Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

July 2017 Vol. 25, No. 5

July Visit to Pat Leuchtman's New Gardens

Roses in the South Border and the Hugelkultur and Dry Stream Bed

July is more than here, and with it comes the much anticipated visit to Pat Leuchtman's new gardens. In May of 2015, when Pat and Henry bought their Greenfield house, the landscaping consisted of 4 shrubs in front of the porch, and a dozen astilbe plants set here and there in a field of grass. The efforts to manage flooding, and create low maintenance, pollinator-friendly gardens is ongoing, but the strategy is pretty clear. The Hugel and the dry stream bed are experiments in flood control. Once again, they have low maintenance roses. If anyone follows her blog Commonweeder, you will have been following her journey to this point in time over the last few years. If it's very wet before our visit, be sure to wear boots, since her yard can at times look like a small pond! The Northfield Garden Clun will be joining us at 6pm at 36 Beech St, Greenfield for a lovely evening together, Bring a plate of cookies to share. The club will supply lemonade. Fingers crossed for balmy weather.

President's Report for July

We had a fabulous day for the bus trip into the Bronx to see the Chihuly exhibit on June 24th. The drippy morning turned just fine right before we got there, and the grounds were not very crowded. We will definitely plan another trip in the future. Our driver from Travel Kuz was exceptional and we commend him for his driving skill. Were would you like to go next? The HudsonValley might be a nice day trip… The exhibit will be there into the fall, so do yourself a favor and check it out if you could not make our trip. Another great garden to visit in NYC is the High Line, and July is a great time to see it. We are heading into that time of year when we need to start thinking about out next fair booth display. Let us know if you saw something fun or unique and you think we should try it. We're open to ideas! We're off in August as far as meetings go, so we wish you a happy summer!

When to Harvest Garlic

Are you looking at your garlic and wondering when to dig it up? I am! I cut the scapes off a few weeks ago to direct the plant's energy into the bulb. Most "experts" say to harvest garlic when several of the lower leaves go brown, but five or six up top are still green. Depending on the weather, this typically happens here in late July. In the curing process, which can take anywhere from 3 to 8 weeks, garlic should be moved out of direct sunlight immediately once you dig it up (dig, do not pull it by the stem!).Move it to a garage, porch or shed where the air circulation is good, keeping each head and stalk intact. Only remove the stalk when the plants are completely dry, and brush off any remaining soil, trimming the roots close to the bulb base.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, July 8: 9am - 4 pm – Daylily Festival, 23 Pickett Ln Gnfld

Thursday, July 13: 6pm Steering Committee mtg – 40 High St Gnfld

Thursday, July 20: 6 pm – visit the new gardens of Pat Leuchtman, 36 Beech St Greenfield

Remember – there is no monthly no meeting in August – it's vacation time!

Chihuly at NYBG

The Franklin-Hampshire Beekeeper's Association instituted the Bee Spaces Award this year, to be given out to exceptional pollinator gardens in several categories. This year's awards were presented to Erving Elementary School for its pollinator garden, Laughing Dog Farm in Gill, the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, and UMass for its two pollinator gardens. We are especially pleased to see Erving Elementary School as an award-winner, since the club supports them through our grant program. The goals of the award and the festival include calling attention to pollinator's needs and encouraging homeowners, farms, businesses and schools in the region to create more pollinator gardens to support healthy bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Pollinator Partnership, 4,000 native bee species in the U.S. pollinate about 75 percent of fruit, nuts, and vegetables. Former governor Deval Patrick, a beekeeper himself, was on hand at the June festival to give out the first annual Langstroth Bee Spaces Award, sponsored by the Franklin-Hampshire Beekeeper's Association and the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield. The church was once home to the "father of American beekeeping," the Rev. Lorenzo L. Lamgstroth, sixth pastor of the church.

TRAP PLAIN PART III

There were 3 people helping Richard Willard at our June Trap Plain work bee. That's an improvement! We'd still like at least 6 people at the June work bee in order to keep Richard's help and guidance.

This next work party will take place on **Tuesday, July 25th at 6 pm.** (Rain date – or it just rained and the soil is too wet to work – will be Wednesday July 26th) Please bring gloves, trowels and your favorite gardening shovel. Richard will provide the screen for sifting, and direction for the group (is that a plant or a weed?!) We will continue to dig up the current plants, pick their roots free of weeds, sift out the weed roots from the garden beds, and then replant them.

Officers 2017:

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In Memoriam

Greenfield- Dolores "Dolly" A. Gagnon, 80, of Briar Way died Saturday 7/1/17 at the Center for Extended Care in Amherst after a short and sudden illness. She was born in Jersey City, NJ on July 5, 1936, the daughter of Lee and Bernadine (Suprenant) Gagnon. Dolly attended local schools in Greenfield and was a graduate of Greenfield High School Class of 1954.

Dolly was employed at The Recorder for over sixty years. She started as a typesetter and worked her way up to writing and reporting columns including "Talk of the Towns", a compilation of activities and services in Greenfield and its surrounding towns, and documenting the births and obituaries.

Dolly was a member of Holy Trinity Parish, the Greenfield Garden Club, and the YMCA. Dolly was an avid doll collector and enjoyed walking (included doing 5K's), baking, gardening, the Red Sox, the New England Patriots, and UMass sports of any kind. Dolly was devoted to her friends, family, her Greenfield Recorder family and her sister's dog Reggie.

Among her survivors, Dolly leaves two sisters, Judy Gagnon of Greenfield and Janet Perry and her husband James of Pennsylvania; two nephews, Michael Perry of West Des Moines, Iowa, and Mark Perry and his wife Merry of Quincy, MA; and many cousins. She was predeceased by her brother Raymond.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held Saturday 7/15 at 10am at Holy Trinity Church, 133 Main Street, Greenfield. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Greenfield.

There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 59 Bobala Road, Holyoke, MA 01040; Attn: Relay for Life of Franklin County, Team "Wishing Wiles You Work."

Arrangements are under the direction of the Kostanski Funeral Home. Sympathy message available at www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.

See the great article about Dolly in the July 8th issue of The Recorder newspaper.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 1, 2017 .....$6,177.72

Income $1,299.93
New York Bus Trip, Dues, Interest, Extravaganza,

Expenses $3,665.18
Extravaganza, New York Bus trip, Energy Park
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
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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.