Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

January 2026 Vol. 34, no. 1

Happy New Year!

President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

"Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire, it's so delightful." Those song lyrics are certainly in play as December ends in a snowy, icy, rainy mess. I keep hoping for enough snow to insulate my plants, but the weather is so erratic. Fingers crossed for better weather! The steering committee is currently reviewing the club bylaws, and if any changes are needed, we will bring the changes to the membership for a vote. The new year will also be a Garden Tour year. We need a few more committee members, and suggestions for gardens to be on the tour. This will be the main fundraiser for the year, so please consider pitching in. Our grant program depends upon the replenishing of our coffers annually. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual meeting, which will feature Dan Ziomek, nursery manager at Sugarloaf Gardens, speaking on a specialty of his—bird migration through the seasons. See you on February 22nd at The Barn at The Farm Table!

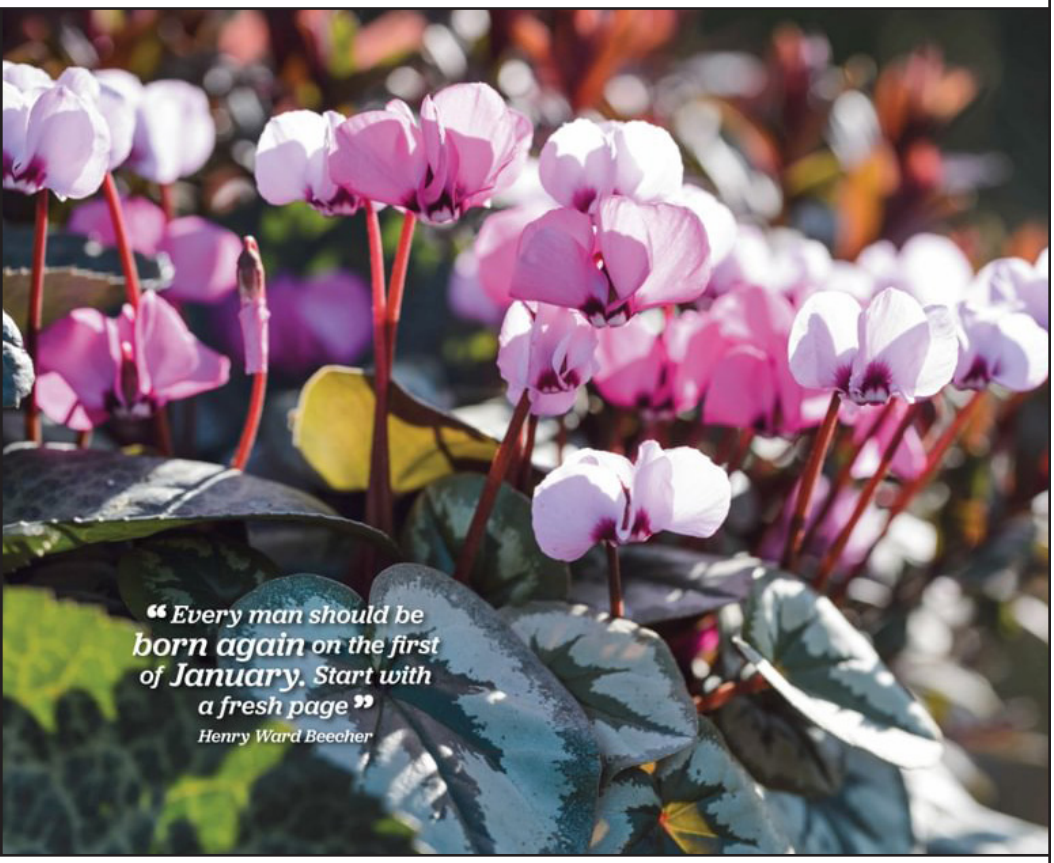
~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3, 10:03 am – Full Wolf Moon, Supermoon
January 10, 10am-1pm – Winter Farmers Market, Greenfield Public Library
January 20 at 5:15 pm – Steering Committee Meeting
February 22, TBD – Annual Meeting

"If we could see the miracle of a single flower, clearly our whole life would change."

–Buddha



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

$20 for one person and $25 for a family: renew now to receive your 2026 membership card and keep saving at our many vendor partners. Send your check made out to **The Greenfield Garden Club** to the club treasurer:

Becky George,
91 Smith St, #111,
Greenfield, MA 01301

Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden Chores**.

Margaret's recent podcasts:

Keystone plants
Microgreens
Tree care
Margaret's NYT column
Birdfeeding

My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.

—Claude Monet

Officers 2025:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website: Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President: Marsha Stone
Treasurer: Becky George
Recording Secretary:Pamela McBride
Corresponding Secretary: Nicki Shipman
At Large Member/s: Eva Carrier; Celt Grant; Jane Alexander

UMassAmherst

UMass Extension

2026 Mass Aggie Seminars

Starts January 17

Pre-registration required as seating is limited.

Workshops

January 17 - Understanding Grape Pruning (Online/In Person)
January 17 - Hands-On Grape Pruning (In Person)
February 21 - Insects: Pests and Beneficials (Online)
February 28 - Home Orchard Pruning (focus on apples) (In Person)
March 7 - Ecological Weed Management in the Home Orchard (Online)
March 14 - Blueberry 101 (Online)
March 21 - Apple Tree Grafting (In Person)
April 11 - Orchard Disease Management (Online)
April 18 - The Apple Fruiting Wall (In Person)

Detailed Schedule

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 22

The Farm Table
219 South St
Bernardston, MA 01337

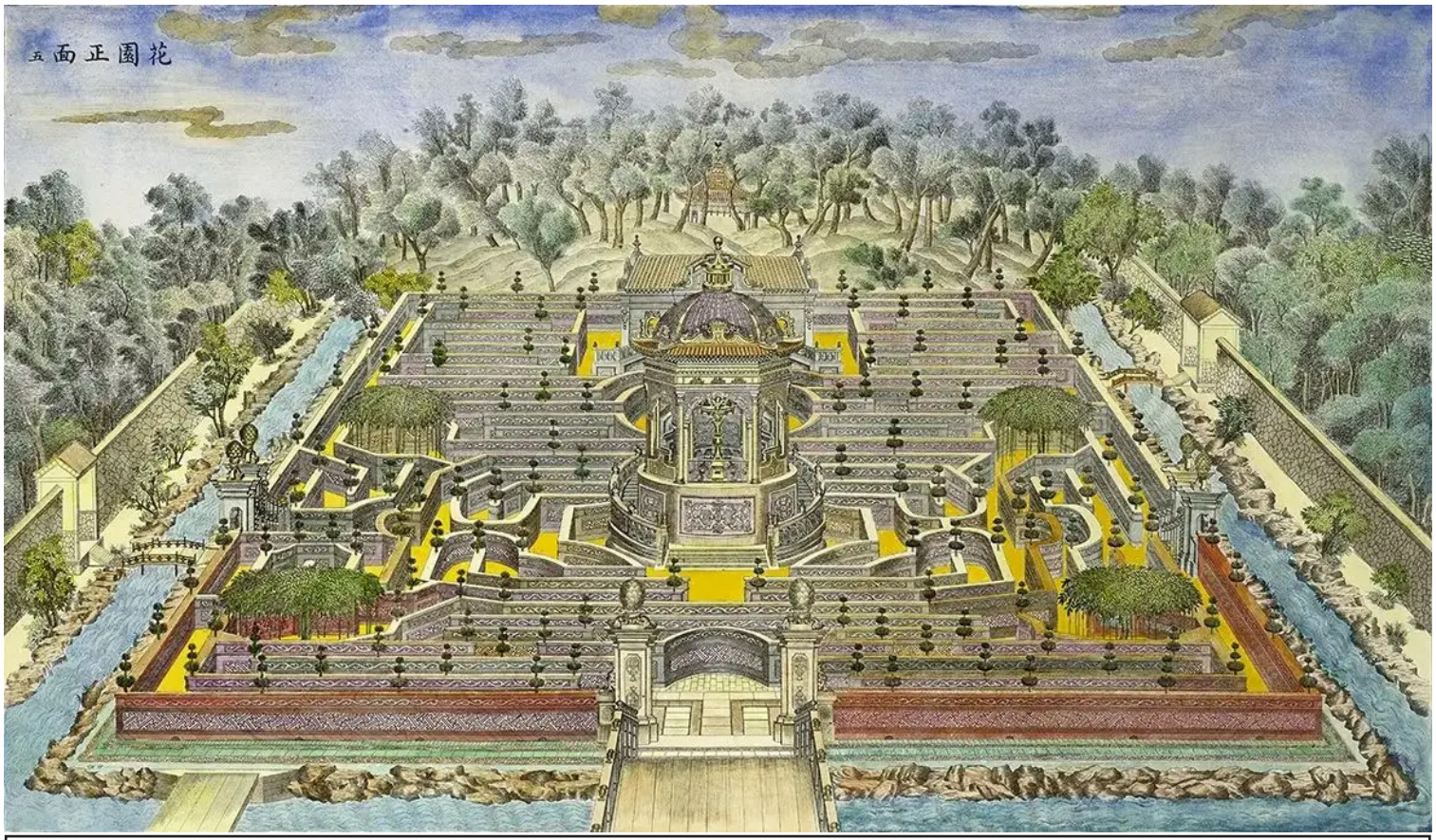
(Snow date Sunday, March 1)

Nominating Committee

We are looking for 2-3 people to present a slate of officers at the annual meeting on **February 22nd**. This committee will ask the current officers if they are willing to continue in their positions, and reach out to the membership if there is a vacancy. They also thank the committee members for the past year at the annual meeting, present the new slate, take nominations from the floor (all positions are open annually) ask for a vote, and congratulate the new officers.

Please reach out asap to the club email to volunteer.

Garden Conservancy



Winter Webinar Series:
The Emperor's Western Maze and the Making of a Global Garden in China

Thursday, January 29, 2026
Thursday, February 26, 2026
Thursday, March 19, 2026
Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Purchase all three webinars in the series for 30% off.

In a special three-part virtual series for the Garden Conservancy this winter, Professor Andrew Hui explores the fascinating yet overlooked history of the Western Gardens at the Chinese Emperor's Summer Palace in the eighteenth century. Over the course of three episodes, he will explore the unexpected story of how these vast gardens came to be designed by Jesuit priests and how they influence the development of Europe's own gardens.

2026 CLACKAMAS COUNTY 10-MINUTE UNIVERSITY WEBINARS

click on the photo below for more info

Giant Wasps of Franklin County

with Paul Sievert

Tuesday January 13 6:00–7:00

in the Community Room at the Dickinson Memorial Library

Using photos taken in Gill and Montague, Paul will describe the ecology of some of North America's largest wasps: Cicada Killers and Giant Ichneumons. These behemoths of the wasp world play an important role in food webs by controlling insect populations, and serving as prey for insectivorous birds. *Come spend an evening with the giants.*

The program is co-sponsored by the Dickinson Memorial Library and the Northfield Bird Club.

DICKINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In 2026, there will be 13 Full Moons instead of 12, with May getting double duty. Here's when they are, according to theskylive.com/:

January 3, 10:03 a.m. / Wolf Moon
February 1, 10:09 p.m. / Snow Moon
March 3, 11:38 a.m. / Worm Moon
April 2, 3:12 a.m. / Pink Moon
May 1, 6:12 p.m. / Flower Moon
May 31, 9:45 a.m. / This is a rare Blue Moon
June 30, 12:57 a.m. / Strawberry Moon
July 29, 3:36 p.m. / Buck Moon
August 28, 5:18 p.m. / Sturgeon Moon
September 26, 5:49 p.m. / Corn Moon
October 26, 4:12 a.m. / Hunter's Moon
November 24, 2:53 p.m. / Beaver Moon
December 24, 1:28 a.m. / Cold Moon

In 2026, there will be 12 New Moons and 13 Full Moons. May has a Blue Moon, a second Full Moon at the end of the month. February will have an Annular Solar Eclipse, and there will be a Total Solar Eclipse in August. March will have a Total Lunar Eclipse, also called a Blood Moon, and there will be a Partial Lunar Eclipse in August.

Tulips in January?

PATTEN HILL FLOWER FARM
SHELBURNE, MA

Patten Hill Flower Farm, 135 Reynolds Rd, Shelburne MA 01370, USA

"If you're feeling a bit winter weary and craving locally-grown blooms, our vivid red tulip varieties are first up & open. 'Charming Princess' is a velvety, deep red with a full body and long stems. 'Kung Fu' is a bright red with mesmerizing white striations along the petal edges. Both cultivars exude warmth and a vibrant pop of color in contrast to the winter white landscape," says Barb.

(Click on the photo for more information)

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Native Plant Trust

New this season: lower-priced, Zoom intro classes on popular topics, starting at $10 per class. Or, to save even more, the Introduction to Native Plants Package, bundles eight intro classes for $60, a $20 savings.

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."
–Henri Matisse

February NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Saturday, January 24th
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of November 15, 2025.....$7682.41
Income $90.19
Interest $0.19, Membership $40, Donation $30
Expenses $263.47
(Cider day 54.42, Holiday Party 209.05)

Balance as of December 15th, 2025.....$7489.13

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 91 Smith St #111,
Greenfield MA 01301
Questions? greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.co

Apple Wassailing

The Apple Wassail or Orchard Wassail is a tradition practiced in the cider orchards of Southern England during the winter, on either Twelfth Night (5 or 6 January) or Old Twelfth Night (17 January). The first recorded mention was at Fordwich, Kent, in 1585. The word 'Wassail' comes from the Old English phrase 'was hál', meaning 'be well.'

Men would go with their wassail bowl into the orchard. Slices of bread or toast were laid at the roots and sometimes tied to branches. Cider was also poured over the tree roots, and sometimes over the toast. Then they would make lots of noise, singing, banging pots and pans together, and firing off guns, to scare away any malignant spirits in the orchard. Many festivities also include morris dancing. The ceremony is said to "bless" the trees to produce a good crop in the forthcoming season. (*Wikipedia)*

The goal of this pagan tradition is to ensure a good harvest in the year to come by enticing good spirits to come to the orchard (they like the song and dance part), and to frighten away bad spirits that might wreak havoc and ruin this year's crop! *(orchardpeople.com)*

Bud well, bear well
God send you fare well;
Every sprig and every spray
A bushel of apples
next New Year Day.

—19th century Worcestershire

Click on the images to learn about Ox and Robin Farm and their seeds for sale (top), and their substack article about making compost (left).

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 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

Shelburne Farm and Garden
355 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne
10% off anything garden-related

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

Floral Affairs
324 Deerfield St, Greenfield
10% off anything in the store

Any vendors interested in offering our club member-gardeners a discount, please contact a member of the Steering Committee – thank you!!