Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

August 2020 **Vol. 28, No. 6**

August: Heat and Humidity Abound!

The Dog Days of summer are traditionally the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11.

Dog Days are approaching; you must, therefore, make both hay and haste while the Sun shines, for when old Sirius takes command of the weather, he is such an unsteady, crazy dog, there is no dependence upon him.

–*The Old Farmer's Almanac*, 1817

The Dog Days Iced Tea at right needs a nice, warm slice of Marsha and Norm's Favorite zucchini recipe from King Arthur Flour: Double Chocolate Zucchini Bread. You can find the recipe on their website: https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/double-chocolate-zucchini-bread-recipe

Do you have a favorite zucchini recipe? Let us know so we can share it in a future newsletter.

Dog Days Iced Tea

Makes 8 to 10 servings

7 bags black tea (English, Early Grey, etc.)
2 TB granulated sugar
½ c mint leaves and sprigs, divided
2 c chilled orange juice
1 orange, sliced crosswise
1 lemon, sliced crosswise
Ice cubes

Brew a strong tea in about 10 cups of water. While still hot, add sugar and about a dozen mint leaves. Let cool. Remove tea bags and mint. Add orange juice, fruit slices, and ice. Serve over more ice, garnish with fresh mint sprigs, and add a fruit slice or two to each glass.

August President's Report

Here we are in the Dog Days of Summer! If you are curious to learn about that saying, I recommend heading to the internet to learn about its Greco-Roman origins. The other day I noticed on Facebook that the Keene, NH Public library was hosting a talk about Gardening in a Time of Climate Change at 11AM. I took an hour off work and joined the Zoom meeting. I enjoyed hearing from newly-minted Master Gardeners, as that was not a topic that was covered when I went through the program in the 80's! Their next program is called: Putting the Garden to Bed, and I have already signed up for it! This led me to check the Greenfield Library's events page, and there was Pat Leuchtman's program on Planting for Pollinators on the 12th (see pg 4). You can find so many interesting virtual programs that you can attend from the comfort of your home! I truly hope this is a trend that continues after the pandemic has eased. I hope to see you in a zoom lecture soon!

Red Daylily in my front garden

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 12, 6pm – Planting for Pollinators with Pat Leuchtman Zoom Meeting thru Greenfield Public Library

Aug 20, 11AM – Putting the Garden to Bed with Joy Ackerman, Master Gardener out of UNH Extension. Register and get the zoom link on the Keene, NH library calendar of events page.

GREENFIELD GARDEN CLUB FABULOUS 2020 TOUR!

What a great weekend of touring ten unique and lovely gardens right here in Greenfield. Even though we postponed the tour due to the rain forecast (no rain arrived!) the turnout was amazing. Over two hundred people attended - we ran out of tickets not once, but twice! A great problem to have. In the history of the club, we have never had so many people come to our Tour. In this time of challenges and difficulties, we all needed joy, beauty, flowers of all colors, neighbors, friends, fellow excited gardeners & new faces to meet with, and exchange ideas in animated conversations.

Around $2,000 was raised - amazing! We will put this money to good use with school grants and support of local organizations.

Much gratitude to the Tour Committee for all their hard work coordinating the tour - many moving parts! Thanks to Eva Carrier, Michelle Giarusso, Norm Hirschfeld (Coordinator), Dotty Janke, Deb Loomer & Jean McGowan for their dedication to making this all happen despite COVID!

A special appreciation to Amy Moscaritolo for the creation of a beautiful, eye - catching flyer and program.

What about all the terrific gardeners who put in a lot of time and energy preparing their gardens for the tour?! Pat & Henry Leuchtman, Dotty Janke, Mary Chicoine & Glen Ayers, David Sund, Ilene Stahl, Peggy Pucino & Clara Lopez, Polly Hillman, Cynthia Fritz, Amy & David Moscaritolo and Annette Kilminster - MUCH GRATITUDE.

We can't forget our appreciation for all the greeters: Jacqueline Lejeune, Eva Carrier, Bill Levine, Carol Ball, Michelle Giarusso, Laura Schlaikjer, Emily Brewster, Cathe Janke, Jeannie McGowan, Norm Hirschfeld, Nina Thayer, Henry Leuchtman & Becky George. Thanks to Terry Atkinson for coming over last minute to handle the plant sale and drawing table for the afternoon.

Eva and I had fun and some good stress to get more tickets printed up urgently!

Thank you to Jo-Ann Denehy for displaying her lovely pitchfork bird houses which were available for sale when people bought their tickets. If you are still interested in seeing them or purchasing one, you may contact her directly at: westbrookdesign@aol.com.

Thanks to Pat Leuchtman for all the pre- and post- articles in her Recorder column - she's keeping us at the forefront of people's minds.

Stay well everyone and enjoy gardening! ~ Marsha Stone

Storing Tomatoes – Who Knew?

Rumor has it that storing a tomato with its stem end facing down can prolong its shelf life. Cook's Illustrated has tested this theory by placing one batch of tomatoes stem-end up and the other stem-end down on a counter at room temperature for a week. The stem end down tomatoes were in perfect condition, while the others had shriveled and started to mold. They surmise that the scar left by removing the stem provides both an escape for moisture, and an entry point for mold and bacteria. The stem-down technique blocks air from entering and moisture from exiting the scar. They repeated the test, but this time they placed a piece of tape over the scars. The taped versions survived just as well as the stem-down tomatoes!

STEM UP

STEM DOWN

Officers 2020:

President/Newsletter/Website:
Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President:
Marsha Stone
Treasurer:
Joanne Burns
Recording Secretary:
Annette Kilminster
Corresponding Secretary:
Eva Carrier
At Large Members:
Richard Willard
(Looking for 1 more volunteer!)

Spotlight on Bay State Perennial Farm

(taken from their website)

At Bay State Perennial Farm, we are known for our selection of tried and true perennials along with an abundant assortment of the newest cultivars. We are plant lovers first and foremost and our borders reveal the true essence of what can be done with thoughtful planting. More than just a place to shop, Bay State is an experience. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are here to make your visit an enjoyable one.

Each week, new items become available. If you want to be a Bay State insider and get notified of new selections as they arrive, you can subscribe to our mailing list. Our E-Bulletin goes out regularly and includes not only updates as to what is available, but also a discussion of what is happening at the nursery.

Curios to see our **Trees and Shrubs** list? Click here.

Curious to look over our **Perennial** list? Click here.

Prefer everything in one place? Click here for our full catalog.

Location of the Nursery: 36 State Rd (Rte 5 & 10), Whately, MA

By Mail: Bay State Perennial PO Box 706, N. Hatfield, MA 01066

Hours: Thursday – Sunday, 9 AM – 4 PM

Closed Monday – Wednesday.

Masks are required as per Governor Baker's Executive Order.

Bay State PERENNIAL FARM

Mycoterra Farm – Growing Sustainably Farmed Local Organic Gourmet Mushrooms

We hope to visit Mycoterra Farm in September, depending on the pandemic. The farm was founded by Julia Coffey in Westhampton, and has grown into a new location in S. Deerfield (75 Stillwater Rd). Perhaps you have already discovered them at a local farmers market, farm stand, or other retail outlet. They also have a farm store of their own in S Deerfield. They grow Shiitke, Lions Mane, and Oysters year-round. The more exotic varieties are rotated in and out over the course of the year (Chestnut, Nameko, Pioppino). Curious? Email them at: mycoterrafarm@gmail.com.

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

Here is a teaser to get you over there to read her August Chores:

Hot, Parched, Exhausted. That's a three word portrait of me and the garden most Augusts. We must fight back, so it helps to think of the August chores this way: it's all just a head start on fall cleanup, one floppy, yellowing, or crispy piece of plant at a time. I'm teasing out the uglies (or the besieged, if we're talking troubled tomatoes or sickly squash), and planning for fall planting opportunities as I go.

August chores are like spot cleaning. I can't fix everything, turning brown leaves green again, or sewing up holes. But in "normal" years I have Open Days each August, and workshops in September some years, too, so I cannot just give up. (Tempting!)

~ Go to the link to read about more "chores" regarding lawns, pests, habitat, weeding and watering, trees and shrubs, the veggie garden, flowers, houseplants, and the compost heap. You can even sign up for her weekly radio podcasts and browse the podcast archive.

Planting for Pollinators with Pat Leuchtman

Wednesday, Aug 12 at 6 PM

Slide show, discussion, and Q &A

Registration for this free event sponsored by the friends of the Greenfield Public Library is required. Please email the Library to receive the Zoom link:

librarian@greenfieldpubliclibrary.org

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 15, 2020 .....$7,005.76

Income $45.17
Interest ($0.17) Dues ($45)
Expenses $286.14
Recorder ad Garden Tour ($68.00); Just Roots donation ($200) Staples printing ($18.14)
Balance as of June 15, 2020 .....$6,764.79

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to the club Treasurer:
Joanne Burns
14 Freeman Street
Greenfield MA 01301

September NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Sunday, August 30
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

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