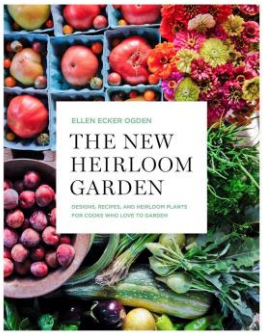
Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

January 2021 **Vol. 29, No. 1**

January and New Beginnings

May the New Year bring us health & happiness, and seed packets and canning jars in abundance!!

Ellen Ecker Ogden has a new book coming out on February 2nd. I am sure local booksellers would appreciate it if you ordered it through them! Ellen says: *"An heirloom garden is an opportunity to plant a piece of history that provides a deeper connection to the food you eat, the people you love, and the landscape that surrounds your home."* Autographed copies are available on her website, where you can also find her many workshops, books, and gardening advice, including her six steps to successful garden design. Would you like to see us engage Ellen as a speaker in the future? Be sure to let us know so we can plan ahead. [*Spring 2021 is virtual and at reduced rates ($350 vs $750)]*



January President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

This missive comes to you halfway through the month, since recent events from Washington, DC succeeded in driving all thoughts of gardening straight to the back burner! Now I find that working on it puts me back in a better frame of mind, especially combined with watching the birds at the feeder just outside my window. I have to take the feeders in each night due to what I thought might be a fisher cat or a raccoon raid – hopefully the bears are still sleeping! We are gearing up for our first ever Annual Meeting by Zoom! Save the date – Sunday, Feb 7th – and see the article on the next page. I hope many of you will join us from the warmth and comfort of your own homes. It will be BYOB! My Christmas tree will finally come down tomorrow, and I wish I knew of some local goats who might want to eat it. Apparently, they love the needles which are full of vitamin C. Please stay warm and healthy! Looking forward to seeing you on 2/7!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7: 2:00 pm – **ANNUAL MEETING via ZOOM**

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.

~ Thomas Jefferson

SAVE THE DATE! GGC ANNUAL MEETING

~ Via Zoom ~

Sunday, February 7, 2021

2:00PM – 3:30PM

Featured Slide-Show: Jean-Claude Lejeune

Pull up a comfy chair, and set yourself up with a hot drink and some snacks. We will go over the previous year, and read and vote to accept the annual reports. If you read them ahead of time, this part won't take very long! We will also vote on a slate of officers to take us through 2021. We may also have some activities to do to keep us engaged. Jean-Claude Lejeune has agreed to take us on a photographic spin through his incredible archives, which will be a nice way to end the meeting. Look for your invitation with reports and zoom link by email.

Club Officers Needed

All offices are open: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and 2 members at large. We welcome new faces. Please email the club if you are interested or would like to learn more. Please don't be shy!

Joanne Burns has expressed her desire to pass the **Treasurer's** position on to a new person. If someone would volunteer to step up, she/we would be grateful! We have a lot of fun at our steering committee meetings – even the virtual ones! We will start planning the 2021 season at our next, as yet unscheduled, meeting.

~ In Memorium ~

The Garden Club lost long-time member **Agnes Zaniewski** (1919-2020) of Greenfield on December 23rd. She was 101 years young! Her obituary mentions her love of gardening, and that she was an active member and volunteer of the garden club for many years. https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/recorder/obituary.aspx?n=agnes-m-zaniewski&pid=197377241&fhid=15514) She had a wonderful perennial garden. From spring to frost, there was always a flower in blossom. Linda Tyler remembers that her primroses were famous! Agnes enjoyed many hours sitting under the cherry tree, looking at the new garden blossoms and watching the world go by. Patricia Judice sent a memorial card saying she met her 30 years ago when she joined GGC!

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!)

How to Pot and Care for an Amaryllis Bulb

MGODFREY UPDATED: DEC 22, 2020 ORIGINAL: DEC 10, 2009 **HORTICULTURE MAGAZINE**

When it comes to indoor winter bloom, few plants can equal amaryllis bulbs for the splash of color they produce, or their ease of care. Here's how to get the most from your amaryllis this winter and beyond.

Pot the bulb in a light, humus-rich potting mix in a pot about two inches wider than the diameter of the bulb. Be careful not to bury the "neck"; the top third of the bulb should remain above the potting medium. Keep the mix barely moist, adding water only when the top inch or so is dry, and keep the pot in a space where the temperature won't fall much below 65 degrees (F). Sprouting can take anywhere from a couple of weeks to two months, but warmth can help speed the process. Once the bulb sprouts, move it to a sunny spot and water it more frequently as it grows and flowers.

Interestingly, the standard technique of allowing the bulb to grow on through the summer and then drying it off until winter does not usually produce the best floral display. Much better results can be obtained by repotting the bulb as the roots grow and keeping the plant in active growth for as long as possible. Here's how:

After flowering stops, transfer the bulb to a pot four inches wider than the diameter of the bulb. Feed it every two weeks with a liquid fertilizer at one-half the recommended strength. When the new pot is filled with roots, move the bulb to a container at least 11 to 12 inches in diameter.

As soon as the weather has warmed, with night temperatures remaining above 60, set the pot outside in full sun for the summer. Never allow the soil to dry out, and continue fertilizing it until the middle or end of August. The plant may be left outside until frost threatens; at that point, move them to a sunny window. By this point, it will probably look a bit tattered, and the leaves may die off by late December. Nevertheless, do not allow it to dry out. In late January the flower spikes will begin to appear. Remember: for the bulb to produce multiple flower stalks, it must be encouraged to produce as many leaves as possible. In order to put on a spectacular display, the bulb must produce an abundance of food—a process that requires full sun, regular feeding, ample root room and adequate moisture.

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For a great video about growing amaryllis, see Garden Answer (all of her videos are very informative – become a subscriber on YouTube!): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAFT6br2q8w

More info about amaryllis from University of MN Extension:
https://extension.umn.edu/houseplants/amaryllis

Protect Trees and Shrubs in Winter

MEGHAN SHINN UPDATED: DEC 22, 2020 ORIGINAL: DEC 6, 2011 **HORTCULTURE MAGAZINE**

Here's a rundown of winter-related injuries for trees and shrubs; the kinds most susceptible to each type of damage; and how to prevent these problems. Make notes for next winter!

SUNSCALD: Dead, sunken, dried or cracked strips of bark, usually on the south or west side of a tree. This occurs when the sun warms the bark enough during the day to trigger cambial activity. When the sun goes down and temperatures plummet, the cambium dies.

What's susceptible: Young, newly planted trees. Thin-barked trees, including mountain ash, maples, crabapples, plums and cherries. Trees that have been recently trimmed, resulting in new sections of the trunk being exposed to the sun. Trees that receive much sun during winter days, especially those sited near a paved surface that will reflect additional sun onto them.

Prevention: Wrap the trunk with a tree wrap made of light-colored material. This will reflect the sun and prevent the cambium from warming up. Be sure to remove it in early spring; otherwise fungal and insect problems can occur, in some cases enough to kill the tree.

ANIMAL DAMAGE: Bark and stems chewed by mice and other rodents, rabbits and deer.

Susceptible plants: Deciduous woody plants. Evergreen foliage. Many plants may be labeled as resistant to animal damage, but appetites vary by region and extent of hunger.

Prevention: Surround trees and shrubs with tree guards, tree wrap or hardware cloth to prevent nibbling and damage caused by deer rubbing their antlers on the tree. Secure the wrap several inches below the ground to deter mice. For rabbits, the wrap should reach about two feet above the typical snow depth. Fencing and repellent sprays can also be effective against chewing animals. If you use a tree wrap, be sure to remove it in early spring.

SNOW AND ICE DAMAGE: Branches snapped by the weight of ice or snow.

Susceptible plants: New, young plantings. Trees and shrubs that have not been pruned. Delicate shrubs under the eaves of the house or alongside pathways, driveways and the street.

WINTER BURN: The drying and browning of evergreen foliage. Winter burn is caused when the plant loses too much water through its foliage, which cannot be replaced via the roots because the soil is frozen.

What's susceptible: All evergreens, but yews, arborvitae and hemlocks in particular. Evergreens sited on a southern or western exposure, where they get a lot of sun, are also most susceptible, as well as those sited where they are hit by harsh winter winds. Sun and wind dry the foliage.

Prevention: Plant evergreens where they won't be exposed to winter sun and wind. Keep watering evergreens, new or established, right up until the ground freezes. Protect existing plantings from sun and wind by wrapping them in burlap or erecting a burlap fence to shield them. Or protect them by planting a windbreak of more rugged trees and shrubs.

Prevention: When pruning, remove weak branches, crossing branches and branches that are tightly angled against the trunk or another branch. Avoid planting delicate shrubs under eaves where snow can slide off onto them (or must be raked off), or alongside paths and drives where snow will be shoveled or plowed on top of them. Protect existing plantings in these spots by building an A-frame over them for the winter. Avoid dumping snow on shrubs when moving snow.

GGC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021: We have made it through another year, and are looking forward to a new year with as many garden-related programs as we can muster! Please keep your club membership current by sending in your dues. $20 per person, or $25 per household. Please make checks payable to Grenfield Garden Club, and send them to the treasurer, Joanne Burns, at 14 Freeman St, Greenfield, MA 01301. Thank you!!

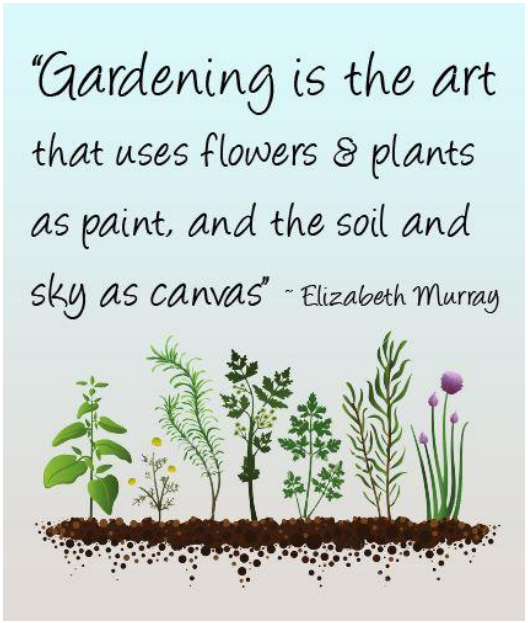
CRAFT CORNER: TURN OLD CALENDARS, CATALOGUES, ETC. INTO CARDS AND ENVELOPES - EVEN SEED PACKETS!

Find a template online that you like and trace it onto your calendar or other paper. You can also take apart an envelope you have/like and use it as a template. Cut out the envelope from the calendar. If you prefer not to see the dates when the envelope is opened, use a piece of plain paper cut slightly smaller than the envelope and glue it in with a glue stick. (Remember that the heavier the paper, the more you may have to pay in postage.)

Fold/crease the bottom and the sides, and glue-stick the over-lapping areas, pressing firmly. Let dry. Fold down the top and store folded until ready to use. Use a white address sticker if your design makes it too busy to be read by the US Postal Service.

You can also make cards to go into your new envelopes. You will need to line these to hide the printing on the reverse side.

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



2021 PLANT OF THE YEAR: CALAMINT

Lesser calamint (Calamontha nepeta subsp. Nepeta) is 2021's Perennial Plant of the Year, an award bestowed by the Perennial Plant Assoc. This adaptable, long-blooming plant is hailed as a compact alternative to catmint (Nepeta). It is friendly to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, all of which feed at its profuse, white summer-frost flowers. It is a low, bushy (12" tall/16" wide) perennial. Full sun. Nice in groupings as an edging plant for the flower border.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of November 15, 2020 ..$7,834.11

Income .....$.20
Interest $0.20
Expenses $160.93
Holiday cards/misc.: $51.54; stamps: $33 Staples printing holiday cards: $76.39
Balance as of December 15, 2020...$7,673.38

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

February NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Saturday, January 30th
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

WMMGA is offering a four-part webinar series: To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow.

We hope this new line-up of classes will inspire you as you plan your 2021 gardens! Moving to an online platform will allow us to continue offering educational events in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings of large groups. These interactive classes, via our GoToWebinar page, will cover vegetable garden seed selection; composting; insect identification and control; and garden design using native plants to better support pollinators.

Cost is $35.00 for the ENTIRE series. Attending these online classes "live" will allow registrants to ask questions of the speakers. If you can't "attend" any class when it's being presented live, **recordings of all of webinars will be available to paid participants through June, 2021.**

2021 Gardening Webinar Series Schedule

January 16th: *A Pathway from Seed to Garden: Getting Ready for Spring Planting*

- **Presenter: Ron Kujawski**
- A successful vegetable garden depends on many factors and many steps. Ron will take you through the first crucial steps, including: tips for seed selection, jargon used in catalogs to describe seeds, starting seeds indoors, garden soil preparation, and direct seeding and transplanting.

January 23rd: *Composting for Sustainability - What It Is, What It's Good For and How to Make It*

- **Presenter: George Kingston**
- Compost is a natural fertilizer produced by recycling food and plant waste. When you compost instead of discarding, you reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce your reliance on artificial fertilizers. Learn how to make compost in many different ways that fit everything from an apartment to a farm, and how to use what you make.

January 30th: *Squish This, Not That! A Fun Bug Guide*

- **Presenter: Ken Conway**
- A practical and fun guide to bugs to make sure that you don't squish the good guys. Ken will go over some common insects that are accidentally killed because they "look" bad; fun ways to attract predators to eat the “bad” bugs, with ways to attract "good" bugs; and some non-toxic methods to control insects using organic and natural sprays. Take a look at the vast diversity of insects that are commonly found in the garden if you look closely enough. Learn some common stages of insect development, since many insects look quite different at different stages! You will come away with a better understanding of the little buggers.

February 6th: *Designing With Native Plants to Attract & Support Pollinators*

- **Presenter: Larri Cochran**
- Whether you are creating a new garden, or updating an existing one, learn how to add native plants to all your settings! Native plants play critical roles as host plants for butter-flies as well as vital food sources for endangered bees. We'll discuss garden design basics, plant selection & habitat requirements, and bloom cycles for two dozen native plants to ensure your gardens flower from early Spring to late Fall.

Registration Information

- Attendees will need a reliable Internet connection and a device to connect to GoToWebinar such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone.
- The link you receive to GoToWebinar in your confirmation email is for your registration only, and only for your device. It can't be shared.
- You will receive email reminders before each event.
- **Click here to register using CREDIT CARD or PayPal only.**
- **Click here for a mail-in form to pay by CHECK.**

Please note that the registration fee is non-refundable. If you have questions, please contact the Gardening Webinar Series Registrar, **Cindy Sanford,** at **cindyagawam@comcast.net.**

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