Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

July 2026 Vol. 34, No. 7

Native Plants Rule in Orange!

Monthly Event

Thursday, July 16, 5:30-6:30pm

Hosts: Dayna Veach and Aaron Kendall

Topic: Native plants and daylilies

Location: 145 Town Farm Rd, Orange, MA 01364 (This is technically in North Orange).

Carpool: 4:55pm from Cherry Rum Plaza (it's a 35 minute drive)

RSVP to greenfieldgardenclub.org

When you RSVP, let us know if you would like to be part of the carpool.

There will be a time to purchase plants.

I am a backyard grower who lives in a particularly dry area of the region who also deals with voles, and these two conditions mean I am always growing more perennials for myself to replace losses. That, and working in the garden center industry where thousands of pots are thrown into the dumpster every year, I decided suddenly one day that I should start a small backyard business just to cover the costs of all the plants and potting soil I was buying as I would have all the pots and quite a bit of reused soil at my disposal for free. I quickly had more seedlings than I had room for and teamed up with an acquaintance with a Farm stand in a busier area to sell perennials there. I don't really specialize in any type of plant, but New England and Midwestern native species feature prominently.

Aaron is a biologist and has been breeding daylilies for 7 years. He experiments with different colors and forms like breeders do, and has fun seeing what features go well together.

July President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Welcome to July – and boy is it HOT! Nothing like this kind of weather to make me appreciate my trees. I was sad to see that several of the branches of my red maple in the front yard had some die-back over the winter. I also lost a Mugo pine and a Candymint crabapple. In the high wind events this year I lost a lilac and a peach tree. I guess with loss comes opportunity to try something new, but it's hard to lose established plants. You may recognize this format! Call me old-fashioned, but I don't have fancy software and tend to fall back on a reliable format. Maybe Leslie and I will find a program that we both can use that is easy to work with. Fingers crossed! In the meantime, I hope your gardens are chugging along, and I hope you can join us for the monthly event in Orange. Stay cool! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11 – Deb Loomer & Elise Schlaikjer are on the Open Garden Days
July 16, 5:30pm – Visit Dayna Veach for native plants
July 21, 5:00pm – Steering Committee Meeting
July 30, 4:50pm – Movie: The Gardener

The garden reconciles human art and wild nature, hard work and deep pleasure, spiritual practice and the material world. It is a magical place because it is not divided. ~ Thomas Moore

Looking to form a **Fair Booth Committee**. The 177th Franklin County Fair will be here before you know it (September 10-13). This year's theme is "History Grows Here." We can choose to follow the theme, or make something up on our own. Step one is to brainstorm booth ideas, then we make a supply list and go from there. This doesn't have to be the team that physically puts the booth together, but it's good to have some overlap. Won't you consider giving the club a helping hand? EM the club: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

The refreshment table at the GGC Garden Tour had a number of tasty treats and Tom Thayer was happy to share this recipe from his mother.

HELLO DOLLY BARS

Grease a 9x13 pan and lay down a graham cracker crust of ½ cup melted butter and 1 ½ cup graham cracker crumbs.

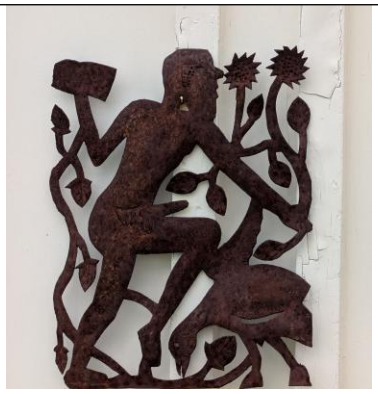
Layer on 1 cup butterscotch chips, 1 cup chocolate chips, 1 cup chopped walnuts, 1 packed cup shredded coconut. Drizzle 1 can of sweetened condensed milk over the top.

Bake at 350 for 20-25 minutes. Cut when cool.

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

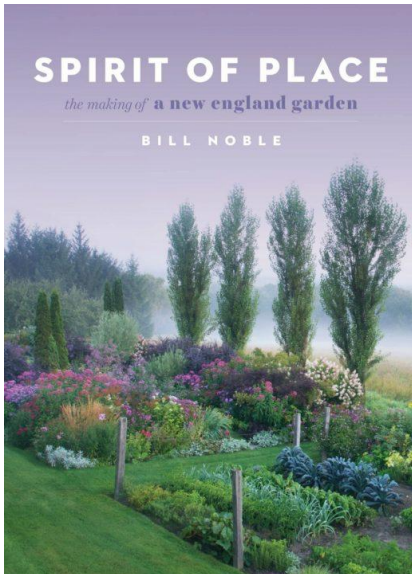
HOLD THE DATE!!
Saturday, August 15
4-7pm

Come to a late summer pot-luck at the lovely home of Lisa and Marek Machalski, 123 Green River Road. Badminton anyone? There is plenty of parking on the road, and lots of shady gardens. RSVP by August 5th to the main GGC email. Bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage. Spouses and friends are welcome.



Officers 2025:

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



Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden

published by Timber Press in 2020

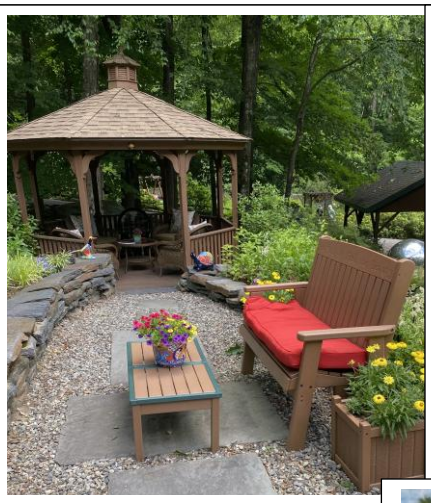
Bill describes the pleasures and challenges of creating a garden that feels deeply rooted to its place. He looks at sources of inspiration as well as the principles—both aesthetic and practical—that guided the making of the garden. Some of the questions he posed himself along the way are: "How does a garden relate to the larger landscape? How does it reflect my interests while still evoking a sense of place?"

With close to 300 color photographs, the book vividly portrays his approach to making colorful perennial gardens, sun-drenched rock gardens and borders of rare and unusual plants sourced from some of the finest nurseries in the country. And because it is a country garden, there is a chapter about growing fruits and vegetables, and another that places the garden in its larger ecological setting.

Bill's main goal has been to create a garden where the emotional response comes first. He invites you to pick up a copy and join him in savoring the trials and errors that keep a garden interesting and alive.

Bill Noble's Gardens were recently open to the public during the 2026 Open Days of the Garden Conservancy. High on a hillside in Norwich, VT, the views and his gardens were spectacular. You can order a copy of his book HERE.

The 2026 GGC Garden Tour is in the books! We sold 100 tickets at $10 each. After expenses though, the total is a bit lower. I think we need to envision a revamped tour in 2 years so we can net more funds for our grant program, or add another fundraiser to the line-up. Folks I talked to had a great time. It really is special to see what other gardeners in our neighborhood are planting. Below are 8 photos – one for each garden.



QUONQUONT FARM, WHATELY

Patio Pour- July 9th
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Enjoy the patio & garden bar for a laid-back golden hour gathering. Slow down, sip. This is a family friendly event and we welcome leashed dogs! Bring your favorite food (& A chair!) to enjoy while you're here!

Harvest to Hand-Tied: Create a Handheld Bouquet- July 16th

Join us for a relaxed evening in the flower garden. With a mimosa in hand you'll learn to create your own handheld bouquet. Come ready to sip, snip, and get creative. Enjoy an evening surrounded by blooming flowers and good company.

Artisan Market
July 18th

An afternoon of summer shopping on the farm! Browse vendor stalls in the event barn, shop the farmstand, pick flowers and blueberries, enjoy food from La Veracruzana, and sip on a beverage from our farm bar!

Colrain Flower Garden Tour and Plant Sale

Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or shine

All tickets are $20 and available now at Pine Hill Orchards

Tour the eight gardens with your self-guiding map.

Gardens may be visited in any order,

and your ticket is good for both days.

Please, no smoking, no pets.

Plants are for sale at the Wheeler Home and at Checkerspot Farm.

There are two talks, one at 11 a.m. at the Olsen Home on the "Greenhouse Challenge" and at 2 p.m. at Keldaby Farm on "Introduction to a Pollinator's Garden."

The eight gardens:

Deborah and Guy Wheeler

Foundry Brook Gardens, Eileen Sauvageau

Keldaby Farm, Cynthia Herbert,

Helen and Bob Olson

Hui and Doug Spink

Peaceable Hill Farm, Kendra and Allan Daniel

Checkerspot Farm, Jocelyn Demuth

Sarah Hollister

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Colrain Historical Society for its ongoing work at the museum.

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2026

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT

sales@obrienhosta.com

Use your 10% discount on your purchases!

July 3, 4 & 5 – Featuring Polygonatum 'Fireworks' & 'Firecracker' for the 250th!

July 10, 11 & 12 – Our Tradition of Dazzling Daylily Tables, for 3+ Months

July 17, 18 & 19 – Many Dwarf & Variegated Ginkgo, for Golden Fall Color

July 24, 25 & 26 – Do you call them Heuchera, Hoochaira, or Coralbells?

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)

Also by Appointment – Please Call Ahead

They accept cash and checks – but not credit cards!

Check out this YouTube video featuring O'Brien Nursery released August 2025.

CONWAY NATIVES

NATIVE PLANTS
LANDSCAPE DESIGN

LILIAN R. JACKMAN
351 SOUTH SHIRKSHIRE RD.
CONWAY, MASS. 01341
(413) 772-9065

CONWAYNATIVES.COM

Nursery open every Sunday from 9 to 5

FLOWERING SHRUBS $25/pot

Flowering shrubs are a great way to add color and structure to your landscape. Because we grow our own plant material right here at *Conway Natives*, currently we have a great collection of young shrubs at $25/pot. This is a time-sensitive window, before the shrubs outgrow their containers and are shifted up into bigger (and more expensive) pots. These choice shrubs are healthy, grown without pesticides, and ready to grace your gardens with color, form, and foliage.

Art House Day

Greenfield Garden Cinema

July 30, 2026

Among what looks like 12 movies playing for Art House Day, is a film we might like to see – **The Gardener.** Showtime for this movie is 4:50 pm. It showed once online in June for $12, but now we can see it in the theater on the big screen for only $8.50!

Lisa's Peaceful Place

Saturday, July 25th 10am – 4 pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

This **Westfield, MA** garden has been a 24-year labor of love that has evolved into six distinct sitting areas with a wide variety of plants, garden art, natural stone and wood accents and a pond feature. There are 80 different hostas, a hardy banana, passion flowers, specimen trees including a beautiful Japanese umbrella pine, a tricolor beech, a golden chain and a mimosa. Recent emphasis has been on providing habitat for pollinators by planting many different native plants. The design is more that of a specimen garden than a structured formal look. The "surprise" element is outdoor pens for our 13 rescue tortoises and turtles who will be on display, weather permitting. *This garden's estimated size is .5 acres.* **This Garden Host reports the following Terrain Notes about the garden:** *All areas are accessible but there are some pathways with uneven stone.*

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY JULY OPEN DAYS IN HAMDEN and HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES (as well as NH – see next 2 pages)

Thayer Garden, Hadley, MA

Saturday, July 25th, 10am - 4pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

I've loved working on the gardens around our 1747 farmhouse and 1884 barn for the 32 years I have lived here. The house has always been in my husband's family. I think of his ancestors while I'm tending the phlox, iris, daylilies, peonies, lilacs, and wisteria that have been here for generations. And I've loved expanding and adding to the gardens over the years. We have a fishpond, a pergola with wisteria covering it, a shade garden, a 28-foot-square garden with vegetables in raised beds with brick pathways, blueberries, a small daylily border, and a shrub border. Near the house entrance there are herbs and perennials. Lately I have focused on planting more native pollinator plants. I do the gardening and my husband is very willing to help with bigger gardening chores. Our property looks at Mt. Holyoke to the east and at farm fields bordered by trees lining the Connecticut River to the west. *This garden's estimated size is 2 acres.*

Medicine Wheel Garden

Saturday, July 25th, 10am - 4pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Awe and Wonder in **Alstead, NH**. The experience of creating our gardens brings me such feelings of joy. The mix of flowers, shrubs, and trees weave throughout. There are 12 raised beds and other areas for vegetables. My passion and love of rocks has led to building rock walls, steps, and a large medicine wheel for prayer and meditation. The house and gardens sit at the north end of a rolling pasture. The view of the flowers and the distant forest and mountains add to the wonder of this place. You are welcome to join me on a tour of this beautiful environment. *This garden's estimated size is .25 acres.***This Garden Host reports the following Terrain Notes about the garden:** *There are some stone steps, but one can choose not to use them.*

Boggy Meadow Farm

Saturday, July 25th, 10am - 4pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

This **Walpole, NH** garden is planted on a small bluff above the Connecticut River. The original, formal garden was implemented in the 1840s by Walter Channing Mason and then substantially improved by Fanny Peabody Mason and subsequently by her descendants, who are following in their footsteps. Spread over five acres, the garden is now a mix of formal and informal plantings. The less formal, English-style features also incorporate some French conventions including an enclosed rose and amaryllis plantings, sectioned into four quadrants by hedges (honoring the current owner's part-French ancestry), a folly erected in the '30s, a grape arbor, and a small sunken garden, and a forest garden down a narrow ravine to a stream. The informal sections include a rewilded lawn on both sides of the main house. The diversity and quality of plants is due to Helen O'Donnell of Bunker Hill Farm in Putney, VT. *This garden's estimated size is approximately 5 acres.*

Hudson Garden

Saturday, July 25th, 10am - 4pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Begun in the late 90's, this **Westmoreland, NH** 1.5-acre garden has transformed from a gently sloping cow pasture, to a landscape interspersed with a wide variety of specimen trees, mixed herbaceous and shrub borders, understory plantings and winding paths. This is a collector's garden with a light touch, that seeks a degree of balance with the land around it. Marc Hudson has been creating and maintaining gardens professionally for 25 years. The nursery, which is adjacent to the gardens, offers an eclectic mix of woody and herbaceous plants for sale.

STOP KNOTWEED!!

Japanese Knotweed is spreading across New England and is the number one invasive in the US and UK. I recently attended the Knotweed Symposium in Charlemont on June 25th with 85 other Franklin County folks from 15 towns (I believe I was the only person there from Leyden) and representatives from Senator Paul Mark's office. The main attraction, other than the 3 excellent speakers, were the massive amounts of handouts. I signed up to be sent the forms electronically, and what they have done is launched a new website called StopKnotweed.org, where anyone can access these informative handouts. (You can click on the title which is linked to the website.)

Additional information, including plans for a follow-up program to the Symposium, will be uploaded to the website as it becomes available. If anyone has applicable information that you would like to be considered for inclusion on the website, please send it to Sheila Litchfield at DellFarmHeath@gmail.com. I urge you to check out the website and to alert not only your neighbors, but also your town officials, especially your Conservation Commission and your DPW. Cutting knotweed with a mower (homeowner or DPW) and moving down the road to mow again spreads this pest as it can regrow from a node as small as your fingernail. Check out the website before you work to remove it.

Westminster Garden Tour

Saturday, July 11th and Sunday, July 12th

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Garden enthusiasts and nature lovers alike are invited to explore some of Westminster, Vermont's most beautiful gardens.

This year's tour will feature the gardens of:
Gordon and Mary Hayward
The Westminster Center School
Hawksong East
Signal Pine Gardens

Guests will also enjoy gardening talks and demonstrations included with admission. Tickets are $20 for one admission or $35 for two admissions, with children ages 16 and under admitted free. Tickets are valid for both days of the tour, rain or shine. Discounted tickets go on sale June 1st - **Here**

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of May 16, 2026 ..... $5,298.88

Income $195.13
Interest $0.13; Membership: $195
Expenses $175.00
Printing: $75; GBA Bee on Main St: $100
Balance as of June 15, 2026..... $5,319.01

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 91 Smith St #212,
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

August NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Monday, July 27th
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Greenfield Garden Club
PO Box 309
Greenfield, MA 01301-0309

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. Please thank them for their generosity when you make a purchase.

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

Conway Natives
351 South Shirkshire Rd, Conway
10% off plants and consultations

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

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)
269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden-related

Here We Grow
123 Russell St (Rte 9), Hadley
15% off everything in the store

LaSalle Florists
23 LaSalle Drive (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

Any vendors interested in offering our club member - gardeners a discount, please contact one of the club's officers – thank you!!

Mill River Farm Market – Conway
Road/corner 116 & Rtes 5/10. S. Deerfield
10% off plants in Spring and Fall

Nettlepoint Farm
138 Highland Ave, Greenfield
10% off online orders with the code GFGARDEN

O'Brien Nurserymen
40 Wells Road, Granby, CT
10% off plants

Patten Hill Flower Farm
135 Reynolds Rd, Shelburne Falls
10% off workshops taught by owner Barb Parry

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

Silver Garden Daylilies
23 Pickett Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

Warm Colors Apiary
2 South Mill River Road, South Deerfield
10% off