Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

June 2024 Vol. 32, No. 5

GGC 28th Garden Club Garden Tour

The GGC's **28th Garden Tour** takes place on Saturday, June 8th, with a rain date of Sunday, June 9th. Fingers crossed for good garden-viewing weather. A light mist will not deter us! All 7 gardens are located in Greenfield, so the trip around town should be easy. Tickets are an affordable $10 per person, and your ticket is also the map. A ticket is needed for each member of your group. As much as we love our canine companions, please leave them at home unless they are a certified service dog.

Each garden will have a GGC member co-host in case you have any questions. Tickets on sale 9:30 – 1PM at the John Zon Community Center. See you there!

June President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Welcome to the month of June! As I now write on June 2, I turn 66 today – yikes! Where did all that time go? How much time do I have before the body starts to wear down? Well, I am going to make the most of it! I helped my mom yesterday as her garden was on the Garden Conservancy Open Garden circuit. It was interesting getting the low-down on how these events operate. It was especially wonderful being able to speak to just under 50 people who came from all over. I was especially happy to meet the last arrival – none other than Jana Milbocker, who does all the zoom lectures I have advertised in the newsletter in the past, and who takes people on trips to gardens in US and the UK. We have many events coming up. Please do avail yourselves of all that is on offer – if you can tear yourself away from your own gardens! Happy early summer! ~ Laura

Laura as a GC Host 6/1

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1 – Open Garden Days in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties
June 8, 10-4 – GGC Garden Tour (rain date June 9)
June 21, 9:08 pm – Full Strawberry Moon
June 25, 5:15 pm – Steering Committee Meeting
June 30 – Day-long field trip to GC Open Gardens in NH and VT (page 6)

Nature and humanity are complementary realities that contain one another ~ Gary Backhaus

A Grant for the Gill Elementary School

The club recently awarded a grant in the amount of $268.10 to the Gill Elementary School. We helped with seeds, transplants, and signage. Here is part of their application:

We are renovating the school garden as part of our farm to school initiative. The project will involve teachers, parents, students, and local farms. We hope to make connections for our students and our community regarding where our food comes from and to foster an understanding of sustainable land stewardship.

Values Statement:

The Gill Elementary School Farm to School team believes that:

- Food, community, and education work in harmony to create lifelong learning, wellness, and sustainability.
- All children need to have equitable access to healthy food in order for them to be their best learners and selves.
- This requires educating students, their families, and the school-wide community about healthy food choices while respecting one another and honoring differences.
- All of this can be achieved by having strong reciprocal community partnerships.

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

Volunteers Needed to Help Serve Meals

We need a few more hands at the **Greenfield Meal Site** (Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square), **June 4th** and again on **June 11th from 3:30-6:30pm**. We have a great crew of Greenfield Community College staff in the kitchen prepping the meals, we just need a few more hands to help serve and clean up. If you can make it please give me a call, send me a text, or email me. Thanks!

You can sign up for volunteers shifts HERE: https://volunteersignup.org/TALLW

Meghan Williams
Volunteer Coordinator
413-325-6631

Officers 2024:

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

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY – Open Garden Days in June

Call 845-424-6500, say you are a member of the GGC, and buy tickets at the member rate of only $5 per garden. Click here to find other gardens by month/state.

(I sent out the June 1st garden list to you all when I realized the newsletter would be late.)

June 1st	Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties
	Franklin County – Swampfield (Sunderland) This garden features a large perennial border in a mix of sun and shade with classic cottage garden plants and many natives. There are also 2 lush woodland gardens.
	Franklin County – Maples of Silver Lane (Sunderland) This small garden features almost 80 Japanese Maples, plus dwarf conifers and an enormous bed of hostas. The zen-like setting includes rocks, a Japanese walkway, and a modern tearoom.
	Franklin County – Phoenix House Gardens This 1.5 acre Greenfield garden features a large labyrinth, with a gazebo in the center with a carved animal seat inside; a Japanese Bridge, vegetable garden, fruit trees, blueberries, perennial beds, and many native plants.
	Hampshire County – Culver's Garden This 1/4 acre garden in Florence features trees and shrubs started from seeds that are now 25 years old; perennial borders, shade garden, fruits, vegetables, herbs, peonies, roses, lilies, and chickens!
	Hampshire County - Flying Pig Farm (Amherst) This 9 acre garden (no pigs, no farm) works with the contours of the land, with colorful beds around the 18th century farm-house, woodland paths, a meadow, and flowing viburnums.
	Hampden County – Our Color-filled Retreat (Springfield) A ½ acre overflowing with Itoh and tree peonies, scores of hydrangeas, David Austin Roses, and 100's of other plants all planted among a pavilion, patio, firepit, pergola, benches, and multi-level decks.

June 29th	Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties
	Franklin County – Mary Chicoine's Garden A Greenfield urban garden on a half-acre site with fruit trees & shrubs, perennial beds and more. There's a Goshen stone patio and small pond, and large mature trees make the back yard a shady haven compared to the riotous, sunny garden areas.
	Franklin County – Earthworks Garden A Leverett garden about 4 acres in size, this garden is carved into a steep, rocky, SW facing hillside at the bottom of Rattlesnake Gutter. Mature trees and shrubs, sculptures at every turn, a Lord and Burnham greenhouse with unusual plants, and 3 garden buildings. (Also open 9/28)
	Hampshire County – Kinsey Pope Garden An Amherst garden loaded with variety, texture, and color. Many uncommon trees, shrubs and perennials. Three bridges, an arbor, a gazebo, a small pond and many seating areas from which to observe the garden. (Also open 10/19)
	Hampden County – Suburban Garden in Transition A West Springfield garden moving from lollipop trees, bonbon shrubs and boring lawn to a mixture of natural forms, perennials, and flowing shrubs. Come learn how they overcame plants in the wrong place, poor soil, an adjacent wetland, overgrown shrubs and others clipped too tightly.
	Enrich your visit with a stop at Wistariahurst Museum and Gardens in Holyoke. These public gardens are historically-inspired by the letters and diaries of William Skinner's wife Sarah, and have been enhanced for the enjoyment of the public. The namesake wisteria was originally planted in 1880 and is the hallmark of the home. The gardens are open from dawn to dusk.

SUGARLOAF GARDENS

Sugarloaf Gardens has a loyalty program. Sign up at the link to receive 20% off your first purchase and then receive $5 back for every $100 you spend. You will also receive exclusive deals and special promotions reserved solely for loyal patrons.

Fairview Farms
345 Long Plain Rd
Whately, MA
Open daily from 8:00 – 3:00
Buy from the grower!
A 9-generation farm!

Plants are **on sale** at **Laurenitis Farm**!
Make your way to
475 Amherst Rd, Sunderland
to see what is available to add to your gardens. They are open every day except Wednesdays from 10:00am to 5:00pm.
Find perennial coreopsis, B4G1 tomatoes, beautiful, bushy Four O'Clocks, and more. There is still a good selection of herbs, tomatoes, and eggplants, but they are running low on summer squash and peppers.

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. ~ May Sarton

GGC FIELD TRIP SUNDAY, JUNE 30th - RSVP ASAP as we will need to buy tickets.

Boggy Meadow Farm, Walpole, NH. Open 10-4. A Garden Conservancy Open Garden

The garden is planted on a small bluff above the Connecticut River. It is an informal garden, but it has elements of an older, more formal garden planted by Miss Fanny Mason more than 100 years ago. There are English borders, a grape arbor, and a small sunken garden with a narrow ravine down to a stream, distributed over 3 acres. (*This garden's estimated size is 5 acres.)*

Gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward, Westminster West, VT. Open 10-4. A Garden Conservancy Open Garden.

Gordon and Mary Hayward's 1½-acre garden surrounds their 220-year-old farmhouse in southeastern Vermont. Over the past 38 years, they have developed a hybrid of Old England and New England gardens to reflect Gordon's growing up on an orchard in northwestern Connecticut, and Mary's growing up on a farm outside Chipping Campden in the North Cotswold Hills of England. The garden, the subject of their book *The Intimate Garden* (WW Norton, 2005), comprises fourteen garden rooms. One area includes a pair of 90-foot perennial borders that terminate in a post-and-beam gazebo framing views of 20 acres of meadows. More than 40 planted terra-cotta pots and many garden ornaments, several from England, figure into the mood of this garden. *This garden's estimated size is 1½ acres.*

Also visit local farms for purchasing plants and other items:

Bunker Farm, 857 Bunker Rd, Dummerston, VT.

The Bunker Farm is a family-run farm that produces naturally pasture-raised meats, specialty annual and perennial flowers, and award-winning maple syrup.

Walker Farm, Dummerston, VT. Open 10am – 6PM

Operated by our family since 1770, Walker Farm has evolved into a horticultural destination for flower lovers from all over New England and New York. We are honored to have been selected as one of the 5 Best Nurseries in New England by Yankee Magazine in 2012 & one of the top 5 in Vermont 2021, featured in The New York Times and included in The Adventurous Gardener – Where To Buy The Best Plants In New England. We specialize in choice garden and container annuals, rare perennials, trees, shrubs and conifers as well as Certified Organic heirloom and ethnic vegetable starts.
Our farmstand offers the finest organic fruits and vegetables from our carefully nurtured fields and our Community Supported Agriculture programs are designed to fit every lifestyle. Come meet the friendly staff and sample the brilliant colors and unique seasonal flavors that will show you how much we love taking care of our customers and our land.

THE GARDEN AGAINST TIME
Thursday, June 27, 2 – 3pm

Live on Zoom

$5 for Garden Conservancy members. Call 845-424-6500, 9-5, and let them know you are with the Greenfield Garden Club to purchase. A recording will be sent to all who register in case you cannot watch live.

In 2020, Olivia Laing began to restore a walled garden in Suffolk, England. The work drew her into an exhilarating investigation of paradise and its long association with gardens. Moving between real and imagined gardens, from Milton's *Paradise Lost* to John Clare's enclosure elegies, from a wartime sanctuary in Italy to a grotesque aristocratic pleasure ground funded by slavery, Laing interrogates the sometimes shocking cost of making paradise on earth.

But the story of the garden doesn't always enact larger patterns of privilege and exclusion. It's also a place of rebel outposts and communal dreams. From the improbable queer utopia conjured by Derek Jarman on the beach at Dungeness to the fertile vision of a common Eden propagated by William Morris, new modes of living can, and have, been attempted amidst the flower beds—experiments that could prove vital in the coming era of climate change.

The result is a humming, glowing tapestry, a beautiful and exacting account of the abundant pleasures and possibilities of gardens; not as a place to hide from the world but as a site of encounter and discovery, bee-loud, and pollen-laden.
This webinar will be convened by Open Days Co-founder Page Dickey.

Olivia Laing is an internationally acclaimed writer and critic. She's the author of seven books, including *The Lonely City, Crudo, Funny Weather* and *Everybody.* She's a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and in 2018 was awarded the Windham-Campbell Prize for non-fiction. Her work has been translated into 21 languages. Her latest book, *The Garden Against Time,* recounts the restoration of her walled garden in Suffolk, England.

Page Dickey has been gardening passionately since her early twenties. She has been writing about gardening, as well as designing gardens for others, for the last three decades. She has written eight books and edited another. Her new book, *Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again,* describes leaving a beloved garden of 34 years, finding a home in the northwest corner of Connecticut, and falling in love with its land.

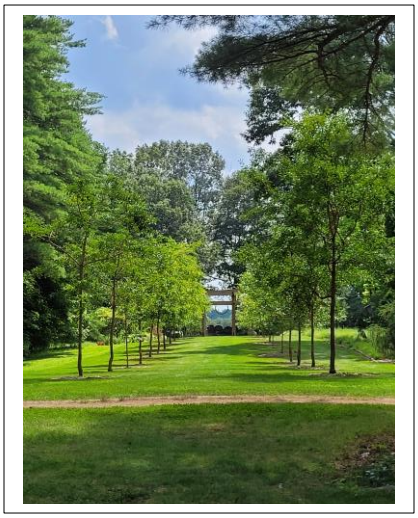
CLUB TRIP TO BEDROCK GARDENS IN LEE, NH

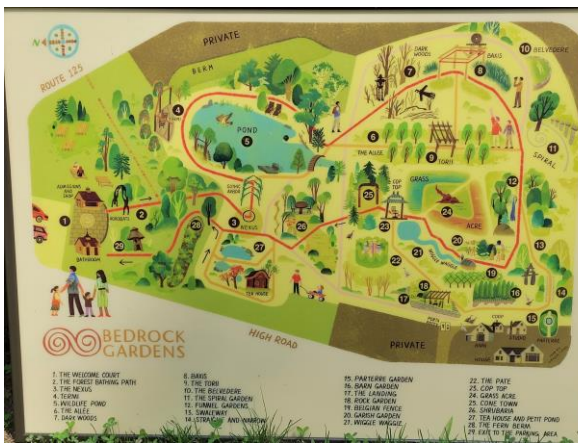
Saturday, September 7, 2023 at 10:30AM

Private Guided Tour with John Forti, Executive Director

RSVP NOW!

We have reserved a private, guided tour at Bedrock Gardens with The Heirloom Gardener himself, John Forti. We have locked in the date with our check. We hope to attract at least 12 GGC members and friends for the tour to break even, but can take more. It's $20 per person. The regular entrance fee without the tour is $15. It is a roughly 2+ hour drive to Lee, NH, so we would want to carpool and leave around 7:30AM. We know it is also the Franklin County Fair that weekend, but hopefully folks can visit/volunteer on the other days that the Fair is open. It's not easy to get John himself as our tour guide. Please contact the club with your interest ASAP.





We had a great time learning new ways with houseplants in May with Danielle Lucier, who is a true plant guru! We also enjoyed our visit at LaSalle's Greenhouses, where John LaSalle had made lovely bouquets of sweetly-scented home-grown stock for each member who attended. We enjoyed his stories of the LaSalle family business.

SPECIAL INVITATION FOR MEMBERS!

Visit White Flower Farm

Saturday, June 15th

8:00 – 10:00 am / FREE

Space is limited. Register by THURSDAY, JUNE 6th.

Call 845-424-6500, Ext 202, 9-5, and let them know you are with the Greenfield Garden Club.

Whether you've joined us before or this is your first visit, inspiration awaits!

We are delighted to return to White Flower Farm, the iconic nursery set amid the scenic Litchfield Hills, where head gardener Cheryl Whalen will lead us through the nursery, stopping along the way to highlight the many diverse gardens and plantings on display.

No visit would be complete without a stop at the Lloyd Border, named in honor of the late English plantsman and garden writer Christopher Lloyd, and the Begonia House & Trial Garden with its exclusive collection of Blackmore & Langdon Tuberous Begonias.

As always, bring your questions! White Flower Farm president Lorraine Calder and nursery manager Barbara Pierson will also join us for this exciting and educational tour.

There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder. ~ Alfred Austin

O'Brien Nurserymen, Granby, CT
Open Garden Days for June

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On the dates below only)
Also by Appointment (please call ahead) – **GGC members receive a 10% discount (no credit cards)**

May 31, June 1 & 2 – Don't miss our Itoh Peonies in Bloom

June 7, 8 & 9 – Japanese Maples, Spectacular from Spring to Fall

June 14, 15 & 16 – Elegant, Amazing, and Exotic Arisaemas

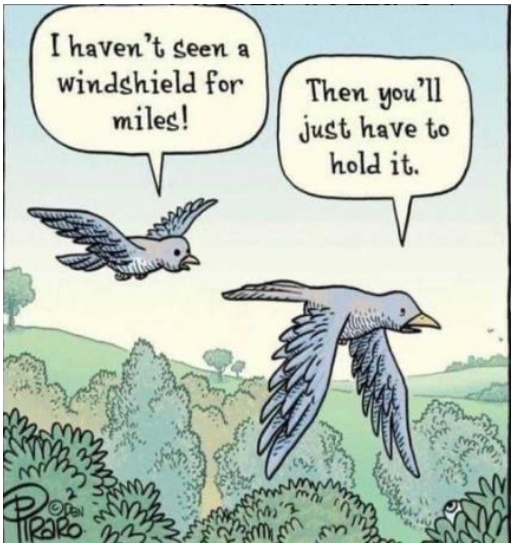
June 21, 22, 23 & 24 – Hostas at their Best! Hosta Convention in New England

June 28, 29 & 30 – Cool, Floating Foliage of Variegated Redbuds

A Garden Party with

The Weldon House

A plan is in the works to spend an afternoon in the lovely garden at The Weldon House on a weekday this coming August. The club is working with Emily Verock-Isrow to put together an activity for the residents to enjoy. We believe we will invite Danielle Lucier to present on houseplants, and we will then do a houseplant activity with the assembled group. The club will sponsor the speaker and any needed supplies, and answer any gardening questions. If anyone is interested in helping, and is able to attend a weekday afternoon event (Wednesday or Thursday) in August, please let us know.



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of April 15, 2024.....$7,958.73

Income $150.19
Interest $0.19; membership: $150
Expenses $426.38
Garden Conservancy membership $150; Grant $268.10
Event expense $8.28
Balance as of May 16, 2024 .....$7.682.54

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 61 Madison Cir
Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Saturday, June 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 ***NEW!!!***
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