Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

December 2020 Vol. 28, No. 10

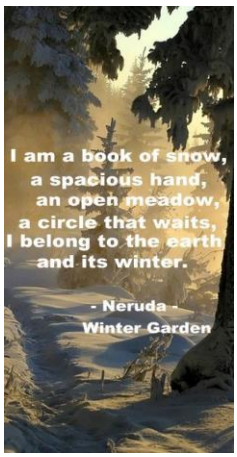
December – Time to Reflect and Stay Safe!

The Steering Committee would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy Holiday Season. Whatever your faith, we hope you can find time to be outside in nature to explore, breathe fresh air, and marvel at her beauty. We will not be gathering for a holiday event this year, since we are not sure it would be safe to do so. All of the events we did run this year we held outside, and despite the recent warm trends, we cannot count on that weather pattern to hold! We remember and delight in the two fundraising events that we were able to carry off without a hitch (unless you were one of those who had to run back

to Staples – twice - in order to print more tickets for the Garden Tour!), several outdoor monthly meetings, and a safe wreath-making evening. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year for another long list of gardening activities. If you have any suggestions, the steering committee is all ears! If anyone would like to be part of the steering committee, please contact us. We'd love to welcome you and your ideas to this fun group come January!

December President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

That recent burst of warm weather was nice for us humans, but not so great for my shrubs. I am noticing fatter buds, and one viburnum has actually started to bloom. I am telling them to go back to sleep, and I worry that I will not have those blooms when I look for them in the spring. I also delayed planting my garlic after seeing my mother's garlic bed up about 3 inches! Have you remembered to clean your garden tools before putting them in the shed for the winter? Many plant pathogens can survive from one season to the next on tools, trellises, stakes, and pots – give them all a good cleaning! You can find lots of good articles on this topic on the internet. The Steering Committee is concerned that we will not be able to have an annual meeting in person this January, and we might consider a zoom event – stay tuned. In the meantime, do everything you can to stay safe and still enjoy the holidays. I wish you all the warmth of the season! ~ *Laura*



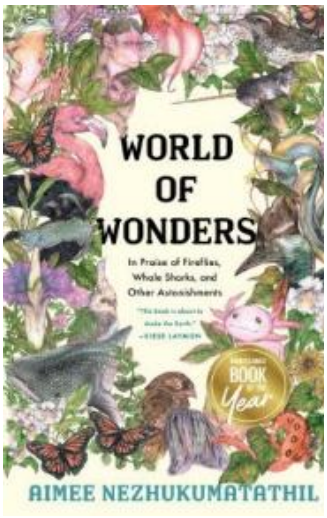
UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4: 6-8 PM – Steering Committee

A garden is half-made when it is well planned. The best gardener is the one who does the most gardening by the winter fire.

~ Liberty Hyde Bailey

Books for Winter Reading…

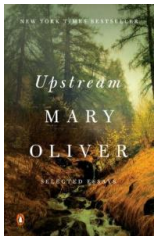


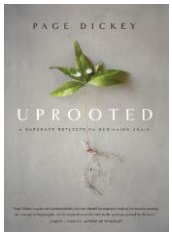
World of Wonders is a mesmerizing work of essays and tender illustrations, meditations on nature, cumulative in effect; nature as memoir, nature as metaphor, nature as simply and joyously itself. Each chapter captures a moment - each centered around a different natural phenomenon and charts the reverberations of the lived experience it evokes, be it family, identity or the notion of belonging. She urges us to start small to "start with what we loved as kids and see where that leads us." A centering book, delightful and unexpected.

From beloved, award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil comes a debut work of nonfiction—a collection of essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us.

As a child, Nezhukumatathil called many places home: the grounds of a Kansas mental institution, where her Filipina mother was a doctor; the open skies and tall mountains of Arizona, where she hiked with her Indian father; and the chillier climes of western New York and Ohio. But no matter where she was transplanted—no matter how awkward the fit or forbidding the landscape—she was able to turn to our world's fierce and funny creatures for guidance.

"What the peacock can do," she tells us, "is remind you of a home you will run away from and run back to all your life." The axolotl teaches us to smile, even in the face of unkindness; the touch-me-not plant shows us how to shake off unwanted advances; the narwhal demonstrates how to survive in hostile environments. Even in the strange and the unlovely, Nezhukumatathil finds beauty and kinship. For it is this way with wonder: it requires that we are curious enough to look past the distractions in order to fully appreciate the world's gifts. Warm, lyrical, and gorgeously illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, *World of Wonders* is a book of sustenance and joy.





~ In Memorium ~

The Garden Club lost long-time member **Mary (Myke) Gilman** (1925-2020) of Greenfield. https://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/recorder/mary-t-gilman-condolences/197044581 mentions her love of gardening, and that she was a member of the Garden Club.

James Brodie (1933-2020), former GGC member, passed away in July. https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/recorder/obituary.aspx?n=james-brodie&pid=196490762&fhid=15514

We visited the Ashfield home of horticulturalist and landscape designer **Marie Stella** (1941-2020) many years ago and enjoyed seeing her LEED Platinum home and gardens called Beaver Lodge.

http://www.umass.edu/fac/tour/13-BeaverLodge.pdf

https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/marie-stella-obituary?pid=197073712

http://www.commonweeder.com/beaver-lodge-on-green-buildings-open-house-tour/

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:
Vacant
(Looking for 2 volunteers!)

Improve your Health this Winter with Houseplants!

Keep yourself healthy during the next 4 or 5 months of relative indoor hibernation with your trusted houseplant friends. Houseplants provide more than just visual beauty. Studies have shown that they can improve concentration and productivity by up to 15%, reduce stress levels, and boost your mood. Perfect for those of us still working from home – and if you are back at work, bring some plants with you! Another nugget: Plants thrive when they listen to music that sits between 115Hz and 250Hz (the vibrations emulate similar sounds in nature) but keep it to no more than 1 to 3 hours a day. Jazz and classical seem to be best. As you probably also know, plants help to keep the air oxygenated during daylight hours, soaking up your exhaled carbon dioxide. They can also wick away airborne chemicals from any synthetics off gassing in your home (a good reason to stick with natural wood and fiber for your furniture and carpets). Here are a few easy-to-grow houseplants with excellent chemical-absorbing properties: Peace Lily (absorbs benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene/med to bright light/keep soil moist when flowering - otherwise let soil dry a bit between waterings/toxic to pets); Pothos (low to bright light/consistently moist/toxic to pets); Snake Plant (gives off oxygen at night, unlike other plants/low to bright light/ let dry slightly between waterings/mildly toxic to pets); and Spider Plant (prefers decent light, especially when in bloom/keep evenly moist/non-toxic to pets).

Match houseplants with light conditions: some like south-facing windows for strong light, others like the soft morning light of an east-facing window. Plant distance from the window will also affect light intensity and quality.

Choose the right container: consider size, material, even color.

Use good quality potting soil: this will promote healthy roots by providing a proper balance of aeration, nutrition, and moisture.

Water properly: plants in containers benefit from frequent and thorough watering. Allow soil to dry partially before the next watering (top 2 inches). To prevent salts from building up in the soil, water especially heavily (4 or 5 times) every month or two to flush them out (put in sink).

Fertilize and control pests: all that watering can leach out nutrients. Regularly inspect for those pesky aphids, scale, mealybugs and whiteflies. A robust infestation may be the end of that plant. (Try a 70% solution of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol/water on a Q-tip to remove mealybugs.)

Increase humidity and prevent drafts: woodstove owners know about dry air. You can increase humidity by setting plants on trays layered with small pebbles and filled with water. You can also place them in humid areas like bathrooms with the proper light. Misting is not advised since the benefits are too short-term, and it can encourage foliage diseases.

Keep foliage clean: dust on plants will block light and harbor insects. Clean leaves with a moist towel, or take them outside on a mild day and hose them off. (Smaller plants can be “hosed off” in a sink and larger ones in a shower, just know you will need to clean up a few dead leaves and soil!)

Underwater Gardening: Restoring Seagrass to Help with Climate Change

Winter 2020 Issue of the World Wildlife Fund Magazine

PORTHDINLLAEN BEACH :: NORTH WALES, UK

On a clear, sunny morning in August 2019, a snorkeler waded into the chilly sea off the coast of North Wales. Beneath him, an expanse of seagrass grew in every direction. He swam toward the seafloor, plucked a handful of seed-bearing stems, and then placed his quarry in a mesh bag and repeated the process. The snorkeler, a local volunteer, was joining in efforts to collect 1 million seagrass seeds, the first stage in the largest seagrass restoration project ever undertaken in the UK. Seagrasses protect coastlines from erosion, absorb harmful pollutants, and provide safe nursing grounds for species from codfish to seahorses. Able to sequester carbon at 35 times the rate of rain forests, they're also an astonishingly effective buffer against climate change. But in the UK, around 92% of seagrass meadows have been lost.

"Luckily, the science behind seagrass restoration is simple," says Ricardo Zanre, a marine program manager for WWF-UK's Seagrass Ocean Rescue. "It's just like underwater gardening." Once collected, seeds are mixed with sand, placed in burlap sacks, and sown across a seagrass bed in South Wales, where seagrasses had disappeared due to water pollution, industrial development, and boating and fishing activity. Because the area's water quality has now improved, the seeds will soon sprout through the sacks, forming a sprawling meadow.

A partnership with Sky Ocean Rescue and Swansea University, the WWF project aims to restore a total of around five acres of seagrass this year. Eventually, Zanre says, this work could provide a replicable model for restoring seagrass meadows throughout the UK—a nature-based solution that would help address the climate emergency while benefiting fisheries and coastal livelihoods.

David Attenborough: A Life on our Planet Landscape Institute Screening and Webinar

Thursday, December 17 at 5:30pm (GMT) (12:30 – 3:30 EST) FREE-REGISTER HERE.

(https://www.eventbrite.com/e/david-attenborough-a-life-on-our-planet-tickets-130257546829?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse&keep_tld=1)

SPRINGFIELD GARDEN CLUB HOSTS VIRTUAL TOUR OF HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Friday, December 18 at 11:30 AM. "**Decked Out for the Holidays**" presented by Jana Milbocker of Enchanted Gardens on The event will be virtual and will be accessible via Zoom. If you love holiday decorations but cannot see them in person this year, take a virtual tour! We will visit Blithewold, Newport Mansions, Winterthur and Longwood Gardens all sumptuously decorated and lit for the holiday season. The presentation is open to the public as well as SGC members via Zoom. Tickets are $5 and are available at Eventbrite. *(https://www.eventbrite.com/e/decked-out-for-the-holidays-presented-by-jana-milbocker-tickets-131678613277?aff=ebdssbeac)*

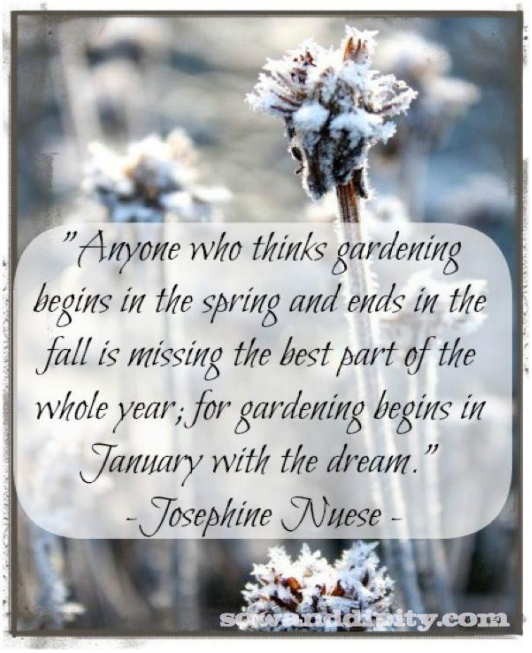
Jana Milbocker is a garden designer, speaker, and author. She combines horticulture, design, and travel tips to educate, inspire and delight both new and seasoned gardeners. Jana loves to visit gardens and historic sites in the U.S. and abroad, and share her trips through her books, photos and blog. She published *The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast* in 2018, and *The Garden Tourist's New England* in 2020. She has lectured at flower shows in Mass., Conn., Maine, New York and New Jersey, as well as a multitude of horticultural societies, garden clubs, and libraries in the Northeast. She is owner of Enchanted Gardens, a landscape design firm in the Boston area. (EnchantedGardensDesign.com.) She is past president of the Holliston Garden Club, and active in the Garden Club Federation of Mass., Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and GardenComm International.

The club is also offering an online Holiday Boutique and Auction featuring quality gift items and holiday arrangements. Proceeds from the Holiday Boutique and Auction allow the Club to offer:

- Educational outreach to youth in our region
- Fresh flower arrangements for patients in nursing homes,
- Creation and maintenance of public gardens around the city!

For a link to the auction site, please email your name and phone number to spfldgardenclub@gmail.com.

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



Climate Change and Northeastern Forests

Dec 9 at 7 PM (FREE) join scientists Peter Groffman and Lindsey Rustad for a virtual Cary Science Conversation with Cary President Joshua Ginsberg They will discuss how winters are changing, consequences for forest ecosystems and adaptations. Northeastern forests need snow to stay healthy, and there is evidence that destructive ice storms will be more frequent and severe.ead more and register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-wonderland-no-more-climate-change-northeastern-forests-tickets-128675906099?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of October 15, 2020 .....$7,962.52

Income .....$.19
Interest $0.19
Expenses $128.60
Oktoberfest: stipend: $50; refreshments: $78.60
Balance as of November 15, 2020 ..$7,834.11

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to the club Treasurer:
Joanne Burns, 14 Freeman St
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

January NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, December 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