Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

June 2021 Vol. 29, No. 6

In-Person Visit to Nasami Farm June 24th at 5PM

Set on 75 acres in the Connecticut River Valley, Nasami Farm grows New England native plants from seed that are harvested sustainably from healthy, well-established wild populations throughout the region. Nasami Farm's goal is ensuring genetic diversity to offset the clones sold by traditional nurseries and to build resilience into a landscape facing change. They feed their plants with organic fertilizer, and use biological controls rather than chemicals as their first line of defense against pests. They do not use any systemic pesticides, such as neonicotinoids. Nasami Farm focuses on propagation and research to bring different and hard-to-grow native plants into production. In addition to propagating plants for their two **Garden Shops**, they also work with the **Conservation** staff and contract with other organizations to cultivate plants for the restoration of wild habitats. And, in their classroom at Nasami Farm, they also offer year-round **classes** in native plant horticulture and botany.

Nursery Manager, Alexis Doshas, will be our personal guide for our first in-person monthly meeting in a long time. We are very excited! Alexis will give us some background information about Nasami Farm for those who are unfamiliar with the Native Plant Trust, and will describe their work and answer our questions. We will also have the opportunity to purchase plants. We will meet at 5pm at the farm, located at 128 North St in Whately (exit 36 off I-91 south – old exit 25). Carpool option: Meet at the Greenfield Big Y Plaza in the parking spaces facing Route 2 between 4:15-4:30pm. We will leave promptly at 4:30. (Plan ahead for purchasing. Their 2021 Native Plants Price List **NATIVE PLANT PRICE LIST PDF** includes availability information. Download the list of plants and prices and check the growing conditions they require with the online **Garden Plant Finder**.)

June President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Summer is rapidly approaching, and still we have cold days and scorchers. Typical New England weather, or signs of global warming? The iris have been particularly beautiful this year. It's such a wonder to watch as each plant takes center stage, adding to the riot of color and form. The peonies are rapidly unfolding. It's a glorious time to be working in the garden, and sharing photos with each other.

Thank you to everyone who donated and/or bought plants at our annual Extravaganza plant sale. Despite fewer donations and shoppers in the cold rainy weather, we raised about $800 after expenses. We had a great time talking with people and you can see the photos on our Facebook page. We welcomed the Compost Cooperative and Western Mass Master Gardeners who both had info tables at the sale. WMMG offered soil testing. I hope we can add more booths next year. Congratulations to our 2 drawing winners – Pam Lester and Pat Leuchtman. Enjoy your gift certificates and other goodies! I hope to see many of you at our first in-person meeting this month at Nasami Farm. I wish you all a happy growing season! ~ *Laura*

Pam Lester wins a basket!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8: 6:30pm – Backyard Medicine with Maria Noël Groves, RH (AHG) via Zoom and the Keene NH Public Library (see article at right)
June 9: 7:00pm – Charlemont Forum (see article below) Zoom link HERE.
June 24: 5pm - Monthly meeting at Nasami Farm in Whately

Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light.
- Theodore Roethke

CHARLEMONT FORUM 2021

FREE ONLINE WEBINAR

INSPIRING LECTURES | RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE

JUNE 9, 2021 | 7:00PM

Regenerative Agriculture and Food Justice

Join soil specialist Jeff Tkach of the Rodale Institute, Jessica O'Neill, Executive Director of Just Roots, and Seattle-based Eco-Dietitian Mary Purdy to explore the importance of soil health, the necessity of equal access to land, and advocating for the right to grow one's own food. More ecologically friendly farming methods may be one path towards healing our planet and assuring positive nutritional health outcomes for us all.

Participants will learn the role they can play in creating a more just and sustainable food system from personal consumer choices to advocating for change on both local and systemic levels.

Register for June 9 HERE or email forum@charlemontfederatechurch.org

Closed Captioning Available

Donations are welcome: make out checks to CFC/Charlemont Forum
Charlemont Federated Church | 175 Main St., Charlemont, MA 413 339 4294

A Joan Tabb Boer Memorial event with additional grant support of the Cultural Councils of Amherst, Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont/Hawley, Colrain, Conway, Goshen, Heath, Leyden, Plainfield, Rowe and Shelburne, local agencies supported by Mass Cultural Council, as well as gift from a Hawley neighbor

Like us on Facebook to learn more. facebook.com/charlemontforum

June 6 & 13, 2-5pm **Mosaic workshop** in Leyden with artist Rhonda Wainshilbaum. $45 for a stepping stone or $50 for a birdbath. No experience necessary. Materials included, or bring your own. Call/email for more info or to register: rhodawain@verizon.net or 413-624-5175

BACKYARD MEDICINE
Maria Noël Groves, RH (AHG)
June 8th at 6:30pm via zoom.

Maria Nöel Groves, RH (AHG) is a best-selling author of the award winning *Body into Balance* and *Grow Your Own Herbal Remedies*. She is also the owner of Wintergeen Botanicals Herbal Clinic & Education Center in NH. Maria writes and teaches nationally about herbal medicine and offers both on site and distance herbal study courses and health consultations. She melds evidence-based medicine, traditional Western herbalism, food based nutriation, and personal clinical experience. She is a regular contributor to *Herb Quarterly*, *Mother Earth Living*, *Mother Earth News*, *Taste for Life*, and *Remedies* magazines.

Register here:
https://ci.keene.nh.us/keene-public-library/calendar-events

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.

Wild Hideaways: Designed for Adventure

June 1-September 30, 2021

This summer Tower Hill is bringing the indoors outside with Wild Hideaways: Designed for Adventure. Visitors will be invited to explore a fantastical collection of interactive, outdoor hideaways inspired by art and nature, and custom designed by local landscape architects and artists. These creative pieces will transport visitors to a world full of imagination and adventure.

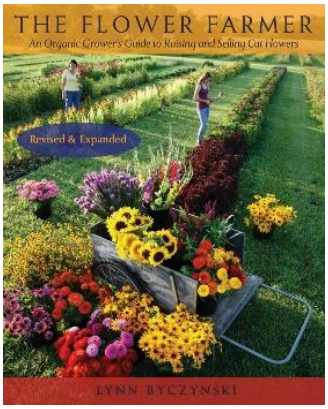
The Caterpillar Crawl (at left) is designed to invite exploration from visitors of all ages. This sculpture celebrates the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) in its larval stage and is made of bamboo – a renewable, sustainable, natural material. When woven together, the bamboo mimics the wriggly shapes and contours of a caterpillar.

Butterfly Fairy Frolic (middle left) celebrates the monarch butterfly's journey from egg, to caterpillar, to pupa, and finally to butterfly. Imagine that a fairy has waved their wand over a caterpillar and changed it into a butterfly. Nature's magic!

Proboscis Paradise: (below left) Look closely! These "flowers" are made of upcycled plastic bags collected from across New England. They are processed using heat and sculpted to imitate native asters (a native wildflower).

Open House: (below right) was inspired by a conversation with a fellow artist, discussing how we understand the meaning of "home" through shape alone. This steel sculpture invites participants to explore both the space and emotions of home, encouraging them to create their own story.

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!



A Gardening Tip: Pinching Flowers to Prolong Bloom, When and How.

From The Flower Farmer ($35): https://www.chelseagreen.com/product/the-flower-farmer/

Lynn Byczynski is publisher and editor of a monthly newsletter *Growing for Market*. She also operates Wild Onion Farm in Lawrence, Kansas, where she resides with her husband and two children. For more information, please visit the website of Growing for Market at **www.growingformarket.com**

Pruning Perennials: 10 Good Reasons

1. Clean them up – wait until spring to cut back ornamental grasses and perennials that die back in winter..
2. Get more flowers – after initial bloom deadhead or cut back some plants by a third to encourage the next blooms.
3. Tidy up – remove spent flowers.
4. Prevent reseeding – control the number of plants by deadheading or cutting back before they go to seed
5. Develop better growth habits – keep plants shorter, like some asters or perennial sunflowers.
6. Bushier plants *and* More Flowers – pinch growing tips to encourage more lateral branching and a rounded shape. Works best on late-season bloomers like mums and asters.
7. Encourage larger flowers – remove tightly budded side flower buds if you want the central flower to grow larger with a bigger bloom for cutting for vase or competitions.
8. Better air circulation – helps plants that are susceptible to stem and foliar diseases by removing a few inner stems, as for bee balm.
9. Extend bloom time – depending on your method the 2nd flush of blooms can follow the first without too much lag time. Pruning a third to half of your phlox in late spring before they set flowers will give you staggered bloom times.
10. Pruning gives you cut flowers for arrangements!

Margaret Roach's excellent Monthly Garden Chores:

https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

Companion Plant Combinations

For those who believe this system makes perfect sense, it helps when figuring out where to place the plants for optimum productivity by layering. Consult a companion planting chart to give you insights into how the plants work together in terms of growth habit and size. The following are a few companion combinations that are worth considering:

Beans: Herbs, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers and cabbage

Beets: Cabbage, onions, and kohlrabi

Carrots: Tomatoes, peas, onions, leeks, and rosemary

Cucumbers: Beans, radish, sunflower, dill, and beets

Lettuce: Beets, broccoli, bush beans, cabbage, and strawberries

Onion: Dill, chamomile, asparagus and peas

Tomatoes: Onions, basil, lettuce, garlic and marigolds

Spinach: Peas, eggplants, cauliflower and beans

Peppers: Tomatoes, okra, parsley basil and carrots

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of April 15, 2021 ..... $8,449.12

Income $270.21
Dues: $60; Interest $0.20;
Expenses $100.00
Donation to Bridge of Flowers Friends
Balance as of May 14, 2021 ..... $8,409.32

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

June NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Sunday, June 27th
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