Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

October 2020 **Vol. 28, No. 8**

Oktoberfest around the Fire Pit

The club will hold the October meeting outdoors in the interest of member's health. Since darkness is descending earlier, the meeting will be Sunday, October 18th, from 3-5 pm. Please join us as we gather outside around the fire pit at the home of Marsha and Norm, 41 Meadow Lane in Greenfield. We encourage the wearing of your best seasonal mask (fall, Halloween, leaves, apples etc.). Joining us will be club member Charlie Olchowski for part 2 of the cider tasting we offered last fall. Are you missing Cider Days this year? Here is your chance to learn more about local ciders and heirloom apples. You can choose to bring your own tasting glass, or plastic ones will be available. We will sample apples and ciders, while listening to Charlie explain their various qualities, flavors and pairings. Crackers and cheese provided. Please RSVP so we can purchase accordingly. Bad weather (rain/snow) cancels this event. Bring a folding chair if you have one.

October President's Report ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Fall is my favorite time of year – still warm but with a hint of cooler weather to come, & glorious fall colors. It's still a great time to be in the garden – cleaning up a little, weeding, dividing plants, enjoying the last tomatoes and planting garlic. Canning kettles and soup pots are bubbling, and freezers are filling up. Bread is baking, and the residual oven heat is all the house needs to keep us warm. We have planned another group event for October, and then the wreath making at Chapley Gardens on 11/19, but after that, all bets are off! If covid causes us to cancel the holiday party, we will be sorely disappointed, so make sure you RSVP for the October event so we can send off 2020 together in style. Call 413-773-3519 and see if Pat Leuchtman still has plants to give away. Make sure to take frequent walks to enjoy nature and clear your head from all the craziness happening today. Remember, when the world wearies, there is always the garden!

Chestnuts from my trees!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10-11, 5:30 pm – Black Dodge Bonsai fall sale
October 14, 5-6 pm – Garlic-Growing workshop via zoom (see below)
October 18 3-5PM – Monthly meeting "Oktoberfest"
November 19 6-8 PM – Annual wreath-making at Chapley Gardens
Questions? greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Fall Garlic-Growing Workshop

Learn how to plant, harvest, and dry your own garlic at home from VINES' Urban Farm Manager Kyle Rittenberg. Free and open to the public.

VINES stands for Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments, Inc., and they are located in Binghamton, NY. They are an organization committed to developing a sustainable and just community food system. They do this by bringing together diverse groups of people, with a focus on youth development, to establish community gardens, urban agriculture and community green spaces. They strive to develop and beautify urban sites and empower community members of all ages and abilities. Their motto is "Growing Food, Growing Community."

."It's nice to hear what people in other communities are doing! This sounds like Just Roots here in Greenfield.

Mark your calendar and register at the link in the poster below.

Fall Clean-Up – Don't Overdo It!

Margret Roach has a great article in the NY Times on this subject. She wants us to be "messier" since the litter is critical over-wintering habitat for various insects and other anthropods, like bumblebees that provide pollination. It offers pupation sites for caterpillars of many moth species that birds rely on to feed their young. It shelters millipedes that recycle plant debris and spiders that contribute pest control. Leave seed heads on some annuals and perennials (like sunflowers or coneflowers) for birds to feast on. Apply compost under perennials, trees, and shrubs as a slow-release supply of nutrients. Continue to water trees/shrubs until the ground freezes. Test your soils and apply lime or sulfer as needed. Don't mulch too deep or too early – wait until the ground has frozen. Then apply 2-3 of mulch. Leaves are full of trace minerals and lighten heavy soils, feeding earthworms & microbes.

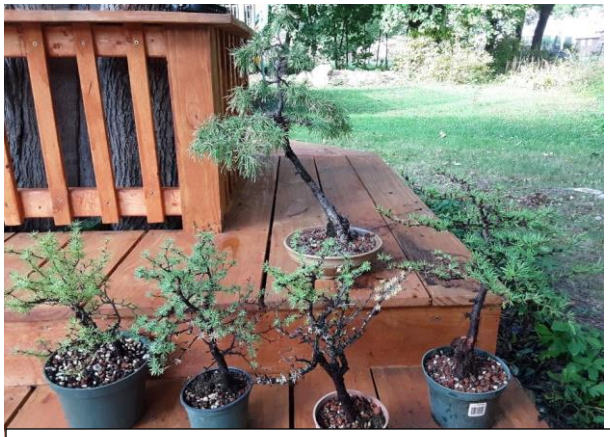
Officers 2020:

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

Black Dodge Bonsai Fall Sale

Just in time for the Fall Season! Black Dodge Bonsai will be having a "Too many Trees to Put Away" sale October 10 - 11th. Come check them out. Be sure to bring a mask and keep your social distance. Many trees from new GGC club member John Rough will be available for the first time this year! All New England collected material. Prices range from as little as $20 on up. The average price for smaller trees would be $80 with the GGC discount. (They would normally be $120.) Cash and checks only. Please RSVP to John at: paramount1936@gmail.com if you can. The address of the sale is 233 Garvey Drive in Springfield, MA.

We hope to have John come and give us a demonstration next year. Now is your chance to purchase a "tree-in-training" at a discount to bring with you to this event. In the photo below left, the trees in front are untrained, and the one in back is an example of one that has begun to take shape. We look forward to John's expert instruction! Did you see the blueberry plant bonsai for sale this past May at the Extravaganza? How cool was that?! If you purchased that particular pot, bring it along to our 2021 event for some pointers! More info to come as we try to finalize plans for next year. Go to the sale!!



Fall is the best Time to Plant Peonies

Fall-planted peonies tend to establish themselves more quickly than those planted in the spring, and they will flower sooner. Choose a site in full sun. Peonies need good drainage, so improve your soils ahead of time by adding compost or other organic matter to the soil. Dig the hole slightly larger than the peony roots. Situate them so that the topmost eye (the point from which the stems grow) is just an inch or 2 below the surface. Fill in the hole and water well – keeping it watered until the ground freezes. At that point, mulch the area to conserve moisture and keep the soil temperature as consistent as possible over the winter. If planting more than 1 clump, leave 3 feet between them. **Dividing peonies** in the fall will rejuvenate your planting, and improve their flowering. Cut the foliage down to ground level, dig and divide the roots into several clumps. Replant as indicated above, or overwinter a clump in a pot in the ground so it's all ready for the club plant sale in the spring!

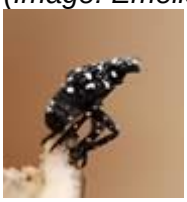
Lanternfly Alert – from Ellen Weeks, UMass Extension Nursery and Urban Forestry Program

On September 25, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced finding two dead specimens of the invasive spotted lanternfly (SLF) in the towns of Milford and Norwood, MA. MDAR notes they were brought in on materials that originated in Pennsylvania counties currently under a spotted lanternfly quarantine. MDAR was also recently notified that nursery stock with spotted lanternfly egg masses and adults may have been unintentionally imported and planted in several parts of Massachusetts.

Because **no live lanternflies have yet been found in Massachusetts**, there is currently no evidence that SLF has become established in the Commonwealth. As a precaution, surveys are planned in the areas where the insects were found to confirm that no live populations are present. While a dead lanternfly was previously found in the Boston area in December of 2018, repeated surveys have found no further signs of SLF in that part of the state. For more information, visit MDAR's press release: https://www.mass.gov/news/state-agricultural-officials-urge-residents-to-report-signs-of-invasive-spotted-lanternfly
For more information about the spotted lanternfly, please visit: https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/spotted-lanternfly

If you have seen any of the life stages of this insect (pictured below) in Massachusetts, please report it: https://massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx

A spotted lanternfly egg mass.
(Image: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org)


A spotted lanternfly nymph (immature). Instars 1-3 are black with white spots.
(Image: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org)

A spotted lanternfly nymph (immature). The 4th instar has red and black patches with white spots. *(Image: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org)*

A spotted lanternfly adult.
(Image: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org)

Similar species? This fact sheet from MDAR has a link to a guide to some common look-a-like species: https://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/spottedlanternfly.html

Using Shredded Leaves – Gardener's Supply article

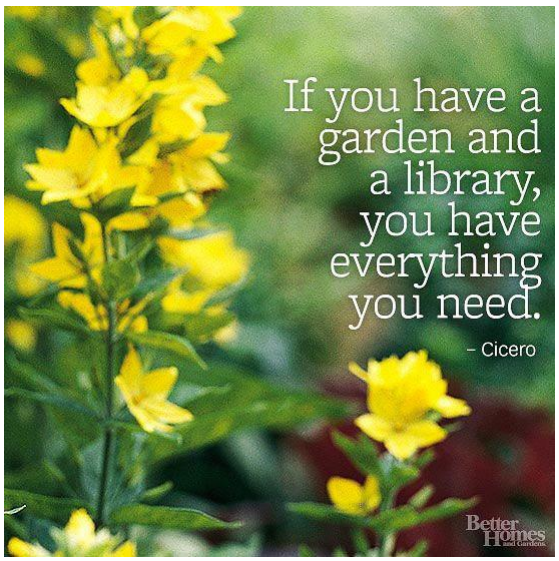
If you have an abundant source of leaves in the fall, shred them. Your garden will benefit in a big way. Here how to use them:

- **Insulate Tender Plants:** A 6-inch blanket of leaves protects tender plants from winter wind and cold. Cover cold-hardy vegetables—such as carrots, kale, leeks and beets—and you'll be able to harvest them all winter.
- **Boost Your Compost Pile:** Carbon-rich leaves balance high-nitrogen compost ingredients such as fresh grass clippings.
- **Improve Your Soil:** Mix shredded leaves right into your garden. Next spring, your soil will be teeming with earthworms and other beneficial organisms.
- **Make "Leaf Mold":** Simply rake the leaves into a big pile. If you shred them, they will decompose faster, but you can still make leaf mold without shredding. After one to three years, fungus will have broken the leaves down to a special compost that smells like a walk through the woods. Leaf mold is high in calcium and magnesium and retains three to five times its weight in water—rivaling peat moss.

Think Before You Shred

- Be careful with some kinds of leaves. Walnut, eucalyptus and camphor laurel leaves contain substances that inhibit plant growth. It's best to compost these leaves before using them in your garden
- Be sure to chop or shred leaves before using them as mulch. Whole leaves can form a mat that water can't penetrate.
- If you add shredded leaves right to the soil, add some slow-release nitrogen fertilizers to help the leaves decompose and to ensure that soil microbes don't use all of the available nitrogen.

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



UMASS 2021 calendars

These wonderful calendars, chock full of beautiful photos and timely information, are only $14 each. Shipping is free up (up to 9 calendars) until Nov. 1. Allow up to 5 weeks with free delivery. Read about the calendar and order online for faster service: https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/publications-resources/umass-extensions-garden-calendar Maybe in a future year we can do a bulk order if 10+ members are interested.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of August 15, 2020 .....$8,283.37

Income $0.21
Interest ($0.21)
Expenses $420.00
Conway Grant ($200); Gfld Libray honoring Pat Leuchtman ($200) Refund membership ($20)
Balance as of September 15, 2020..$7,863.58

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

November NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, October 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