Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2020 Vol. 28, No. 3

The Extravaganza – How can we make it happen?

If you're like me, you've spent some time recently in your garden, and found some volunteers, a clump that needs dividing, or perhaps some plants in the wrong place. Nature keeps working her magic and it would be a shame to toss them onto the compost pile. We are working on the how and where for the annual plant sale. Last year it was such a success that we were really looking forward to adding to it this year, but that is not in the cards. So how do we run it? First, and foremost, we need your help in **potting up plants NOW**, and getting them ready for the sale. We still have the John Zon Center reserved, so we will need to plan how to deal with managing the customers. We had seriously considered taking orders virtually, and having orders ready for curbside pick-up, but that would have meant needing plants a week earlier, 2 extra volunteer days, and a lot of uploading. We will ask people to wear masks and will plan a one-way route to minimize contact. Please tag your plants so we only have to price them on Friday, not spend time trying to ID them. (see Extravaganza on page 2)

May President's Report

Welcome to the May edition of the GGC Newsletter! If we can't meet in person, at least we can share information via the printed word. I hope this issue gives you something to take your mind off the current situation, even if only briefly. Our main focus this month is the plant sale, detailed in our main article. We really need lots of healthy plant donations, and a small group of volunteers who can sign up for the various dates and responsibilities listed. Once the Extravaganza is over, we'll turn our attention to our June 18 meeting at Bug Hill Farm. Hopefully we can do that in a socially acceptable way, especially if we are outdoors. We'll keep you posted. I am pleased to once again have an article for you written by someone who is not currently a club member. I hope that their letter strikes a chord, and someone will be able to offer plants/donate to help cheer them on. I hope to see you all soon, and I wish all you moms out there a very healthy and happy Mother's Day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 22, 4-6 pm – Labeled Plant drop-off at John Zon Center

Saturday, May 23, 8:30-12:30 – Extravaganza

Monday, May 25, 6 pm – Steering Cttee , 41 Meadow Ln, Gfld

Greet each day with the joy of birds welcoming sunrise.

~ Samoan proverb

Extravaganza (continued from page 1)

If you tell us what you are bringing ahead of time, we can make each plant a laminated tag, with the name, a stock photo, and a description of its habit and site needs. People really appreciated those last year. We need help advertising the sale far and wide. If you are on Facebook, please share the Extravaganza event on your own page. We will be emailing the poster out to everyone, and hope you can print a couple in color and hang them at places you might visit. Put one on a side window of your car! We'll need a few volunteers for the following:

1. Friday May 22: (4-6 pm) plant drop-off at Zon Center
2. Sat May 23: (7:30 – 12:30) plant sale – move plants into place, set up tables, position signs/flags banners

Please email the club ASAP if you can help at one or more of these dates. We have started a list of plant donations and encourage you to respond to the recent email and let us know what you will contribute. This is the year to ask for plants that are larger than those small $1 pots – put more plants into the pot to make it fuller. We really prefer not to have to deal with left-overs! **Ideas**: Rhubarb is always popular! Lilacs, forsythia, and other trees/shrubs; iris, daylilies, hostas, hellebores, astilbe, bloodroot, ginger, sunflowers, bleeding heart, sedum, phlox, forget-me-nots, etc. The more unusual the plant, the better!

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

Annual Meeting by email

In order to keep the club moving forward, we decided that without a regular annual meeting, we still needed to elect officers and approve the minutes of last year's annual meeting. Ballots have been returned, and (no surprise!) the current slate of officers has been re-elected, and the annual reports have been accepted as written. Thank you to everyone who returned their ballot in order to keep the club's wheels oiled until the next time we can meet in early 2021. There were no suggestions of a second person for an At-Large member, so that position will remain open for anyone to jump into at any time. There were no additional comments or suggestions. Perhaps we are all facing quarantine fatigue, and just can't face another decision right now! Hopefully being able to be outdoors will perk us up as restrictions are slowly lifted.

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:
Richard Willard
(Looking for 1 more volunteer!)

Open Letter from Great Falls Apple Corp

~ Moon (Molly Mooney)

I'm writing on behalf of the Great Falls Apple Corp, a volunteer gardening club promoting food access and edible landscaping in Turners Falls. We coordinate the Unity Park Community Gardens as well as maintain planters along Avenue A, and have recently taken over a plot of land in front of the former St Andrews Episcopal Church. We also have gotten permission to start planting a food forest on the Town Hall's property. We offer free workshops throughout the year about lacto-fermented pickling, plant ID, etc. This year may look a little different, obviously, but we will offer anything we can! We also have a monthly column in the Montague Reporter where we write about plants and wellness.

At the community gardens, we have 10 public garden beds that we plant with vegetables and herbs and which are available for harvest by anyone in the community, whether they have a plot or not. A few of these beds have perennial plants, mostly herbs and some fruit bushes. These beds were recently vandalized and several plants were stolen from both the public beds and from individuals' private plots, including my own plot. The plants were dug up, roots and all, and taken. The thief took some hardy thyme plants - German thyme - that had been well established in a few beds. That's what was stolen from my bed. So sad. They also took a gooseberry bush, a hollyhock (I think...) some creeping "wild" thyme and some other herbs. Apparently, some plants from the Avenue A planters were also taken, but I am not sure of the details of those.

I have purchased a couple German thyme starts to begin to replace the plants, but we are looking for donations if anyone should have extra. Even when we don't have theft, we rely mostly on donations from local farms, nurseries, and residents. We also do annual seed and plant swaps at the gardens, which normally get a big turnout. We are always looking to take in anyone's spare plants and seeds, both for the gardens and the other properties we maintain. If any Greenfield Garden Club members would like to join in on plant/seed swaps, I can connect you or anyone interested with the other two coordinators. It's really just me and two friends, and a handful of other folks who volunteer occasionally, but we are well connected with the DPA and Parks and Rec, along with other town government, who also help us out.

I'm looking forward to connecting with the Greenfield Garden Club and joining forces on promoting gardening! I'd love to hear more about your group! The Apple Corp has a Facebook page as well as an Instagram account - @greatfallsapplecorp

Thank you and all the best,
Moon (contact: greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com) (Photos next page)

IN THE TIME OF QUIET

~ Philippa Atkin

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring

And no one's told the bids to roost and asked them not to sing

No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round

And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through the ground

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood

And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud

No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue

And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view

No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,

To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat

No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow

And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow

No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth

And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth

No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon

And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune

Remember what you value, remember who is dear

Close the doors to danger and keep your family near

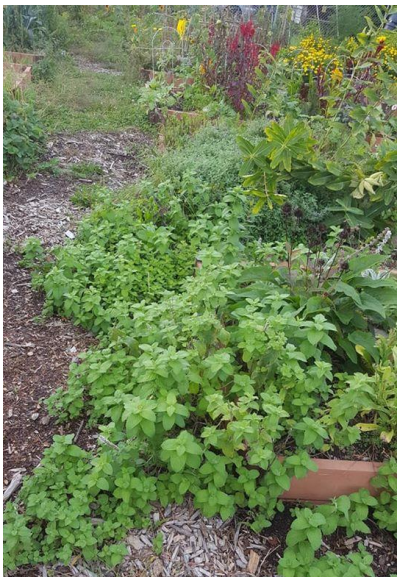
In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare

And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere

Look towards the future, after the ordeal

And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal

For more about the author:
https://www.writeoutloud.net/public/blogentry.php?blogentryid=100718



Feeling Crafty? ~ *Pam Lester*

Greetings fellow Greenfield Garden members. During these unprecedented times I wish you and your families well. I would like to suggest a team spirit project for our own gardens. A DIY simple garden sign. It would take a piece of pine or barn board and some small twigs for the letters. I suspect a member or more has access to barn board from an older dilapidated structure. What better way than to repurpose this wood and get that structure down for safety. The twigs can be found on your walks. Post to the group if you have abundance of any of these materials. Each of us can make one and share the photos with the group. We will get through this pandemic and be back together in the future. I suggest also that these signs will sell well when we have our plant sale. But first, make one to keep for YOU.

Our **Garden Club Garden Tour** 2020 is still set for **Saturday July 11,** with a rain date of Sunday, July 12th. There will be no competition with the cancelled Balloon Fest! We have nine interesting and beautiful gardens, all located in Greenfield. Depending on the resolution of the pandemic, we hope to have the go ahead from state and local officials to move forward! **Calling all volunteer weeders & co-hosts - interested?** Call Norm at 413-773-0201 or email him at: **nhms41@comcast.net**.
Looking forward to being together again while enjoying old friends and the beauty of nature in the great outdoors.

Membership for 2020

Club Treasurer Joanne Burns would like to remind folks that we still depend upon your renewed membership to keep the club running smoothly. Single membership is $20, and a family is $25. Please mail your check to: Joanne Buns, 14 Freeman Dr, Greenfield, MA 01301. She will mail you your member card so you can present it for discounts. (Greenfield Farmers Cooperative is open!!)

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 13, 2020.....$4,549.90

Income $1,050.24
Interest ($0.24) Membership/mtg ($1050.00)
Expenses $515.17
Refunds of annual meeting payments
Balance as of April 15, 2020.....$5,084.97

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to the club Treasurer:
Joanne Burns
14 Freeman Street
Greenfield MA 01301

May NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Thursday, May 28
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