6:30 pm
Container Gardening Workshop
Belding Mem. Library, Ashfield

May 15, 10:00 am
Grow Your Own Sunflower
Wendell Free Library

May 15, 2:00 pm
Growing a Summer Salad
M.N. Spear Mem. Library, Shutesbury

May 16, 6:30 pm
Book Discussion
Cushman Library, Bernardston

May 16, 7:00 pm (online)
Book Discussion
New Salem Public Library

May 17, 1:00-4:00 pm
Open House at Couch Brook Farm, Bernardston
Cushman Library, Bernardston

May 17, 4:30 pm
Pollinator Workshop
Belding Mem. Library, Ashfield

May 19, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Library Day at Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op
New Salem Public Library, Orange Libraries, Warwick Free Public Library, and Wendell Free Library

May 19, 4:00 pm
The Buzz about Bees and Flowers with Lynn Adler
Leverett Library

May 20, 1:00-4:00 pm
Open House at Cat's Croft, Bernardston
Cushman Library, Bernardston

May 20, 7:00 pm
Book Discussion
Dickinson Mem. Library, Northfield and Erving Public Library

May 21, 11:00 am (outside)
CISA Senior Farm Share and Healthy Incentives Program
Tilton Library, Deerfield

May 21, 11:00 am (outside)
Visit with the Goats from Firefly Fields Farm
Tilton Library, Deerfield

May 21, 11:00 am
Heart-shaped Seed Paper and Bombs
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls

May 21, 11:00 am
Biodiversity in the Garden: Garden Design with Native Plants
Pelham Public Library

May 24, 3:00 pm
Tour at Cheshire Garden, Winchester, NH
Cushman Library, Bernardston

May 24, 6:00 pm
Book Discussion
Hatfield Public Library

May 25, 5:30 pm
Virtual Tour of Natural Roots, Conway
Field Mem. Library, Conway

May 26, 6:30 pm (online)
Q&A with Author Kristin Kimball
Dickinson Mem. Library, Northfield

May 28, 9:00 am (outside)
Mindful Gardening with Sweet Roots Gardens
Tilton Library, Deerfield

May 28, 3:00 pm
Tour at RootsStones&Bones, Gill
Cushman Library, Bernardston

May 30, 10:00 am
Morning at Red Gate Farm
Belding Mem. Library, Ashfield

May 30, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Kids' Seed Planting at Pelham School Spring Fair
Pelham Public Library

TBD
Book Discussion
Wendell Free Library

TBD
Bee Presentation
Montague Libraries

TBD
Seed Saving Workshop
Arms Library, Shelburne Falls

TBD
Tractor Show
S. White Dickinson Memorial Library, Whately

TBD
Lecture on Tobacco Farming
S. White Dickinson Memorial Library, Whately

libraries in the woods

*NOTE: Please contact hosting libraries for more information and registration details.

FINAL REMINDER!

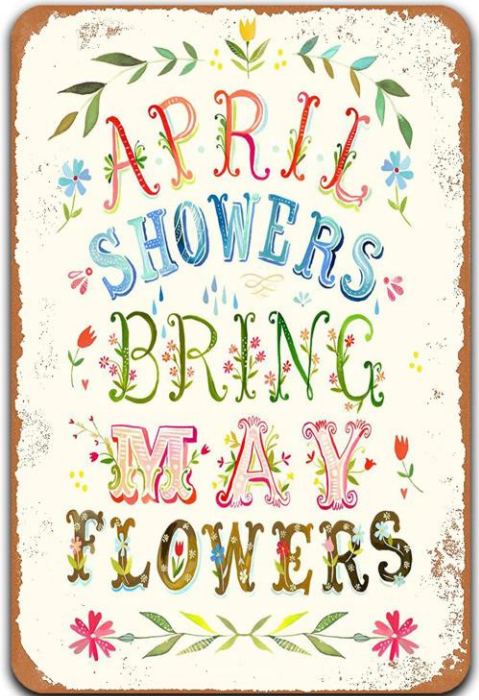
Please mark your calendars and save the date for the Greenfield Tree Committee's all-volunteer community tree planting event.

- Date: April 30
- Time: 8:30 to 11:30 (or any portion of that time)
- Location: To be determined
- Details: Great community and family event with an opportunity to meet new people and do something good for our City and our environment. Bring gloves and a shovel, if you have one. Stay tuned for more details on Facebook. We will also email more information prior to the event.

GreenfieldTreeCommittee.org

facebook.com/Greenfieldtree

Click here to watch the video of the 2021 tree inventory and learn about what the Greenfield Tree Committee is trying to accomplish by 2025.



Looking to buy plants or maple syrup from Rich Pascale of Shoestring Farm in Colrain this spring? Here is the link to place your online order for pick-up at the farm: https://stowefarm.org/shoestring-farm/

Springfield Garden Club Bus Trip to Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Wednesday, April 27. Bus leaves Forest Park at 7:30AM and leaves NY at 3:30pm. Price: $63 SGC members/$75 non-members (includes bus and admission to the gardens) First come, first served. Pay when you reserve. The tour is self-guided, and lunch is the responsibility of the attendee. Visit their website to learn more: www.springfieldgardenclubma.org

Margaret Roach's excellent Monthly Garden Chores: https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Feb 15, 2022 ..... $8,577.75

Income $0.20
Interest $0.22
Expenses $0.00

Balance as of Mar 15, 2022 ..... $8,577.95

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Laura Schlaikjer, PO Box 309
Greenfield MA 01302 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

May 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

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