Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

July 2021 Vol. 29, No. 7

Bug Hill Farm Private Tour & Tasting: 7/15 @ 5 PM

We are looking forward to meeting Sam and Charlotte of Bug Hill Farm this Thursday. We will start with a tour of the farm, walking through the various berry fields (currants, blueberries, etc.) while Sam will talk a bit about their organic and regenerative agricultural practices. Then we will take a quick look at their small commercial kitchen & store and gather on the back patio for a tasting of their fruit shrubs, black currant cordial and conserves - all of which are available in the store for purchase. After the official visit, we could walk down to the 3- acre beaver pond (about a 10-minute flat stroll), or, if anyone is interested, they are welcome to stay and pick some black currants. They have half pint containers for $3. Please RSVP to greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com, and consider joining the carpool as parking is limited.

July President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Hello GGC members! July is here and we've already celebrated the 4th with fireworks and our main event is coming up this week. (My 50-hour work-weeks are putting a dent in my extra-curricular activities, like writing the newsletter!) We hope you will find articles of interest in this edition, although I do apologize for putting a delicious recipe on the same page with an article on a new book about the dangers of glyphosate! That's not very appetizing! I am struggling this year with voles in the garden gnawing off cucumber plants, cole crops, and tomatoes. I am spending my time cutting up hardware cloth to make protective cages around individual plants. I have about 2 dozen eggplants and 80 tomatoes alone, so it's a lot of work! We have bought a new Havahart mouse/mole trap. So far, 1 mouse has been caught. Those voles are too smart for their furry paws. If you have any suggestions, I am all ears! The weather is also all over the place! Hot and dry has given way to very wet and muggy, and plants are getting mildew and looking bad or dying. It is a challenge this year to say the least! We have some volunteer opportunities in the brainstorm department – I hope you read on and will choose to volunteer! ~ *Laura*

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15: 5PM – Monthly meeting at Bug Hill Farm in Ashfield (see page 1)
July 17 – 10-3 – Northampton Garden Tour (see page 3)

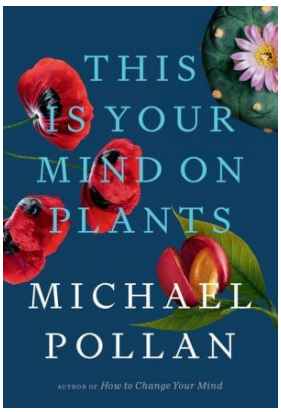
THE MORE ONE GARDENS, THE MORE ONE LEARNS; AND THE MORE ONE LEARNS, THE MORE ONE REALIZES HOW LITTLE ONE KNOWS. I SUPPOSE THE WHOLE OF LIFE IS LIKE THAT

~ VITA SACKVILLE WEST

FAIR BOOTH PLANNING MEETING

It's time to start thinking about the Franklin County Fair and our booth. The dates for this year are September 9-12. Booth set-up will be September 7 and 8. The theme for this year's fair is: "Franklin County Fair: It's the Bees Knees." As we will not have a monthly meeting in August, it would be good if a group of people could meet once or twice between now and September to plan the booth and send out a list of what we need. It has been suggested that we stick to the theme a bit and incorporate bees (and their knees?!) and focus on pollinator plants, especially native plants. We will need plants on loan, so please let us know what you have at home that would be fair-worthy. The judges are very strict on the quality of plant material in the booth, as we are judged on it. Many of you have helped us in the past to trim off dead and diseased parts of plants so only the best shines through.

Are you interested in brainstorming the layout and design? We are not experts, so please don't be shy. We need ideas of what to put on the "ground" and what to do to give vertical interest. One year it was a laundry line, another year it was a kite. What do you have laying around that we could borrow and build a design around? A length of fancy iron fencing? A bench? A door? An old farm implement? What could we do to make it interesting to children? Please email the club with your interest and let's select a time to meet – we can even zoom if that is easier for people. The sooner we get started, the easier the process will be!



Michael Pollan has a new book out, and if the title does not draw you in, then you were not around in the 60's! There is a great article on the book in the NY Times, as well as a wonderful YouTube video where Michael Pollan talks about his new book with Monty Don. Make sure you check out both the article and the video. Learning about the book will help you decide if you want to order it from your local bookseller or library and curl up with it in your summer reading spot.

Meet Your Neighbors
Greenfield Library
September 16, 2021

The Greenfield Garden Cub has been invited to be the focus of the September edition of the Greenfield Library's popular program, "Meet Your Neighbors," via zoom. We would like to encourage members of the club to come forward with ideas for a program that would work on the zoom platform that not only tells the story of the club and describes what we do, but is also entertaining and maybe even edu-cational. Would you like to help us plan this evening with our neighbors? Would you like to be part of the zoom call? Please let the club know as we need new ideas and new faces to help take the pressure off the steering committee. Of course the steering committee will be involved, but we welcome your ideas, comments, and support.

Greenfield PUBLIC LIBRARY

Officers 2021:

President/Newsletter/Website:
Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President:
Marsha Stone
Treasurer:
Joanne Burns
Recording Secretary:
Annette Kilminster
Corresponding Secretary:
Eva Carrier
At Large Members:
Nicki Shipman
(Looking for 2 volunteers)

Friends of Forbes Library INC.

Northampton Garden Tour 2021

Saturday July 17
10 am to 3 pm

TOUR WILL BE HELD
RAIN OR SHINE

Local covid prevention protocols
will be observed

Tour tickets are available
starting mid-June
at
Forbes Library
Cooper's Corner
State Street Fruit Store
Bay State Perennial Farm
Gardener's Supply at
Hadley Garden Center
Online at Forbes Library:
www.ForbesLibrary.org/Garden

$15 in advance, $20 day of tour

All proceeds go to Forbes Library
for books, equipment & programs.

Advance ticket sales: mid-June – July 15. $15 per person.

In-person pay and pick up at Forbes Library, Cooper's Corner, State Street Fruit Store, Bay State Perennial Farm and Gardener's Supply at Hadley Garden Center.

Online ticket purchase/reservation through above website. Then pick up your pre-paid tickets at Forbes Library ONLY on tour day, July 17th, 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Day of tour: Tickets may be purchased only at Forbes Library. Cost: $20/person.

Tickets include: A brochure with descriptions of gardens and driving directions for this self guided tour. Stick-on ticket badge to be worn as you visit gardens.
At the gardens: At each garden there are descriptions of plantings and volunteer garden guides to answer questions. Some gardens have musicians, a pleine aire painter and the opportunity to participate in our raffle.
Up to date local COVID prevention protocols will be observed. Check their website the week of the tour for more details.

Fresh Fruit CLAFOUTI à la **Martha Stewart** via **Margaret Roach**

Ingredients:
½ cup sugar (reserve 1 Tbsp. to dust baking dish)
¾ cup milk
¼ cup heavy cream
3 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Pinch of salt
2/3 cup all-purpose flour
Steps:
Preheat the oven to 350F.
In a blender, combine the ingredients, and blend on high for 1 minute, scraping the sides once midway.
Into a 9-inch glass pie dish or a fluted porcelain tart dish that has been buttered first and dusted with the reserved 1 Tablespoon of sugar, pour half the batter.
Arrange 3 cups of sliced fruit of your choice in the partly filled pan. Pour on the remaining batter and bake at 350F until the top puffs and starts to turn golden-brown, about 45-60 minutes.
Note: Everyone's clafoutis custard is a little different (just as is everyone's pancake batter or pie crust, though the basics are the same). Martha even has more than one on her website. For example, Mark Bittman recommends ½ cup sugar, 3 eggs, 1/3 cup all-purpose flour, ¾ cup heavy cream OR plain yogurt, 1 teaspoon of vanilla and a pinch of salt). You may like more fruit or more custard on balance. Experiment, and enjoy. Looking for a related recipe? Try the one offered by King Arthur Flour at this link.

Toxic Legacy: How the Weedkiller Glyphosate Is Destroying Our Health and the Environment

From an MIT scientist, mounting evidence that the active ingredient in the world's most commonly used weed killer is responsible for debilitating chronic diseases, including cancer, liver disease, and more. As Rachel Carson did with DDT in the 1960's, Stephanie Seneff sounds the alarm on glyphosate, giving you guidance on simple, powerful changes you can make right now and essential information you need to protect your health, your family's health, and the planet on which we all depend. (See her TedX talk here.)

Hardcover – 272 pages - $24.95 USD – Save 35% with Discount Code SEM20

Stephanie Seneff is a senior research scientist at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. She has a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in food and nutrition, and a master's degree, an engineer's degree, and a PhD in electrical engineering and computer science, all from MIT. For most of her career at MIT she was involved in the development of technology to support natural human-computer communication through spoken language. Since 2010, Dr. Seneff has shifted her research focus toward the effects of drugs, toxic chemicals, and diet on human health and disease, and she has written and spoken extensively, articulating her view on these subjects. She has authored over three dozen peer-reviewed journal papers on topics relating human disease to nutritional deficiencies and toxic exposures. She has focused specifically on the herbicide glyphosate and the mineral sulfur. Dr. Seneff splits her time between Hawaii and Massachusetts.

GGC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021 Please keep your club membership current by sending in your dues. $20 per person, or $25 per household. 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!

Western Mass Master Gardener Training New Class Applications Now Available

After skipping a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **we will be offering our next WMMGA Training Class beginning in March of 2022.**

The **2022 Training Class** will be a new, hybrid model of online and in-person training. This new model will make the training class more accessible to everyone - wherever you live in Western Mass and whatever your work or retirement schedule might be. All you need is a desire to learn & volunteer, a computer and internet connection.

Whether you're a homeowner, apartment/condo dweller, or work at a garden center & or nursery, completing the WMMGA Master Gardener training program will give you a set of skills to help you better understand the land, plants and insects around you. You'll learn about botany, entomology, plant identification, propagation and care. You'll learn about trees & shrubs and their importance to a diverse and healthy environment. You'll learn about the complex and miraculous soil that serves as a foundation for much of the life on the planet. You'll learn about pollinators and their critical roles in the life cycles of other insects, birds, wildlife and plants.

You'll be able to use your newfound knowledge as a base for learning more and for gardening more sustainably. Most importantly you'll share that knowledge as a volunteer on any of the 50+ gardening projects WMMGA manages throughout the four Western Massachusetts counties.

Please **click here to download** a **Class of 2022 FAQ Sheet** and **click here to download** a **Class of 2022 Application**.

We hope you'll join us and/or share this information with family & friends who might be interested in becoming a Master Gardener!

Watch the **WMMGA website** for a calendar of events, meet & greet gatherings and other opportunities to learn more about being a Master Gardener.

Contact JoAnne Palmer **(jogrenier@comcast.net)** if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you!

~ The WMMGA Board of Directors
Class of 2022 Training Committee

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

Gardens that opened in June for 2021

Bridge of Flowers, *Shelburne Falls, MA*
Perennial Pleasures Nursery, *E. Hardwick, VT*
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, *Woodstock, VT*
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, *Cornish, NH*
Governor John Langdon House, *Portsmouth, NH*
Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden, *Portsmouth, NH*
Hamilton House, *Berwick, ME*
Garland Farm, *Bar Harbor, ME*
The Blue Garden, *Newport, RI*
Roseland Cottage, *Woodstock, CT*

Note: Many gardens are open year-round. Please check their websites.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of May 14, 2021 ..... $8,409.32

Income $1,121.97
Dues: $100;Donation: $25 Interest $0.22; Extravaganza: $991.75
Expenses $540.00
Donation to Fnkln Cty Ag Soc Fairground embankment: $500; Extravaganza expenses: $40
Balance as of June 15, 2021 ..... $8,991.29

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

August NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Thursday, July 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