Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

September 2020 **Vol. 28, No. 7**

Socially-distanced September!

September 17th: Elise Schlaikjer is happy to have people come and be socially distanced in her many garden areas, her labyrinth, and her large back deck. Please bring a folding chair if you have one, and we can sit and relax, have a short business mtg, and a nice time visiting with each other, and enjoying some refreshments. The gardens have grown up nicely since the last time many of you have visited. Let's plan to arrive at 528 Leyden Rd in Greenfield at 5:30pm. You can park in the driveway, or along the road next to the fence. Feel free to carpool within your bubble!

September President's Report

September snuck up on me, especially since, still working from home, it can be hard to tell one day from the next! Many of us were missing the Fair this week, as we would have been putting together our booth, watching the parade, and eating things that are not really all that good for us – and loving it! We are working on the events for the next few months, and wondering if/how we can hold them indoors, like the annual favorite – the holiday party. Suggestions? At least we can hold the September meeting outdoors, as the weather looks especially dry for the next 10 days, which is actually rather unfortunate. We could really use more rain. Time to get a rain barrel set up to capture those precious drops. We don't even have enough to wish we could send to the west coast to help them douse the inferno unfolding there. We hold them in our prayers. I hope to see many of you on the 17th, and please bring any plants you'd like to find new homes for! ~ Laura

Detail from a reverse glass painting I love.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17, 5:30 pm – monthly program at the home of Elise Schlaikjer, 528 Leyden Rd, Greenfield. Plant adoptions and refreshments!
September 19, 1:00 pm – Edible Wild Plant Walk with naturalist John Root. 404 Glen Rd, Leyden. Free – all ages invited. Perennials for songbirds and pollinators will be for sale. More info: info@johnroot.net

Plant Adoption Opportunity ~ *Pat Leuchtman*

This fall I have to divide some plants and I would be glad to offer them to you in exchange for a small donation to the club. You can call me at 773-3519 to set a date, and what plants you are interested in. I can let you know if you need to bring a pot or a plastic bag to put the plants in in order to get them home and settled in your own garden.

I think everyone knows about Black-eyed Susans, which do increase energetically and are long-blooming plants that attract pollinators.

Cardinal flower, Lobelia cardinalis, is a wonderful plant and it too increases, but slowly. Another great pollinator plant.

I have some of what I have been calling 'wood poppy' or celandine-poppy, "Stylophorum diphyllum." It blooms early, and manages a lot of shade. I have four pots of these all ready to go. It is a member of the celandine family, but is *not* "Chelidonium majus," or Greater Celandine. This plant has fuller blossoms. (See article to the right.)

I also no longer have any room for my physostogia, or white obedient plant, another great plant for pollinators.

Yellow achillea, yarrow, a good pollinator plant.

I also have 2 carex grass clumps that need to vacate! Call me!

Greater Celandine, or Celandine Poppy? Who's the native?

There was a fair amount of discussion at the plant sale about whether or not the Celandine Poppy or Wood Poppy that was for sale was the native or the invasive. There is a good description of the difference between the 2 here: http://www.coldclimategardening.com/2012/06/27/celandine-or-celandine-poppy-wildflower-wednesday/ What Pat has potted up to give away is the native celandine, with the larger blossoms (see her photo below). The invasive is native to Europe, while the other is a North American native.

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 for2 volunteers!)

Pat Leuchtman interviews David Sund for her blog, Commonweeder

David Sund's elegant and productive garden was on the Greenfield Garden Club's Tour earlier this summer. On the tour map, he described his garden as having undergone changes and updating over recent years. Last weekend we visited and talked about the lives of gardens.

When he was just a lad in 1973, Sund's father took the family to Tennessee to live, but it did not take long to find out Tennessee was not the place for them. Instead they moved to Greenfield where grandparents and other family members lived. He still lives in the family house, which was a wreck when they moved in. "The four layers of wallpaper was all that held the walls together," he said. And so began years of rebuilding, and renewing.

There was also work to do outside. In those days there were a number of glass houses that ran across several backyards including theirs. In the spring, plants were replanted in outdoor beds and put up for sale. There was a history of gardens and plants on Vernon Street. Sund said his grandmothers had wonderful flower gardens and his father was one of the first to take to organic gardening.

"I grew up gardening," Sund said. "My father used composting to improve the soil and leaves were used as mulch. Once work on the house was completed, I wanted to do more than raise vegetables. I made two rectangular beds for other plants in the back yard." His interest in design and the many types of plants for a garden began at an early age.

As we talked, Sund said that his current garden is all about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This holds true for the plants that have come into his garden from friends who had multiplying and divided plants, for patio furniture that needed a new home and other treasures. David also regularly shares his plants, but, alas, not this pandemic year.

Before he was a professional gardener he worked at a small local private school as both headmaster and kindergarten teacher. Of course, he had a garden to care for as well. He said his day began with work at school, then work in his garden followed by supper and finishing the day's school homework, but he was always helping others in their gardens when he could. In 2003 his sabbatical from the school led him to a full time professional life as garden designer as well as a "home" gardener.

While surveying Sund's garden, many of us on the tour were particularly attracted to the hardscaping and brick edgings on his beds. They were beautiful and neat, with no encroaching weeds. This was amazing to all of us. Fortunately, Sund is happy to share this technique with all of us. It takes very few tools and materials.

1. Drive stakes to string a taut line along the ground, or lay out curved lines with a garden hose.
2. Using a half moon edger, cut an edge along the line or hose.
3. If cutting and lifting turf, use a spading fork to lift the sod, shaking out the soil into a wheelbarrow (to be added to raised beds. Add the remaining mat of grasses to the compost pile.
4. With a flat bladed shovel, careful not to disturb the lower soil, scoop out a shallow trench to the depth of the width of a brick.
5. Using a brick, sliding/scraping it along the base of the trench, smooth its base making sure that the brick isn't lower than the base of the turf, or standing too proud of the soil level (or your mower blade will resent your efforts).
6. Cut a 20-inch strip off the roll of plastic. It's folded before it's rolled onto a tube. Now unfold the cut section, which yields a long strip. Fold that strip in half, length-wise, creasing it as you fold, between your finger nails.
7. Place the double thickness of plastic in the trench, with the fold against the top of the cut edge of the trench, keeping the fold just below the top of edge. It won't be visible after the bricks are placed, and will serve as a weed barrier, keeping the grass from migrating into the cracks between the bricks.
8. Place the brick firmly against the plastic lined, front edge of the trench, and tightly together. If you are using recycled or reclaimed brick, they may be different in length and/or width. Adjustments can be made with a small trowel (adding or removing a bit of soil, preferably under the plastic).
9. Using a heavy hammer and scrap of 3x3 lumber, you can tamp down the brick, for a smooth top, along which you can run the wheels of your mower. Don't try using the hammer directly on the bricks, or they will break.
10. Backfill the bed side (versus lawn-side) of the edging with some of the garden soil.
11. Sweep play sand into the cracks between the bricks, helping to lock them into place and ward off weed growth. To keep the edge looking crisp and clean, after mowing David uses a string trimmer with the trimmer head perpendicular to the brick edge.

Baba Ganouj adapted from the Moosewood Cookbook

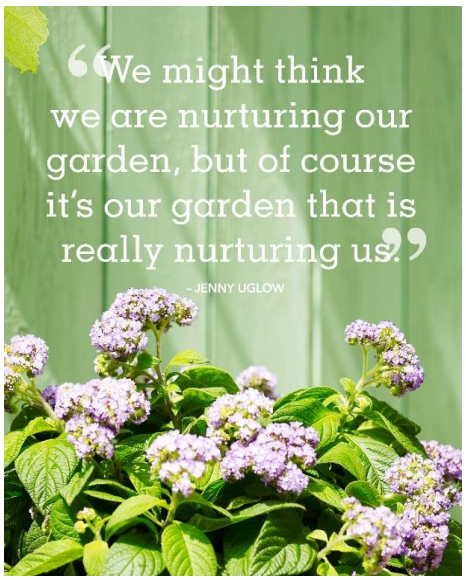
This recipe benefits from resting time before serving.

2 tablespoons oil (for the baking sheet)
2 medium to large eggplants
2 cloves of garlic, minced
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup tahini
1/2 teaspoon salt
black pepper or cayenne (I used a pinch of cayenne)
olive oil and freshly chopped parsley or coriander for the top

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Lightly oil a baking tray. Slice the eggplants in half lengthwise and place face down on the baking tray. Bake for 30 minutes or until very tender. Remove from oven and leave to cool. Scoop out the flesh of the eggplant and discard the skins. Place the pulp in a food processor with the garlic, lemon juice, tahini and salt and pepper. Purée until desired consistency – I think its best with a few chunks of eggplant.

Transfer to a serving bowl, cover and chill. Before serving drizzle the top with oil and scatter your choice of herbs over the top.

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



Elise has a number of amaryllis plants ready for adoption. She is happy to take a donation for the club in exchange for letting you take one of these healthy specimens home with you at the September meeting at her house. Most of them are marked as to bloom color, but a few will be surprises! If you have more plants than you want to bring inside when it gets colder, feel free to being them and we can add them to the adoption table!

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 15, 2020 .....$6,764.79

Income $2,553.21
Interest ($0.21) Dues ($80) Tour ($2,473.00)
Expenses $1034.63
Grant ($110); Seeds of Solidarity ($200) Greenfield Tree Cttee ($200) Tour Expenses ($284.63) Bridge of Flowers ($200) Pat's book to World Eye ($40)
Balance as of Aug 15, 2020 .....$8,283.37

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

October NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Sunday, September 27
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