Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

December 2021 Vol. 29, No. 11

Be You All of Good Cheer! Come and Make Merry!

Friday, December 10th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

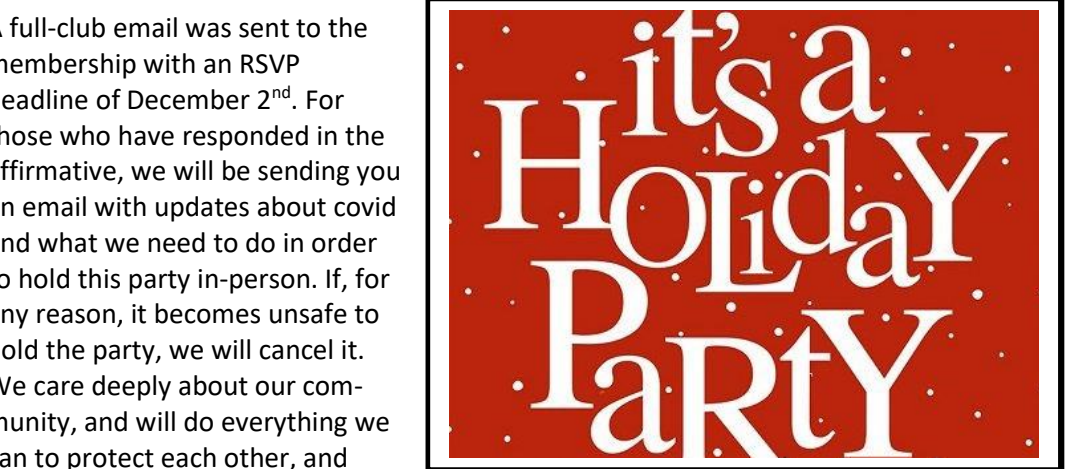
Please carpool, and park in the oval in front of the house. The first car in should pull all the way around, and others should follow suit.

GGC Annual Holiday Party

Hosts: Linda and Harlan Smith

788 Bernardston Rd, Greenfield, MA

A full-club email was sent to the membership with an RSVP deadline of December 2nd. For those who have responded in the affirmative, we will be sending you an email with updates about covid and what we need to do in order to hold this party in-person. If, for any reason, it becomes unsafe to hold the party, we will cancel it. We care deeply about our community, and will do everything we can to protect each other, and lessen the risk involved in meeting. We look forward to seeing you in-person - if at all possible!



Please bring a plate of cookies or other single-serve sweet to share. (Single-serve snacks = covid-healthy.) The club will provide savory snacks as well as both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Please let the club know if you have a food allergy. greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

If you would like to participate in the **Yankee Swap**, please bring a wrapped gift in the $15 to $20 range. A good place to look for unusual gifts is Innovintage Place on Hope Street in Greenfield. They are open Thursday – Sunday, 10-4. Agway is a good place to find garden-inspired gifts. We hope to steer away from generic Yankee candles and amaryllis bulbs. Think outside the box!!

December President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

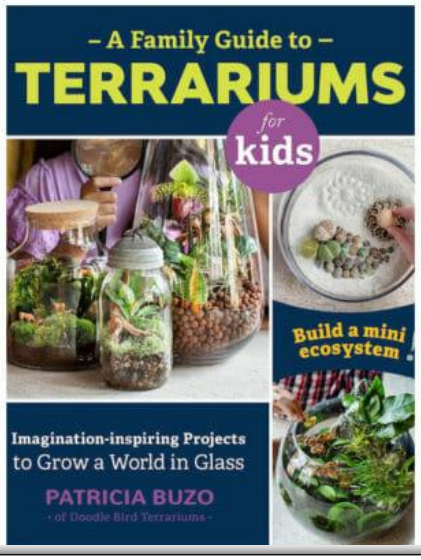
Hello fellow GGC members! Another season has arrived, and with it some pretty cold weather. I hope your woodpiles are large and your sweaters are warm! Pretty soon the bears should be hibernating and you can safely feed the birds in clean feeders. Christmas trees are in high demand, and festive winter lights appeared well before Thanksgiving. Hopefully your garden tools have all been cleaned, oiled, sharpened and stored for the winter. Seed catalogues will soon be, or already are, in the mail. A season of winter slumber and dreaming is upon us. I hope you will take advantage of all the season offers - movies, poetry, cooking, walks, and family time, as well as craft fairs and holiday pop-up shops to tempt you. Please buy local to support our friends and neighbors. We are hoping to hold in-person events for the holiday party and the annual meeting, but cannot make any guarantees. Until we meet again in the flesh, I am wishing all of you the very best of holidays and a Happy New Year! ~ *Laura*

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10, Friday 6:00-8:00pm – Holiday Party
December 30, Thursday, 5:00 PM – Steering Committee Meeting

"From December to March there are for many of us three gardens - the gardens outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."
~ Katherine S. White

Looking to make a homemade gift or unusual centerpiece for the holidays? How about a terrarium? Margaret Roach's recent podcast discusses this with author Patricia Buzo. There are some great ideas here, especially finding interesting and unusual glass or other containers to use. There are traditional and non-traditional terrariums to explore. You can either read the transcript, or listen to the podcast here: https://awaytogarden.com/d-i-y-terrariums-as-gifts-or-centerpieces-with-patricia-buzo/



Seeds of Solidarity video on No-Till Gardening. Pull up a chair and get ready to dream about worm sex and good food grown easily in your own gardens!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SE8RjyTq3A

Is this the year you want to make raised beds? Peruse this free booklet from Seeds of Solidarity on how to make wooden ones, and design them for optimal production:
https://seedsofsolidarity.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/creating-raised-bed-gardens.pdf

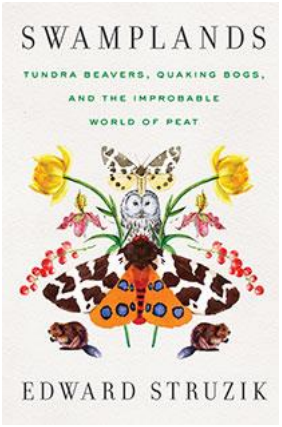
The GGC Annual Meeting
Spring 2022

We need your input! We still have a deposit at the Whately Inn, and we are hoping we can finally meet in person. Should we aim for January, February, or March? When we contacted our previously-scheduled speaker, Jack Manix from Walker Farm, he said that although he and his wife, Karen are fully vaccinated and 'boostered,' they are not willing to meet in-person this coming January. (Later in the spring is not usually feasible for them since the greenhouses are ramping up.) We could probably run another zoom meeting and he could be our featured speaker with his PowerPoint presentation. Or, we could save him for the following spring, and look for another speaker who was willing to meet in-person this coming Jan/Feb/March. If covid was on a gradual decline, we could make this decision more easily. As it now stands, with more cases locally with Delta, and the Omicron variant about to burst on the scene, there's no telling what spring might look like. Please take the time to tell the club what your hopes and fears are, so that we can try to make plans. Thank you for your time and interest!

Officers 2021:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website:
Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President:
Marsha Stone
Treasurer:
Joanne Burns
Recording Secretary:
Annette Kilminster
Corresponding Secretary:
Eva Carrier
At Large Members:
Nicki Shipman

Photos from the very successful wreath-making event this past November at Chapley Gardens. We were able to spread out and make our wreaths and kissing balls with ease, and snack on fruit, crackers, cheese, cookies and cider. Thank you, Stacey!!!



In a world filled with breathtaking beauty, we have often overlooked the elusive charm and magic of certain landscapes. A cloudy river flows into a verdant Arctic wetland where sandhill cranes and muskoxen dwell. Further south, cypress branches hang low over dismal swamps. Places like these–collectively known as swamplands or peatlands–often go unnoticed for their ecological splendor. They are as globally significant as rainforests, and function as critical carbon sinks for addressing our climate crisis. Yet, because of their reputation as wastelands, they are being systematically drained and degraded to make way for oilsands, mines, farms, and electricity.

In *Swamplands*, journalist Edward Struzik celebrates these wild places, venturing into windswept bogs in Kauai and the last remnants of an ancient peatland in the Mojave Desert. The secrets of the swamp aren't for the faint of heart. Ed loses a shoe to an Arctic wolf and finds himself ankle-deep in water during a lightning storm. But, the rewards are sweeter for the struggle: an enchanting Calypso orchid; an elusive yellow moth thought to be extinct; ancient animals preserved in lifelike condition down to the fur.

Swamplands highlights the unappreciated struggle being waged to save peatlands by scientists, conservationists, and landowners around the world. An ode to peaty landscapes in all their offbeat glory, the book is also a demand for awareness of the myriad threats they face. It urges us to see the beauty and importance in these least likely of places. Our planet's survival might depend on it. *(Island Press*)

Looking for Some Houseplant Assistance/Advice!

Stephen Broll, located in Wendell, is looking for someone to help him with his wife's houseplants. Dvora Cohen, his wife, passed away last January. Stephen has managed to keep her houseplants alive by a combination of luck and YouTube. Dvora was passionate about gardening, saving seeds & teaching workshops on seed-saving, canning and freezing vegetables from her homestead garden, selling herbs and perennials at local farmers markets, and creating cottage gardens around the Pioneer Valley with Nina Newington. Stephen is now at the point where he needs the help of an experienced houseplant person to go through them one by one and determine if they need more soil, or need to be divided or trimmed. He would happily pay for the help. He gives as references to his good name Sara-Evelyn from Broadfork Permaculture and Heather Wight, both of whom have been helping him with Dvora's extensive outdoor gardens. Evelyn MacDougall has known Stephen for 30+ years. Stephen is fully vaccinated and boostered, and thanks the club in advance for any help they can offer. Please email the club for Stephen's phone number and/or email. greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com *(See page 5 for a partial list of his houseplants.)*

GGC MEMBERSHIP: Please keep your club membership current by sending in your dues. $20 per person, or $25 per household. Remember, memberships make a nice gift for the gardener in your life! Please make checks payable to: Greenfield Garden Club; and send them to the club treasurer, Joanne Burns, at 14 Freeman St, Greenfield, MA 01301. Thank you for your continuing support!

EXTRAVAGANZA & GARDEN TOUR

Thinking ahead to the Extravaganza (plant sale) in May, we are concerned about the arrival of the dreaded invasive jumping worms, which were described in more detail in last May's newsletter (a copy can be found on our website). The Amherst Garden Club did not hold their plant sale last year due to the worms, and we do not think it is wise to provide a possible avenue of worm-spread even if we think our soils are clean. Making sure the plants are "safe" would mean taking all soil off their roots, washing them thoroughly, and re-potting in a sterile potting mix. That would be a monumental task for the membership.

What can we do instead? We are looking for ideas. Should we just have houseplants? Should we add more tag sale items? Should we scrap the sale and have a popular speaker come and we sell tickets? What other ideas do you have? We want to hear them! No idea is too small (or large!) Please shoot us an email with your suggestions.

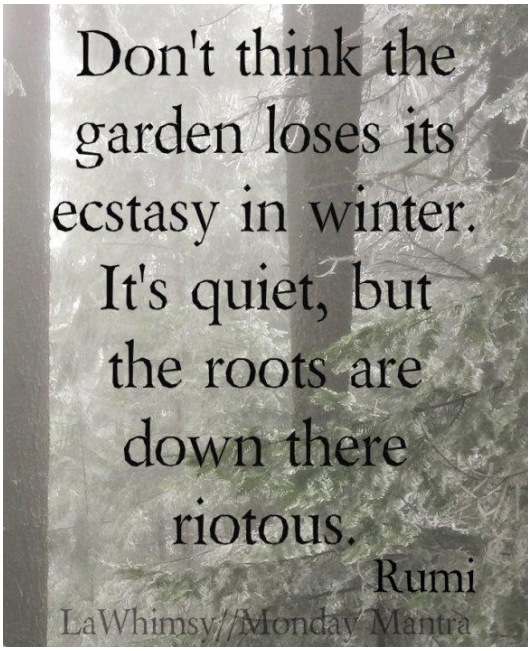
Norm Hirshfeld has agreed to head up the Garden Tour for July 9/10, 2022. He needs a small team to help him. There are tasks like contacting potential garden owners and keeping in touch via email, planning the route and putting up the daisies, making the ticket/map, and planning refreshments and other small details. Please put your name in the hat to help Norm and the Club.

All funds raised go towards the Grants next Spring, and donations we make to other groups and organizations each year.

A partial list of houseplants that Stephen Broll has that need some attention from a houseplant aficionado *(from page 4)*:

Geraniums	Corn Plant
Wood Sorrel	False African Violet
Begonias	Snake plants
Philodendron	Mistletoe cactus
Climbing onion	Norfolk Island Pine
Pig's ear	Pony Tail Palm
Night Blooming Cereus	Scarlet Sage
Zebra Haworthia	Corn plant

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



"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.

'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."

- Oliver Herford, *I Heard a Bird Sing*

Dec. Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Oct 15, 2021 ..... $8,599.82

Income $20.22
Interest $0.22; Membership $20
Expenses $210.09
Oktoberfest beverages and finger food
Balance as of Nov 15, 2021 ..... $8,599.82

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 29th
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