Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

December 2016 **Vol. 24, No. 8**

The Holiday Party Yule Love!

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell , Nowell Sing We Clear! Well, perhaps we won't be caroling at our annual holiday party, but we will be of good cheer! Make haste to join us on Sunday, December 4th for our much anticipated, annual Holiday Party! This year we will be easy to find as we have been invited into the home of club members Eric and Jeanne Green. For those of you who either helped on or went on this summer's Garden Tour, their house was number 1 on the map! Forty Church Street has plenty of on-street parking for revelers. We plan to meet earlier – 4:30pm, and end around 7:30pm. Plenty of time to make merry and still have time to do errands in the morning and get ready for the work week in the evening. Only a Down East blizzard will stop us!

Party-goers are invited to bring either a sweet or savory snack to share. If you have a favorite beverage, feel free to bring it, but the club will supply many kinds of beverages, from non-alcoholic to a bit tipsy. We will also be gathering round for the traditional Yankee Swap. Please bring a gift in the $15 range disguised – I mean wrapped – if you would like to participate. This event is always a highlight of our time together, with much poking, unwrapping, admiring, and stealing! Fingers crossed for good weather. Do make plans to join us, won't you?

Home of Eric and Jeanne Green – 40 Church St, Greenfield

HOLIDAY PARY SYNOPSIS:

WHEN: Sunday, December 4th, 4:30 pm until 7:30pm

WHERE: Home of Eric and Jeanne Green, 40 Church St, Greenfield, MA

WHO: Club members and friends

BRING: a sweet or savory snack for the sideboard to share with the assembled guests. (i.e.: deviled eggs, cheese, crackers, mini-quiches, veggies, dips, cookies, bars, cakes, etc..)

YANKEE SWAP: bring a wrapped gift in the $15 range if you would like to participate in the Yankee Swap. Some folks choose to wrap their gift in a box larger than the item to fool the chooser. Some gifts are unusually heavy. Some are very tiny but precious. What will we find this year?

Annual Meeting and President's Report for December

Our Annual Meeting is taking shape! We have agreed upon a date with the Wagon Wheel, as their venue fits us nicely and the food is truly delicious. We will meet on Tuesday night, January 24th, starting at 6pm. (Monday the 16th was already reserved.) In the course of reading up on the club's history in order to write the Looking Back column for the newsletters in honor of the club's 25th Anniversary, I read about the Valley Gardener in its TV show incarnation (there was also a radio show hosted by Marty McGuane and Steve Malsch). I contacted GCTV on a whim, and sure enough, they were able to find 12 original tapes. For a modest fee, they are transferring them all to CD for the club. The steering committee will look through them, and decide which ones to show at our annual meeting. With this in mind, we will shortly develop a themed menu with Carolann, and will send out the invitations. Stay tuned! The Grant Program will also get started shortly, with letters going out and the website updated. Make sure your local school is in the loop! Reservations are already coming in for the bus trip to the NY Botanical Gardens with the Chihuly exhibit on June 24th. We will take reservations from club members and their friends for the remainder of this year, and then open it up to the public in early 2017. Please let Jean Wall know if you are interested. Tickets are $74, and we hope to fill one bus with 56 seats. Final details will be sorted out soon. We are excited about the trip, and hope 2017 brings more car trips as well. Bring on the seed catalogues!! Happy Holidays to one and all!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Tuesday, November 29: Steering Committee; 6PM; 40 High St. Gnfld

Friday, December 2: First Friday "Jinglefest" in Greenfield 5:00 – 8:00PM

Sunday, December 4: Holiday Party 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

November 25 – January 8 – Winter Reimagined at Tower Hill:

http://www.towerhillbg.org/winter-reimagined/

January 24, 2017: 6:00 pm. Annual Meeting at the Wagon Wheel.

December Garden Chores:

Before the ground freezes, did you remember to pound in the birdfeeder poles? The driveway markers? The poles with which to wrap and protect your deer-licious shrubs and trees? Have you disconnected your hoses and winterized the taps? Have you brought in any non-weather-proof pots so they don't break? Have you gathered in those last standing Brussels sprouts or kale leaves? Now is the time to take advantage of a harvest that's still viable. Start making those wonderful vegetable soups with blemished but not completely bad produce. Before the ground freezes, get those rose crowns mounded up with 6 to 12 inches of soil, and after it freezes, add a layer of leaf mulch to further insulate them. Set traps for year-round mouse and vole damage. Margaret has good advice on her website: http://awaytogarden.com/battling-mice-voles-never-mothballs/. While you're at it, eliminate habitat and hiding places for garden pests like cabbage worms and squash bugs/borers. Pull and discard those long-standing brassicas to remove all vestiges of the cabbage worm. Remove all debris from spent squash plants, and move aside any hiding places such as rocks and boards. Turn the soil once to expose any lurking bugs to predation.

Planning to order from seed catalogues this winter? It's hard, but you may want to ditch seeds older than a year or 2. Here's a neat seed viability chart by years to help you out:

Seed Type	Years	Seed Type	Years	Seed Type	Years
Beans	2-3	Collards	5	Parsley	1
Beets	3-5	Corn	2-3	Peas	2-3
Broccoli	3	Cucumber	5-10	Peppers	2-3
Brussels	4	Eggplant	2-3	Radish	3-5
Cabbage	4	Lettuce	2-3	Spinach	2-3
Carrot	2-3	Leek	2	Squash/pumpkin	2-5
Cauliflower	4-5	Muskmelon	5-10	Tomato	5-10
Celery	2-3	Onion	1	Watermelon	5-10
Chard	3-5	Parsnip	1		

For more info on seed saving and storage:
http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-316/426-316.html

Looking Back: 1997

Janice McGuane – President
Priscilla Collins – Vice President
Fran Bourassa – Treasurer
Muriel Robbins – Corresponding Secretary
Nelda Smith & Linda Tyler – Recording Secretaries

Annual Meeting & Dinner held at French King Restaurant with speaker Elizabeth Toffey from Conway on "Cottage Gardens in England."
Topics that also came up in 1997: Name change declined – add slogan, Growing in All Directions; Club Bylaws were amended; new club logo designed; new member packet & Welcoming Committee created; Club webpage discussed; Gazebo project still under discussion.
Field Trips: Boston Flower Show; Smith Flower Show; Keene Bulb Show; Joe Campolo's gardens in New Salem; Flora Cox's Daylily Garden in Sunderland; Deb, Guy and Andy Wheeler in Colrain
Guest Speakers: Pam Oaks/Container Gardening; Cynthis Vok, Joe Judd, floral judges.
Community Activities: Bowl for Kids' Sake; Trap Plain gardens; 5th Annual Garden Tour; Franklin County Fair float and Roundhouse display (Both won 1st prizes); Community Meal; second Extravaganza!!; Adopt-a-Barrel Contest and Holiday Greens; Poets Seat Tower clean-up; The Valley Gardener; GGC Harvest Fair; Classics Day Pansies for sale; Garden planting at Great Falls Middle School. Lifetime memberships awarded to Agnes Zanieski, Eunice & John Polo, and Wanda Olchowski.

Workshops: Victorian Rose Pomander & herbal gifts; trellises I; topiary.
Gill Elementary first recipient of $250 Grant.

Officers 2016:

President:
Laura Schlaikjer 774-4594
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Vice President:
Dolly Gagnon 774-4031
Dolly.gagnon75@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Jean Wall 773-9069
jeanwall1313@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Linda Smith 772-0675
Lhsmith22@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary:
Deborah Loomer 863-9421
daloomer@yahoo.com

Winter In Bloom: An Invitation to the Club

We are warmly invited to participate in Winter in Bloom, a month of floral displays by professionals, individuals, and families at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. This event offers an escape from the cold weather with the rich colors and fragrances of floral arrangements, guest speakers, hands-on workshops, and activities geared to all ages.

This year's theme is The Gardens of Tower Hill, celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Worcester County Horticultural Society. Your arrangement should seek to represent one of Tower Hill's gardens: the Apple Orchard, Cottage Garden, Entry Garden, Field of Daffodils, Inner Park, Lawn Garden, Limonaia, Pliny's Allee, Moss Steps, Systematic Garden, Orangerie, Vegetable Garden, Secret Garden, Winter Garden, Wildlife Refuge Pond, Wildlife Garden, the Youth Garden, and the Court: the Garden Within Reach. For more information on our gardens, please visit www.towerhillbg.org/about-the-gardens/.

We have been invited to participate in the transformation of Tower Hill into a floral celebration of the history of the Worcester County Horticultural Society. The professionals' weekend is February 3 – February 5, the individuals' weekend is February 10 – February 12, the artists and makers' weekend is February 17 – February 19, and the families' weekend is February 24 – February 26. Please contact Kirsten Swartz, Special Events Coordinator, by **November 30, 2016** if you are interested in being a part of Winter in Bloom this year or have any questions.

Kirsten Swartz
Special Events Coordinator
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Dr.
PO Box 598
Boylston MA 01505
508-869-6111 x101
www.towerhillbg.org
(The club has a copy of the PDF packet if you are interested.
Email us at: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com))

Squirrels in the attic: Humane Eviction

Squirrels in the attic are a very common problem. Damage to attics as a result of squirrel habitation is very rare. Squirrels will often leave attics in the summer because the attic becomes too hot. You can wait until the hottest part of summer and then block the holes. This is the most humane solution.

NOTE: These techniques are appropriate for adult squirrels. If babies are involved, humane eviction should be delayed until the babies are old enough to leave the nest and survive on their own.

Check outside for any visible entrances, be aware that the holes may be smaller than you expect. Check the attic for light shining through from the outside, this may be an enrance. Common entrances are attic vents, in the crease of two adjoining roofs, and in soffit vents.

Block the entry hole: this is best done at mid-morning on a warm sunny day. Squirrels are usually out eating at this time. Check to make sure they are all out before starting. Use 1/4" or 1/2" hardware cloth, which is available at any hardware store. Cut the hardware cloth 2" bigger than the hole on all sides. Secure it with a staple gun, U nails or regular nails and re-enforce with sheet metal screws. Spray the area with *Ropel*®, a proven repellant available at garden, hardware, pet or feed stores. Or use *Tabasco sauce*® in a mixture of 1 tablespoon to 1 quart water.

If all of the holes are blocked and it appears that squirrels are blocked in, then live traps may be set in the attic. When the squirrels are caught, immediately **cover** the trap with a large towel to reduce stress. Then, take the trap outside and release it as close to the site where they were live-trapped. Improper relocation to other areas or other habitats usually results in death for the relocated squirrel. Be sure to use a repellant around the holes that have been blocked.

www.urbanwildliferescue.org/humansquirrels.htm

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of November 28, 2016 ..$6,670.00

Income $240.00
Bus Tour tickets sold

Expenses $329.22
Newsletter; Programs; NYC Tour
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.