Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2022 Vol. 30, No. 5

Visiting with Nina Keller and Jerusalem Hill Horticulture

May 12th at 5:30pm
28 Cold Brook Rd, Wendell, MA
(GPS might be Millers Falls or Wendell)
RSVP for directions or to carpool
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

I met Nina last week at the Energy Park where the GGC had talked itself into having a booth at the Earth Day event. We chatted. She is very unassuming, gracious, and vibrant. We talked about the fact that you don't have to live in Greenfield to be a member of the club. I said as a matter of fact, we are going to see a garden in Wendell in August. Next thing you know, I have convinced her to let us come over to see her place. When I Googled her for an address, I discovered that she's practically

gardening royalty in these parts! (See pg 4). She grows perennials, ground covers, bulbs, herbs, culinary plants, nuts, fruits, berries, shrubs, wild plants, tinctures and salves, greenhouse plants, and more. RSVP for the directions today! greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

May President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

O, the month of May, the merry month of May, So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green. (Thomas Dekker!) It has been lovely watching the world green-up these past few weeks, and the cooler weather has lengthened the time my daffodils are lasting. With the exception of the very early Rip Van Winkle (at left), they all are looking quite fresh. I have taken photos all around to help me remember what I have and where they are when fall comes and I want to plant more. I got carried away at Agway last weekend buying seeds, plants, and potting soil, which is not hard to do. Make sure when you shop and show your member card that they acknowledge that you qualify for the discount. I have been hearing about No Mow May recently. Research has shown that not mowing can result in enough nectar for 10 times more bees and pollinators. It's origin's are in the UK, but it's spreading in the US. (Sadly, my husband is not going to be a convert!) Remember there is no plant sale this year, but I encourage everyone to tell us what you have extras of and we can post it. Enjoy the start of the gardening season! ~ *Laura*

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6-7: Plant sale at Berkshire Botanical
May 11, Wednesday 7:00 pm – The Hidden Life of Bridges - Shelburne
May 12, Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm – visit to Nina Keller's Farm
May 14, 9-12 – Bridge of Flowers Plant Sale, Shelburne Falls
May 23, Monday, 5:00pm – Steering Committee Meeting

Plants make People Happy!

Brian Brenner will present "**The Hidden Life of Bridges**" at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, located at 53 Main St., on **Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m.**

Brenner, a bridge engineer with Tighe & Bond and a longtime fan of the **Bridge of Flowers**, will focus on different kinds of bridge structures as he reveals some unexpected connections between bridges and things encountered in everyday life.

"Bridges intersect with human lives in so many ways that go unnoticed and unsung," Brennan said in a press release. "Everything from life insurance, roundabouts and even tornadoes."

Brennan also plans to share some little-known facts about the Bridge of Flowers.

This program, sponsored by the Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club, is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Seeds of Solidarity Spring Pesto

Pesto, an Italian sauce, is traditionally made with fresh basil and pine nuts. But other greens and herbs can be substituted. Pine nuts are costly, so raw pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, or walnuts (or other nuts) can be substituted and are delicious and nutritious. This recipe makes enough to toss with one pound of cooked pasta of your choice. Or enjoy as a sandwich spread or on vegetables, chicken or tofu.

Ingredients:

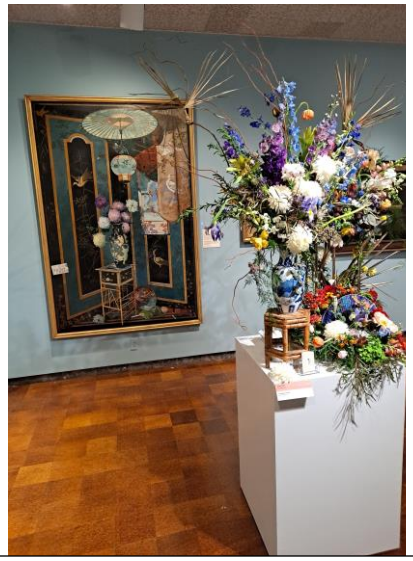
2 cups of fresh greens or herbs. Try tender arugula, spinach, kale, or fresh herbs like parsley or cilantro- the herbs work well in combo with the greens.
2-3 garlic cloves (or, in late May or early June you may find curly garlic scapes, which is the flower stalk. You can substitute 4-5 of these or make a pure scape pesto!)
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup Parmesan or Romano cheese (substitute nutritional yeast for dairy free)
1/3 cup of your choice (or a combination): walnuts, pumpkin seeds, or pricier pine nuts
Blend all ingredients until smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste.

GGC MEMBERSHIP: Please continue your membership by sending in your dues for the new year ($20 per person, or $25 per house-hold). Remember, memberships make a nice gift for the gardener in your life! Please make checks payable to: Greenfield Garden Club; and send them to: Becky George, 61 Madison Cir, Greenfield, MA 01301. Thank you for your continuing support!

Club member Pamela Lester has an abundance of heirloom, non-GMO, organic tomatoes that she has grown from seed. She also has 2 colors of Rose of Sharon cuttings. She asks interested club members to contact her if they are interested in any (plester@hotmail.com) She has also gotten hooked on winter sowing. She started out with 11 varieties of poppies, and then added some perennials and annuals. She shares this link for milk jug winter sowing. Start saving your gallon milk jugs!

Officers 2022:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website:
Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President:
Marsha Stone
Treasurer:
Becky George
Recording Secretary:
Annette Kilminster
Corresponding Secretary:
Eva Carrier
At Large Member/s:
Nicki Shipman



Norm and Marsha visited the 2022 Festival of Flowers (back after a 2-year hiatus) and sent in some photos of the arrangements. Local groups make floral interpretations of a specific painting. These three are particularly nice – I have to say I love the shimmering haystack! ~ *Laura*

Reminder: Spring Bulb Appeal

I am writing as the Co-Advisor for the Class of 2024 at Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. We have a Spring Bulb Fundraiser currently underway for the class, and thought I would contact you to see if you could share the website. The bulbs are from the well-known Holland Bulb Company's Fundraising division "Flower Power." All orders are submitted online and will be sent directly to the customer at the appropriate time for planting. The fundraiser goes through **May 14th, 2022**. I have included the website address here: http://FCTSclassof2024.fpfundraising.com

Thank you for your time!
Lori Johnson-Davis

Article from Mt Grace Land Trust - posted Thursday, July 13, 2017. Read the full article here.

Inspired by Neighbors, Kellers Protect Historic Wendell Farm

Farmers Dan and Nina Keller have permanently protected 48 acres of their farm in the Mormon Hollow section of Wendell. Protecting the land is the newest chapter in the history of a farm that had been all but abandoned in 1969 when Dan Keller and several friends—recent graduates from Pioneer Valley colleges—bought the land together and moved there to farm as part of the back to the land movement.

Dan was the only member of the group with any experience in commercial agriculture. He dates his interest in farming to years spent working on a farm in Laconia New Hampshire during high school. "I had spent some time growing fruits and vegetables and raising cows," he explains. "We also had one woman who was already an accomplished gardener and one guy who was really an excellent mechanic, but what it comes down to isn't so much farming experience as whether you're willing to do all the work. If your heart is in it, it doesn't take much training to set out and weed the field."

Then known simply as the Wendell Farm, the group was informally affiliated with Packers Corner Farm in Guilford Vermont and the Montague Farm in Montague, where Nina lived before the two met. "We were a bunch of recent graduates who essentially didn't want to join the rat race," adds Dan. "We were very disillusioned by the Vietnam war and wanted to put some distance between ourselves and that whole world." The Wendell Farm helped lead the resurgence of organic farming in the 1970s, selling their vegetables through The Organic Truck, a mobile farmers market that travelled to nearby towns. That commitment to ecology is also seen in Keller's award winning 1975 film Lovejoy's Nuclear War, which tells the story of Sam Lovejoy, of the Montague Farm, who toppled a weather tower at the proposed site of a nuclear reactor on the Montague Plains and turned himself in to the police in 1974 as an act of civil disobedience. "I had filmed local sports in high school, and I was really struck by how the mainstream media completely ignored the trial, so I began filming," Dan recalls. The trial helped spark a national resistance to nuclear power and the film, Keller's first, helped spread the word and let to the founding of Green Mountain Post Films.

Many of the original founders of the three farms ultimately left, but Nina and Dan continued to farm the land—their work detailed in hundreds of photographs in the Special Collections and University Archives at UMass, which capture the evolution of organic farming in the Valley since the 1960s. "There are a lot more young farmers now," says Dan. "Part of that is the demand for organic produce. With organics the prices are a bit higher so it's almost possible to make a decent living farming in New England. It's really great to see local farms like Red Fire Farm taking off and turning into real businesses that can support workers."

After almost 50 years on the land, the Kellers have joined together with their Wendell and Montague neighbors, including farmers at Sugarbush Farm, Diemand Farm, Stoney Hollow Farm, and Hunting Farm, to permanently protect their land with help from Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, part of a multi-year initiative to protect 700 acres, called the Mormon Hollow Working Lands Corridor Project. "We're honored to help these families protect the land," says Jay Rasku, Community Conservation Director at Mount Grace. "It was great to see hundreds of people come out to Diemand Farm's Party in the Hollow in support of these working farms and forests last month. It gives you a real sense of how much the community really values the land and the families and neighbors who live on it and support it."

"We were really inspired by our neighbors and Mount Grace and this whole idea of working together to protect all the farms at once," says Nina. "We aren't doing this just to protect our own little corner of land. We're doing this to protect a piece of the planet, and to make it possible for people to keep growing food for the community."

***Reminder*: Author Robin Wall Kimmerer – Thursday, June 23rd at GCC**

Save the date! Robin is coming to Greenfield, sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and Greening Greenfield. Her talk is *Restoration and Reciprocity: Healing Relationships with the Natural World*.

Online May 6 – 6:00 – 7:30PM - A beginner's Guide to Vegetable Gardening – Link to sign up here.

For those new to growing their own vegetables. This online course will present the basics of growing a vegetable and herb garden. Soil preparation, transplanting, direct sowing, and harvest will all be all covered. Students will receive resources and knowledge they can use for years to come. Recording available to registered participants. ($5 members/$10 non-members. Click on the link above to register.)

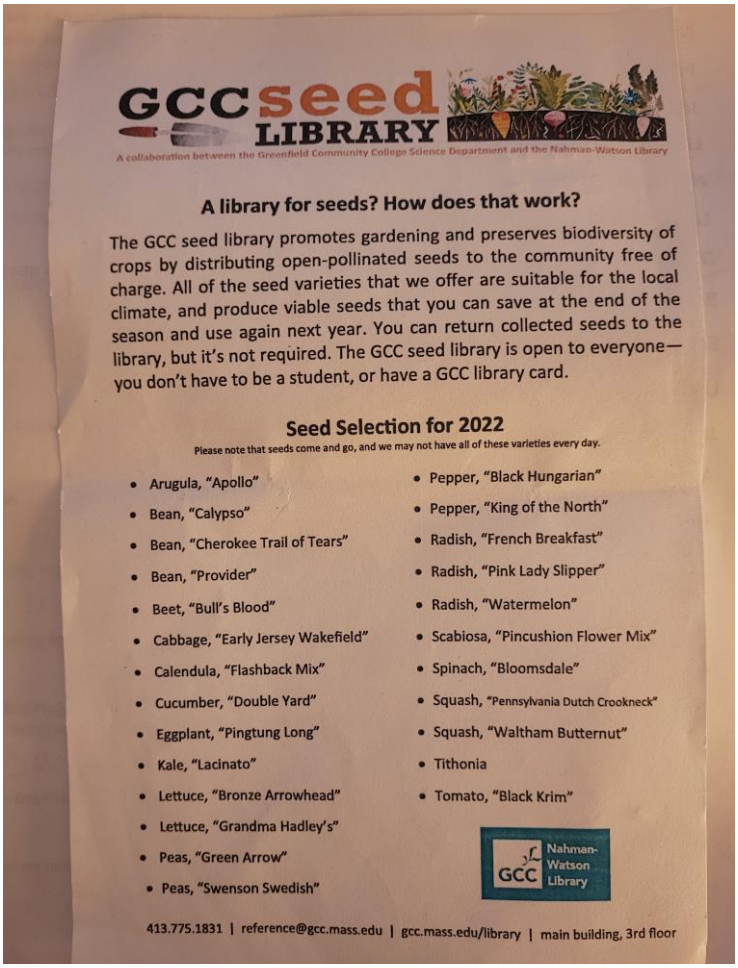
Bridgette Stone is the Director of Education at Berkshire Botanical Garden. She has been a gardener, farmer, and educator for over 12 years and brings a passion for experiential learning, home-scale food production, and sustainable gardening practice to her work with Berkshire Botanical Garden.

May 11: Workhorse Plants and Design Tips for Time-Pressed and Maturing Gardeners

Lecturer: **Kerry Mendez** Online Lecture 5:00 – 6:30pm Click here to register**.** ($15/$20)

Job demands, kids, hectic schedules, aging bodies, and changing interests have led to gardens that are not in balance with our lifestyle. This inspiring lecture provides easy-to-follow, right-sizing strategies; recommended no-fuss plant material; and design tips for stunning, year-round gardens that will be as close to 'autopilot' as you can get. This lecture is based on *The Right-Size Flower Garden* by Kerry Ann Mendez.

Fred Wessel is still painting his lovely egg tempura paintings of flowers. He kindly sent us photos of 2 of his recent works – Fuchsia on the left, and White Parrot Tulip on the right. His work is simply amazing. Fred was hoping to capture some spring bulbs in our gardens, but he caught covid a few weeks ago and missed the window. He will be searching out other flowers in season. If you have an unusual plant coming into bloom at some point, let the club know and we can pass it along.



GCC seed LIBRARY

A collaboration between the Greenfield Community College Science Department and the Nahman-Watson Library

A library for seeds? How does that work?

The GCC seed library promotes gardening and preserves biodiversity of crops by distributing open-pollinated seeds to the community free of charge. All of the seed varieties that we offer are suitable for the local climate, and produce viable seeds that you can save at the end of the season and use again next year. You can return collected seeds to the library, but it's not required. The GCC seed library is open to everyone—you don't have to be a student, or have a GCC library card.

Seed Selection for 2022

Please note that seeds come and go, and we may not have all of these varieties every day.

- Arugula, "Apollo"
- Bean, "Calypso"
- Bean, "Cherokee Trail of Tears"
- Bean, "Provider"
- Beet, "Bull's Blood"
- Cabbage, "Early Jersey Wakefield"
- Calendula, "Flashback Mix"
- Cucumber, "Double Yard"
- Eggplant, "Pingtung Long"
- Kale, "Lacinato"
- Lettuce, "Bronze Arrowhead"
- Lettuce, "Grandma Hadley's"
- Peas, "Green Arrow"
- Peas, "Swenson Swedish"
- Pepper, "Black Hungarian"
- Pepper, "King of the North"
- Radish, "French Breakfast"
- Radish, "Pink Lady Slipper"
- Radish, "Watermelon"
- Scabiosa, "Pincushion Flower Mix"
- Spinach, "Bloomsdale"
- Squash, "Pennsylvania Dutch Crookneck"
- Squash, "Waltham Butternut"
- Tithonia
- Tomato, "Black Krim"

GCC Nahman-Watson Library

413.775.1831 | reference@gcc.mass.edu | gcc.mass.edu/library | main building, 3rd floor

NO EXTRAVAGANZA this year! If you have plants to share with the community, perhaps takers can make a donation to the club in exchange. I have forsythia, ostrich fern, American and European ginger, lilacs, hydrangea, and other plants that I can share. Send an email to the club if you are interested. I have no Asian worms, and I thought we could dig and you take them bare-root to plant. ~ Laura

Save the Date! July 9, 2022 – GGC Garden Tour

(raindate July 10th)

The Garden Tour Committee is now looking for Gardens for our 2022 Tour! If you know of any gardens in our area that might be good candidates for our Tour, or would like to volunteer, please let me know. 413-773-0201 ~ *Norm Hirschfeld*.

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

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 15, 2022.....$8,577.95

Income $1,730.22
Interest $0.22; membership/meals $1,730
Expenses..... $1,741.59
Whately Inn $1,411; speaker $164;plants & supplies $116.59; reimburse Joanne for Kiwanis tree and gifts for next fall $50
Balance as of April 15, 2022 .....$8,566.58

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 61 Madison Cir
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

June NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Sunday, May 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 with membership

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