Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

June 2017 Vol. 25, No. 4

NYBG Chihuly Installation Bronx Blockbuster!

Dale Chihuly: Seattle-based Glass Pioneer

The Garden Club's trip to the 250-acre exhibit at the New York Botanical Gardens is just weeks away. There are, today (6/2), only 17 tickets left for the bus. If you have been meaning to sign up, now is the time! Invite family and friends! We are sure to have a great time, no matter the weather. Our trip includes the All-Garden Pass to the gardens, so we have unlimited access to the garden tram and all exhibit areas. First Choice Tours will be our bus provider for the day. Departure is from the South Deerfield Commuter Lot promptly at 7AM on Saturday, June 24th. The commuter lot is located at the junction of Routes 116 and Routes 5 & 10 in South Deerfield. You can enter it at the lights, or if you are driving south down 5 & 10, you can take a right for the gas station/convenience store just after the Red Roof Inn and take a left for the commuter lot. There are only 25 spaces in this lot, but there are more spaces across the street where Final Markdown was located - just be careful crossing 5 & 10. If you can carpool to the commuter lot, so much the better! You are welcome to pack a lunch or purchase one at the gardens. You have a choice of 4 restaurants, a burger truck and a taco truck! It might be a good idea to browse the NYBG website prior to departure to learn the do's and don'ts about visiting the gardens. You might want to leave room in your backpack for impulse purchases at the NYBG Shop! This is a rain or shine trip, so please dress accordingly. Comfortable shoes are highly recommended as all 250 acres are open to visitors. Download the NYBG App before leaving for a personal garden guide!

President's Report for June *

We have successfully made it through another Extravaganza and can rest on our laurels. (Better yet – let's take a bus trip!) Letters and posters arrive frequently from grant recipients thanking us for the financial help, and showing us in words, photos and drawings how much they appreciate the club and our grant program, A recent hand-made poster just arrived from Erving ES – you can see a photo of it on our Facebook page. I have just downloaded my App for the NY Botanical Garden – they also have an interactive Chihuly guide that I will bring up once we have arrived. Make sure you have a friend with a smartphone! Our bus trip is a great deal – regular weekend adult admission is $28, parking is $15, and that means $31 is for the bus. What a bonus that we don't have to drive! I look forward to welcoming all of you on this exciting trip. Put June 24th on your calendar today. All aboard!

Things to Do in a June Garden

It may be June, but it feels a lot like May - still on the cold side, and rainy! One garden chore calls for pruning out spent blossoms on your lilacs. Prune for shape too – all before this time next month when buds might be setting for next spring. Time to pot up some annuals for summer color. Add a big pot of herbs near the kitchen door so you can quickly use them for a meal. Chives, cilantro, basil, nasturtiums, dill, oregano – well, you might need a bigger pot! Bring the houseplants out into filtered bright light and feed them! Weed and edge those flower and veggie beds to keep it neat and tidy. Prune out dead wood, suckers, and water-sprouts on trees and shrubs. Let short grass clippings feed your lawn. Nix the volcano mulching technique around trees. Set up the hammock and make lemonade!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Tuesday, June 13: 6 pm – Trap Plain work party. Rain date: Wed 6/14

Saturday, June 24: 7 am – 8:30pm; NYBG Bus Trip

Sat/Sun June 24/25: Lavender Festival; Johnson Hill Farm

Thursday, July 13: 6 pm - Steering Committee Mtg - 40 High St, Greenfield

Thursday, July 20: 6 pm – visit the new gardens of Pat Leuchtman

EXTRAVAGANZA Report for 2017: We were blessed with a fine day for the Extravaganza – a sunny day sandwiched between the rainy days! The drawing earned $64; the tag sale $127.50; the plant sale $1,847.75; we also signed up a new member for $18 for a grand total of $2,057.25. We spent $363 for plants from Spatcher Farms, $102 for 2 Recorder mini-ads, $100 for the use of St. James/St. Andrews (we had the inside reserved as well), $287.94 for the two beautiful new banners, and $465 for the pollinator plants from Prairie Moon. After deductions, we made just about $1000. We received many plant donations from the Amherst, Sunderland, and Sts James/Andrews plant sales. We need more donations from members! The tag sale had fewer donations, but what was there was quality and mostly sold. We'll do it one more year. The drawing, however, does not sell enough tickets, so we are either going to discontinue it, or just have 1 item. This was our third year with vendors. It appears they did better than in the previous 2 years. On the whole we did as well as previous years – we just need to streamline and reduce the workload on our volunteers! A huge thank you goes out to all who contributed in any way to this success!

Tom Mann of Bernardston has generously donated a lovely **Antique Victorian Bike Plant Stand** to the club. Its basket is full of gift certificates and it will be used as a drawing to take the place of the garden tour as the second Fundraiser for 2017. The drawing will take place at the conclusion of the Franklin County Fair. We hope to have the bike on display at various town events in order to sell tickets, which will be $1 each. To receive a color photo, a list of gift certificate donors, and tickets to sell, please email: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.

TRAP PLAIN PART II

There were 2 people helping Richard Willard at our May Trap Plain work bee. We need to have at least 6 people at the June work bee in order to keep Richard's help and guidance.

This second work party will take place on **Tuesday, June 13th at 6 pm.** (Rain date – or it just rained and the soil is too wet to work – will be Wednesday June 14th) 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. We got a good chunk done last time. If we had more helpers, we could complete the renovation in less time. Many hands make light work – please set aside this date and volunteer! We may even decide to go out for ice cream when we are done!

Officers 2017:

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In Praise of the Earth

Let us bless
The imagination of the Earth.
That knew early the patience
To harness the mind of time,
Waited for the seas to warm,
Ready to welcome the emergence
Of things dreaming of voyaging
Among the stillness of land.

And how light knew to nurse
The growth until the face of the Earth
Brightened beneath a vision of color.

When the ages of ice came
And sealed the Earth inside
An endless coma of cold,
The heart of the Earth held hope,
Storing fragments of memory,
Ready for the return of the sun.

Let us thank the Earth
That offers ground for home
And holds our feet firm
To walk in space open
To infinite galaxies.

Let us salute the silence
And certainty of mountains:
Their sublime stillness,
Their dream-filled hearts.

The wonder of a garden
Trusting the first warmth of spring
Until its black infinity of cells
Becomes charged with dream;
Then the silent, slow nurture
Of the seed's self, coaxing it
To trust the act of death.

The humility of the Earth
That transfigures all
That has fallen
Of outlived growth.

The kindness of the Earth,
Opening to receive
Our worn forms
Into the final stillness.

Let us ask forgiveness of the Earth
For all our sins against her:
For our violence and poisonings
Of her beauty.

Let us remember within us
The ancient clay,
Holding the memory of seasons,
The passion of the wind,
The fluency of water,
The warmth of fire,
The quiver-touch of the sun
And shadowed sureness of the moon.

That we may awaken,
To live to the full
The dream of the Earth
Who chose us to emerge
And incarnate its hidden night
In mind, spirit, and light.

~ John O'Donohue ~

(*To Bless the Space Between Us*)

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 1, 2017 .....$7,784.97

Income $3510.42
Bus Trip, Dues, Interest, Extravaganza, Grant refund

Expenses $803.94
Extravaganza, New York Bus trip
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.