Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

January 2025 Vol. 33, No. 1

Welcome to a New Year!

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, February 23rd, 12 – 3 PM
GGC Annual Meeting
The Barn at the Farm Table
219 South St
Bernardston, MA
Guest Speaker: Wisty Rorabacher
"Throw Caution to the Wind: Let Native Plants be an Inspiration"

Wisty Rorabacher was instrumental in the creation, and the ongoing evolution of the gardens at the Senior Center and Fisk Ave Pocket Park. Both of these gardens are centered around protecting native plants, the insects that pollinate them, and the resulting fruit and seeds that nourish other living creatures. After explaining her interpretation of what a native plant is, she will share her personal journey toward experiencing native plants as inspiration. Learn how Wisty's love of native plants is guiding her unique efforts to reduce the invasive species in the forest adjacent to the Green River Swimming Area in order to save and nurture the much-loved native plants that previously dominated the area. Look for your invitation in the mail around the end of January/beginning of February.

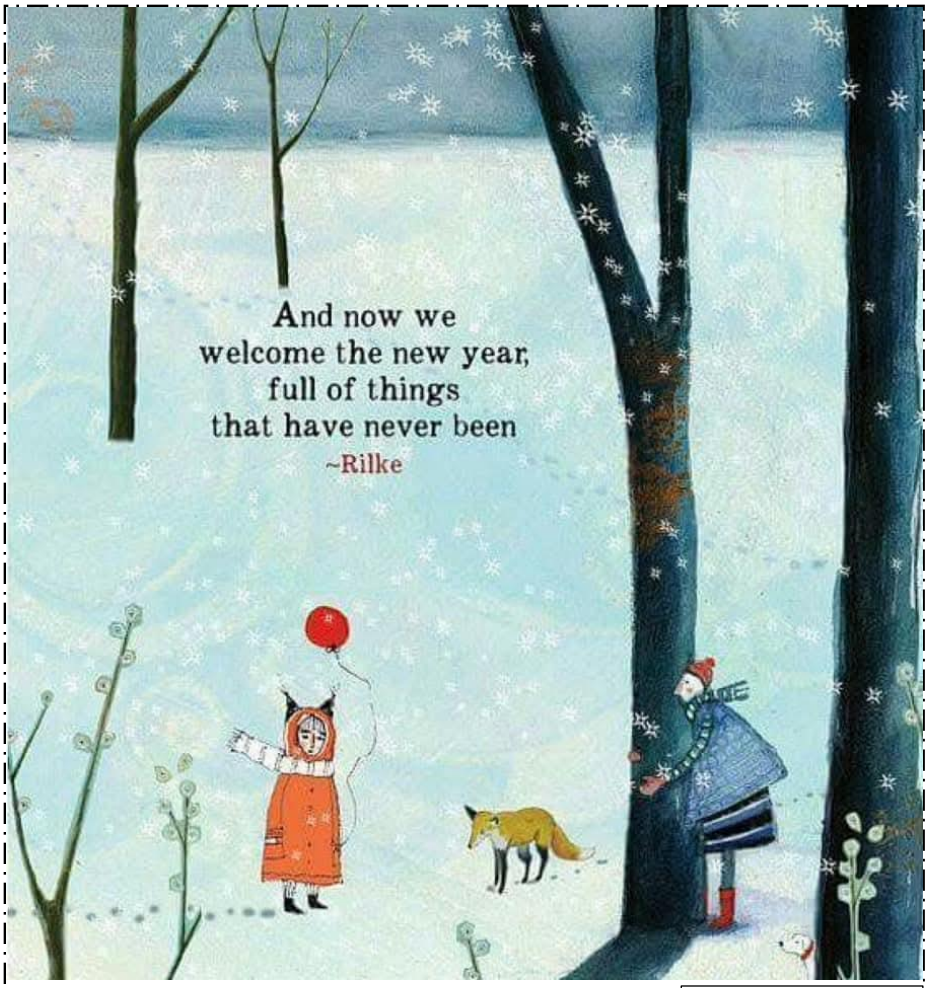
January President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

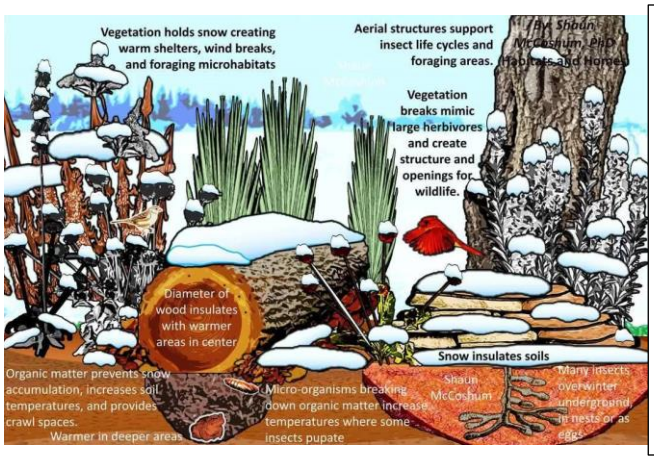
Welcome to a new year of activities for the club! There are many garden and flower shows coming up - some that might need advance planning. I booked an Airbnb for 2 nights in June to see the Newport Flower Show, and do some sightseeing. I also can't wait to see what the Garden Conservancy has in store for us this year. Make sure to check out the annual winter lecture at Berkshire Botanical Gardens with speaker Jacqueline van der Kloet, who is an internationally acclaimed garden designer and one of Holland's best-known gardening authorities. They have other events coming up too. While we are in hibernation mode in January, we look forward to seeing folks at the annual meeting, for which we still need a nominating committee. Won't you volunteer for this? Send us an email! Until then - stay warm! ~ *Laura*

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8, 5:15 pm – Steering Committee Meeting
January 11, 10 am – 1 pm – Winter Farmer's Market at GPL
February 23, 12 pm – 3 pm – Annual Meeting

Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.
~ Kahlil Gibran





An illustration from Dr. Shaun McCoshun's upcoming book: Habitats and Homes. See HERE for his 2 previous books.

Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent ***Monthly Garden Chores*** *on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

Fluent

I would love to live
Like a river flows.
Carried by the surprise
Of its own unfolding.

~ John O'Donohue
(Conamara Blues)

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; Michelle Tirrell; Celt Grant

Event at Black Birch Vineyard in Hatfield

January 18, 25, or March 8. Join us for a magical evening under the stars at this warm and inviting winery! Wine-maker Kevin Collins is not only a master of wine but also an avid astronomer and telescope enthusiast. With the help of a planetarium projector, Kevin will guide us on a fascinating journey through the night sky, star-hopping across constellations and uncovering the wonders of our universe. To make the evening even more delightful, they are offering an optional meal to pair with our wine to enjoy during the hour before the presentation. Robert Niemann of Fatti in Casa has curated a selection of mouthwatering dishes, along with an optional dessert for those with a sweet tooth.

The Menu:

- BBQ Smoky Braised Brisket with homemade orecchiette Mac & Cheese served with Tuscan bread
- Lasagna - Ratatouille (Vegetarian) Green/yellow squash, mushrooms, onions, eggplant, peppers & tomatoes layered with ricotta, mozzarella, parmesan & homemade pasta sheets served with Tuscan bread
- Chicken Cacciatore (GF upon request) - Boneless chicken thighs sauteed with onions, peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms and garlic finished in a red wine reduction with olives and fresh herbs garnished with parmesan, fresh sage polenta. Served with Tuscan bread

This year, they're excited to also include us as part of the program! 2024 brought us breathtaking celestial events like the Total Solar Eclipse, dazzling Aurora Borealis, and a stunning comet. They are inviting us to share one or two of your favorite photos of these incredible sights. Kevin will compile them into a musical slideshow to kick off each evening, featuring OUR captivating images!

Please send your photo submissions to Kevin by the following deadlines at: trussdob@gmail.com

If you are attending the **January 18th** or **January 25th** programs: Please email your picture(s) by January 11th and note which evening you are attending.

If you are attending the **March 8th** program: Please email your picture(s) by Saturday March 1st.

A few GGC members are going together on January 25th. Join us! To learn more and register before they sell out, click HERE.

10-Minute University™ Webinars: Let's Grow Together!

Every Wednesday 1/8/25 to 5/14/25 Free w/ pre-registration. Details @ cmastergardeners.org

January 8 **Fruit Tree Pruning**	January 15 **Pruning Solutions for Trees & Shrubs**	January 22 **Greenhouse Gardening 101**	January 29 **Growing Blueberries**	10-Minute University™ Healthy Plants Nutritious Food Beauty Biodiversity
February 5 **Healthy Soil: Practical Tips for New & Seasoned Gardeners**	February 12 **Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces**	February 19 **Gardens as Stepping-Stone Habitats**	February 26 **Growing Early-Season Vegetables**	
March 5 **Creating a Pollinator Garden**	March 12 **Tips for Growing Vegetables & Berries**	March 19 **Tips for Growing Tomatoes**	March 26 **Plant Superheroes**	
April 2 **Houseplants 101**	April 9 **Resilient Gardens**	April 16 **Solving Pest Problems**	April 23 **Good Bug, Bad Bug**	April 30 **Building a Garden: A Behind-the-Scenes Look**
May 7 **Debunking Gardening Myths**	May 14 **Insect-Friendly Habitat**	Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener™ In collaboration with and in support of the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program		

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials. Accommodation request related to a disability should be made by 1/2/2025 to Catalina Santamaria: 503-655-8631 Catalina.Santamaria@oregonstate.edu

If you cannot attend live, register and get the recording. Below is the first webinar of the season.

Jan. 8th: Do your fruit trees have a good form and produce a consistent crop every year? Can you reach them safely to prune and harvest? If not, this class can help. Register HERE.

What you will learn:

- How to train young trees
- How to prune your fruit tree for production and health
- How to rejuvenate mature trees
- Different types of pruning cuts and appropriate uses
- Location of fruits (spur vs shoot) and age of fruiting wood for apple, pear, plum, cherry, apricot, peach, fig, nectarine, persimmon.

This class is in Pacific Time, but you can get the recording to watch later.

Poet Amanda Gorman

New Day's Lyric

May this be the day
We come together.
Mourning, we come to mend,
Withered, we come to weather,
Torn, we come to tend,
Battered, we come to better.
Tethered by this year of yearning,
We are learning
That though we weren't ready for this,
We have been readied by it.
We steadily vow that no matter
How we are weighed down,
We must always pave a way forward.
This hope is our door, our portal.
Even if we never get back to normal,
Someday we can venture beyond it,
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
But reach toward what is next.
What was cursed, we will cure.
What was plagued, we will prove pure.
Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,
Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,
Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;
Those moments we missed
Are now these moments we make,
The moments we meet,
And our hearts, once all together beaten,
Now all together beat.
Come, look up with kindness yet,
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,
But to take on tomorrow.
We heed this old spirit,
In a new day's lyric,
In our hearts, we hear it:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
Be bold, sang Time this year,
Be bold, sang Time,
For when you honor yesterday,
Tomorrow ye will find.
Know what we've fought
Need not be forgot nor for none.
It defines us, binds us as one,
Come over, join this day just begun.
For wherever we come together,
We will forever overcome.

~ Amanda Gorman

Amanda S. C. Gorman (born March 7, 1998) is an American poet, activist, and model. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. Gorman was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate.

The 2025 Mass Aggie Seminars begin on February 15 via Zoom! Topics include:

- **Insects, Pests, and Beneficials**
- **Ecological Home Orchard Weed Management**
- **Orchard Sustainability Through IPM**
- **Orchard Pruning**
- **Orchard Establishment**
- ***Cost: $45 per lecture***

Want to learn more? Click here to learn more about the programs and find the mail-in registration form.

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

YETI, SET, GO!

January 11 – February 23

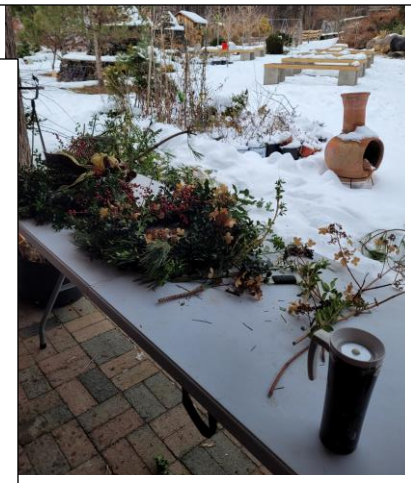
Our favorite cold-weather magical creatures have returned! Join us for *Yeti, Set, Go!* and embark on a whimsical winter adventure. Hidden among icy gardens, towering trees, and frosty landscapes, colorful yetis await your discovery. Find all of the yetis and uncover the magic and beauty of the winter season. Plus, learn about the wildlife that calls the Garden home through educational programs designed for kids and families.

PIXELS + PETALS: AN ORCHID EXHIBITION

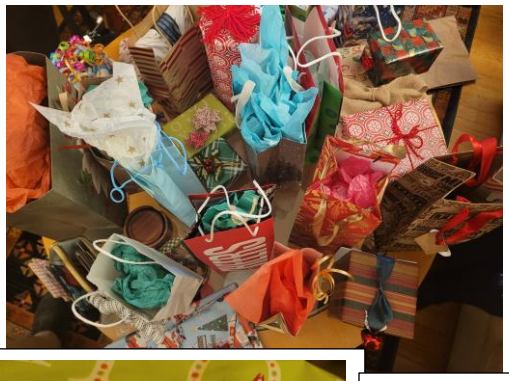
Feb 8 – Mar 16

Get ready for a blast from the past with our annual orchid exhibition! *Pixels & Petals* combines the vibrant world of retro video games with the delicate beauty of orchids. Rewind, flash back, and immerse yourself in pixelated charm as nostalgia and nature unite in a one-of-a-kind experience.

The open house and wreath-making at Wilder Hill Gardens was well-attended on both days. Annette and Laura decided to go Sunday instead of Saturday as they thought it might be warmer. Dressed appropriately for the weather, we had a great time, and loved our wreaths. Lilian provides all the supplies, although we did bring our own snippers. The types of greenery changed from last year, which was nice. It is all cut fresh from her property.



The GGC holiday party was a success. The food was delicious, and the desserts amazing. The Yankee Swap was fun, and we thank our hosts, Norm and Marsha, for their hospitality.



Capitol Region Flower and Garden Expo

2025 Event Dates:

- Friday, 28 March, 2025 From 10:00 am To 6:00 pm
- Saturday, 29 March, 2025 From 10:00 am To 6:00 pm
- Sunday, 30 March, 2025 From 10:00 am To 5:00 pm

Tickets are now available. Buy one-day passes or a 3-day pass. Prices range from $12 to $37. Click HERE to go to the ticketing page. You can also purchase tickets at the door.

The first sign of spring is New York's Capital Region Flower & Garden Expo, a tradition loved by nearly 17,000 annual visitors who travel from across the Northeast. See a stunning array of magnificently designed floral displays, over 200 garden and flower-themed retail exhibits, free tastings at over a dozen NYS wineries and distilleries, and over 50 hours of flower, garden, and cooking workshops, demonstrations, and lectures. The shopping in the Marketplace for one-of-a-kind items is amazing. You'll find plants, flowers, bulbs, seeds, herbs, garden tools & accessories, garden tractors, dried flowers & garden decor, farms, Farmers Market type food offerings, cooking tools, floral art, jewelry, pottery, plant societies, floral apparel & accessories, patio furniture, and botanicals.

The Newport Flower Show at Rosecliff

The 29th Annual Newport (RI) Flower Show will take place from June 20-22, 2025 at Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840, its original home.

Set in one of the most beautiful venues of any flower show, The Newport Flower Show celebrates all that is wonderful about American horticulture. The competitive floral design exhibits are always exquisite and the competitive landscape design exhibits on the streetside lawn are filled with ideas that can inspire home gardeners. The event attracts some of the most talented and artistic vendors in the nation. At this time of year, the streets of Newport are bejeweled with the blossoms of opulent Japanese dogwoods leaving an overall impression of glorious color. The exquisite weeping copper beeches are in full, burgundy leaf as are many of the 100+ year old trees of Newport.

Click HERE to go to the Newport Mansions site for further information.

Secret Garden Tours

Newport, Rhode Island

Spring & Fall Tours of the private gardens of some of historic Newport's most prestigious properties

Secret Garden Tour, Newport, RI

A self-guided walking tour of the private gardens of some of Newport's most prestigious and historic properties.

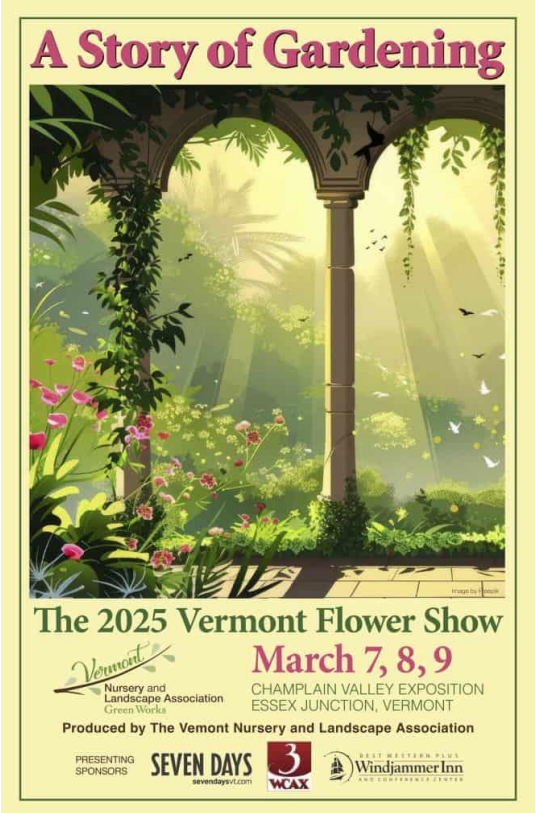
Friday, June 27, 2025 — 10:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, June 28, 2025 — 10:00am to 4:00pm

Sunday, June 29, 2025 — 10:00am to 4:00pm

Only 350 tickets will be sold for each day.

$30 in advance / $35 day of the tour ~ if there are any tickets available.



[The Vermont Flower Show]

March 7-9 "A Story of Gardening"

Celebrate and recreate gardening through the ages and discover how we as humans learn from the past as we cultivate our own gardens and plant for the future.

[2025 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show]

Theme: Gardens of Tomorrow

March 1-9

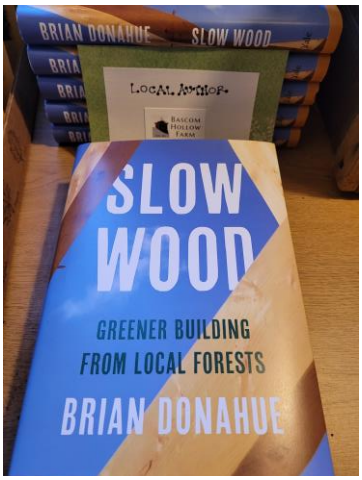
In 2025, the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show exhibits will take you into a new world of imaginative designs and boundless inspiration. The theme, *Gardens of Tomorrow*, invites you to explore the future through the eyes of visionary designers, expert gardeners, and passionate green enthusiasts as they merge nature's brilliance with human ingenuity.

Click HERE for tickets and more information.

[Connecticut Flower and Garden Show]

February 20-23

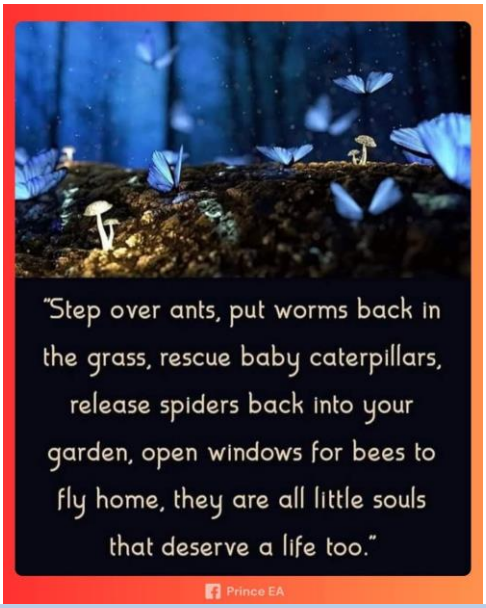
Spring in February arrives annually at the Connecticut Convention Center! Explore exhibits overflowing with fresh flowers, plants, herbs, bulbs, seeds, gardening books, garden equipment & much more. View beautifully landscaped gardens full of greenery and stop by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut design & horticulture competition. We also offer over 80 hours of seminars and demonstrations across a variety of topics. Advance tix are $17



Brian Donahue chronicles his journey of building a personal dream through the lens of forest care with detailed descriptions of the New England landscape. The book starts by invoking the name and spirit of Henry David Thoreau, who once walked the same landscape that Donahue describes and where his own spirit walks. He begins this book by describing how he as a young man experienced the forest of his youth, pointing out that his views could not be separated from the context of his own time. The forests he walked in were young, simple, and lacking the structure and function of an old forest. This in many ways was similar to the experience that Thoreau had when living on the edge of the urban landscape in a forest already diminished by clearing by European settlers. It is this recognition of context that needs highlighting in the discussion of how we care for our forests, the conflict of active versus passive management. Donahue aptly describes how wild forests depend on well-managed forests that provide wood products for society while also maintaining and enhancing the full range of ecological benefits. He explains that implementing proper care, growing big trees, and harvesting slow wood can move the forest to a resilient and diverse condition.

There is much to learn about the ecological history of New England in this book, as each chapter focuses on a separate part of the house Donahue is building along with family and friends. It is also a social history and love letter to the landscape of his chosen home.

Brian Donahue is a Professor Emeritus of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University. He is a farmer, historian, and conservationist, and author of prize-winning books about the past and future of New England farms and forests. He lives in Massachusetts.



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Nov 15, 2024.....$7,874.11

Income $40.18
Interest $0.21; Memberships: $40
Expenses $40.42
Meeting supplies: $40.42
Balance as of Dec 15, 2024 .....$7,873.87

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.com

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, January 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

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

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