Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

March 2024 Vol. 32, No. 2

In March - Let Your Creativity Bloom!

FLORAL BOUQUET WORKSHOPS

Saturdays, **March 9** and **March 23**

3:00pm – 5:00 pm each day

With Becky Guyer of Floral Affairs

324 Deerfield St, Greenfield, MA

Wine and snacks provided

Limited number of seats at $40 per person

Learn tips and techniques and take home your arrangement.

Call Marsha for availability:

413-773-0201

March President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

With the wind, and the temperature swings, I'd have to say that March is coming in like a lion, leap year notwithstanding. The photo at right is what I found inside a pepper. We like to play with food at my house! Thank you all who were able to come to this year's annual meeting – we had a great time as a gardening family. On par with our speaker's topic – gardening well as we age - it came up that people are in need of help – specifically the hired kind! If you know someone with a strong back and a pair of gloves – high school age and up – please let us know so we can spread the word. A good helper is hard to find! We are also working on presenting a movie with some local community members on the changing climate, and working to find an inter-generational solution that people can get behind. We hope to present this in late April. Stay tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4 – Photography exhibit at UMass Seed Library opens (see pg 10)
March 9, 3-5pm – Floral Affairs Flower arranging class
March 12 8am-4pm – Free seeds and plant swap at GCC Seed Library
March 16, 10am-1pm – Winter Farmers Market at the Greenfield Library
March 20, 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meeting
March 23, 3-5pm – Floral Affairs Flower arranging class

March is the month of expectation ~ Emily Dicksinson

PCMGA Presents Doug Tallamy, A guide to restoring the little things that run the world

~ Vimeo found online and submitted by Susan Farber

"A guide to restoring the little things that run the world"

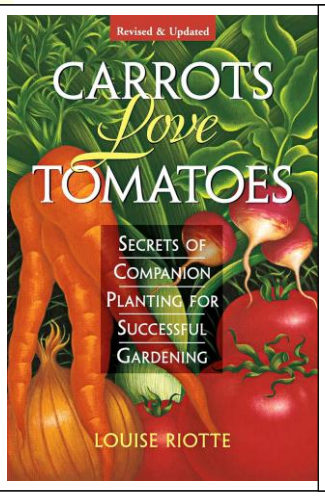
Porter County Master Gardeners Association (PCMGA) in Indiana sponsored and posted this hour-long video. Click on the link above to view it. Dr. Doug Tallamy is a best-selling author, ecologist, conservationist and professor in the department of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware.

It's scary at the start (extinction!) but then moves to positive steps that we gardeners can take. Some facts: 83% of our ornamental plants are non-native. We've already lost more than 45% of the insect life on this planet since 1974. Insects are the currency in your ecological bank account. Insects cannot live in a sterile environment. Nature will come back if you give it what it needs.

What can we do? Cut your lawn size in half. Plant for specialist bees. Remove invasive species from your property. Use Keystone species. Landscape for caterpillars. Reduce your light pollution (swap yellow bulbs for white bulbs). Oppose mosquito spraying. Minimize insecticide use. No bug zappers! Join your HOA and change from within.

Pick up a copy of Edward O. Wilson's 2016 Pulitzer Prize-winning book Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life at your local library and read about the science behind this talk. We need to learn how to coexist with insects – and feel powerful in the process. It's a global problem with a grass-roots solution.

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



DO YOU REMEMBER THIS CLASSIC ON COMPANION PLANTS?

Plant parsley and asparagus together and you'll have more of each, but keep broccoli and tomato plants far apart if you want them to thrive. Utilize the natural properties of plants to nourish the soil, repel pests, and secure a greater harvest. With plenty of insightful advice and suggestions for planting schemes, Louise Riotte will inspire you to turn your garden into a naturally nurturing ecosystem.

Louise's other classic is Roses love Garlic

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

IN MEMORIUM – the club lost 2 long-time members in the past several months. Both women were active members of the Greenfield Garden Club for many years. When I first joined the club, I worked many a Garden Tour selling tickets under the tent alongside Shirley Lashier, listening to her many stories and enjoying her laugh. Rena Jacques was already a Legacy Member of the club when I came onboard. We never met in person, but she sent me a thank-you note one time telling me how much she enjoyed receiving the newsletter in the mail every month. Long-time club member Linda Tyler lost her brother, Bob Manners, this year as well. We send our condolences to all these GGC families.

Shirley Ann Lashier 1936 - 2023

"Shirley was active in the Greenfield Garden Club. She loved flower gardening, but left the weeding to her husband. Shirley and her husband Don owned Art's Tire with his brother Don and wife Carolyn. They ran it successfully for 30 years, selling the business in 2000." Read the full obituary here.

Renate (Rena) G Jacques 1925 – 2024

"Her love belonged to the natural world in all forms, especially pets, gardening, and in gratitude for this great country." Rena was born in the area of Germany that became the Polish city of Wroclaw after WWII. She escaped to the US occupied Western Zone in 1946, working as an interpreter, clerk and instructor for the US Army and US Airforce. Read her full obituary here.

Robert (Bob) Alan Manners 1964 - 2024

Longtime club member Linda Tyler lost her brother Bob to lymphoma early this year. He was a well-loved and involved member of the community, and the Recorder published a wonderful article about him. He was a Shelburne Selectboard member, EMT, and firefighter, and a mentor to many.

Celebration of Life: at GCC Cohn Family Dining Commons 3/9 at 1pm.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY – Virtual Program Bundle from 2023

Did you miss Troy Scott Smith's Sissinghurst Through the Seasons webinars? We are pleased to present all four episodes in a convenient bundle, including Troy's four seasonal diaries! Combining history, horticulture, and hands-on education, this landmark series is the Garden Conservancy's most popular virtual program series to date.

PRICING
$20 for Members of the Garden Conservancy (All GGC members are members of the GC!)
$60 for General Admission

REGISTRATION
Links to all four episodes and video diaries will be emailed to registrants.

More About Sissinghurst Through the Seasons
Throughout this four-part series, Troy Scott Smith will guide you through the course of a gardening year at Sissinghurst. Troy will share with you how the garden looks, which flowers are blooming at each season, and what the garden looked like when it was first created in the 1930s. He will uncover the secrets of pruning and propagation and the art of the English Garden. Each episode will be packed with information, all simply explained and illustrated, giving you techniques and confidence to put into practice in your own garden.

About Sissinghurst and Troy Scott Smith
Sissinghurst was created nearly a century ago by the writers Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson as a private home and as refuge dedicated to natural beauty. Today it is owned by the National Trust and visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Troy's career has been devoted to the beauty and romance of gardening. Since joining the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland in 1990, Troy has led some of the world's most beautiful gardens, among them the Courts (Wiltshire), Bodnant (Wales), and two stints at Sissinghurst (Kent), where he has led a remarkable transformation and restoration of the Vita Sackville-West gardens.

Western MA Master Gardeners'
LET'S GET GROWING!!

Lower Valley Symposium
March 23, 2024
8:00am – Noon

Westfield South Middle School
30 West Silver St
Westfield, MA

Download the **flyer**

Register **here**

Western MA Master Gardeners'
SPRING INTO GARDENING!!

Berkshire Symposium
April 6, 2024
9:00am – Noon

Lenox Memorial
Middle & High School
197 East St, Lenox, MA

Download the **flyer**

Register **here**

Western MA Master Gardeners'
GARDENING IN CHANGING TIMES

Upper Valley Symposium
April 13, 2024
8:45am – Noon

Frontier Regional High School
South Deerfield, MA

Download the **flyer**

Register **here**

Painting the Modern Garden: From Monet to Matisse
Amherst Cinema
Saturday, March 9
1:30pm

Claude Monet was an avid horticulturalist and arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art, but he was not alone. Great artists like Van Gogh, Bonnard, Sorolla, Sargent, Pissaro and Matisse all saw the garden as a powerful subject for their art. These great artists, along with many other famous names, featured in a 2016 innovative and extensive exhibition at The Royal Academy of Arts, London. For lovers of art and lovers of gardens, this is an ideal film. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Amherst Cinema website.

GCC seed LIBRARY

A collaboration between the Nahman-Watson Library and the Greenfield Community College Science Department

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

Every Wednesday and some Thursdays, 1/10 - 6/12/2024. Free w/ pre-registration. Details @ cmastergardeners.org

1/10 Climate Resilient Garden	1/17 Pruning Fruit Trees	1/18 Pruning Ornamental Trees	1/24 Growing Fruit Trees	1/31 Growing Blueberries	2/7 Garden Tools	2/8 Growing Cane Berries	2/14 Soil Amendments
2/21 Growing Tomatoes I	2/28 Growing Early-Vegetables	3/6 Garden Design 101	3/7 Rain Garden & Bioswale	3/13 Hosting Bees (Mason & Leafcutter)	3/14 Soil & Planting	3/20 Integrated Pest Management	3/27 Climate Friendly Lawns
3/28 Growing Tomatoes II	4/3 Garden Trans-formation	4/10 Debunking Gardening Myths	4/11 Raised Bed Gardening	4/17 Plant Trial Winners	4/24 Gardening For Birds	5/1 Native Plants	5/8 Groundcovers for Un-irrigated Landscapes
5/15 Growing Tomatoes III	5/22 Growing Root Crops	5/29 Growing Cover Crops	6/5 Growing Vegetables Year-Round	6/12 Enabled Gardener			

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 1/8/2024 to Catalina Santamaria at 503-655-8631, Catalina.Santamaria@oregonstate.edu

Climate Resilience | Healthy Plants | Beauty | Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association | Garden Biodiversity | Nutritious Food | Healthy Gardener

Let's Grow Together! Webinars

Free, Online, Attend Live or Register to Receive Recording

Noon - 1 PM

Every Wednesday & some Thursdays

Registration required

March 6, Garden Design - **Register Here**

March 7, Rain Garden & Bioswale - **Register Here**

March 13, Hosting Native Bees - **Register Here**

March 14, Soil and Planting - **Register Here**

March 20, Noon to 1 PM, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - **Register Here**

March 27, Noon - 1 PM, Climate Friendly Lawns – **Register Here**

March 28, Noon - 1 PM, Growing Tomatoes II - **Register Here**

Annual Plant Swap – GGC Library

Kick off the 2024 growing season with our annual plant swap and Seed Library celebration, courtesy of the Nahman-Watson Library and the Science Department. Bring a plant or take a plant! Indoor and outdoor plants, cuttings, divisions, etc. are welcome. Plants can be potted or bare root (wrapped to contain soil) and should be disease- and pest-free.

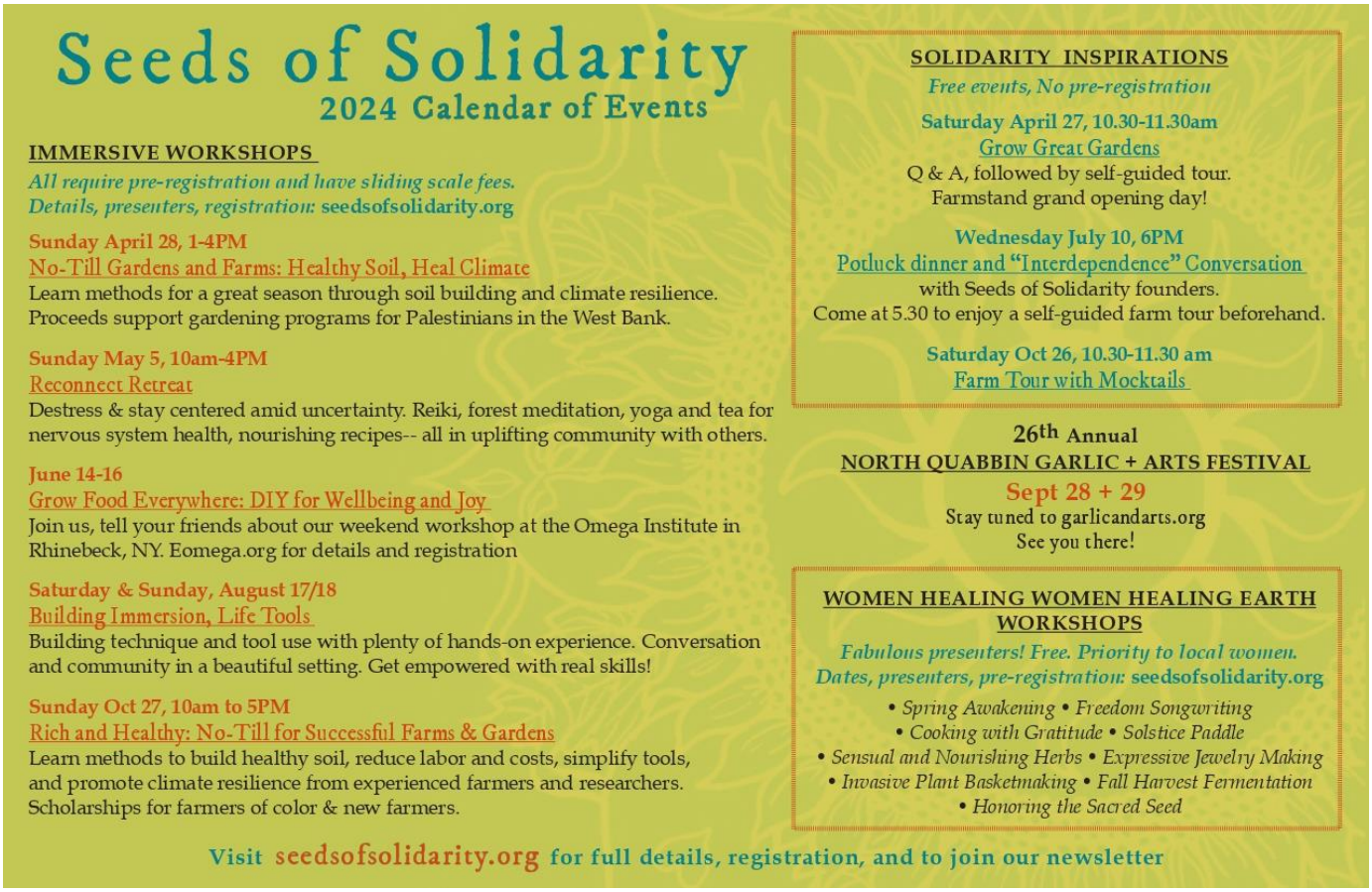
Kerry Mendez of Perennially Yours is Offering a Spring Webinar Series

All webinars are on **Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. (ET).** The Webinars are **one-hour long** and include pages of lecture notes, as well as a CEU form for Master Gardeners and green industry professionals. **NOTE: registrants do not have to attend the scheduled live broadcasts to enjoy these colorful, info-packed lectures**. Within 72 hours of each broadcast, all registrants receive an email with the video link and password. The videos can be viewed anytime and as often as you wish. **The webinars are only $13.95 BUT folks can save 20%** if they register for all three (total $33.48 which is only $11.16 per webinar). Below are this year's programs.

Saturday, February 24 **Dazzling Plants and Design Tips for Seeing Your Way Out of the Shade**! This illuminating, updated lecture will put the spotlight on gorgeous, rugged plants (shrubs & trees, evergreens, perennials, vines, annuals, and bulbs) that shine in lower light. Many of these stars also work great in containers. Topics include assessing shade; modifying shade to allow more light; key design tips for maximizing color; solutions for dry shade; and gardening under trees.

Saturday, March 9 **Time-Saving, Mighty-Mite Shrubs that Outshine Perennials.** My outlook on flower gardening has evolved over the decades. In addition to practicing the latest earth-friendly practices and incorporating more natives, I have also shifted my focus from perennials to shrubs that provide months of radiant color but are far less maintenance. This eye-opening lecture focuses on remarkable shrubs for front to mid-border gardens, as well as their pruning requirements. These stunning beauties also are ideal for over-wintering in containers.

Saturday, March 23 **New and Lesser-Known Celebrity Plants for 2024**. Grab your cameras and get ready to discover some VIPs (Very Important Plants) for the New Year. But just because they are attention-getters doesn't mean they require prima-donna care. I have trialed many of these myself and they have received my stamp of approval for no-fuss gardens.



Become A Master Gardener / Transfer

Update: Info on next class coming soon!!

What is a Master Gardener?
The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is a member-managed nonprofit organization dedicated to the educational mission of promoting good and sustainable gardening practices. Each Master Gardener has completed an in-depth training program, including hands-on activities in gardening and public education, and has made a commitment to participate in WMMGA-sponsored public programs each year. WMMGA is an Affiliate of the national Master Gardener program of the American Horticultural Society.

What are the geographic boundaries of WMMGA?
Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties are served by WMMGA. The organization is divided into three regions (Berkshires, Lower Valley, and Upper Valley), each of which sponsors regional meetings and symposia.

Does serving as a Master Gardener require certain skills and abilities?
The WMMGA training program requires about six hours/week of assigned reading and the ability to access an online weekly quiz, using the University of Massachusetts' OWL support program. Access to the internet is essential, as well as some facility with using online search engines for research purposes. There are no explicit requirements in terms of previous education, degrees, or professional training. Classes are conducted in English. WMMGA's volunteer opportunities vary widely in terms of the requirements for physical labor (transporting garden tools and plants, weeding, etc.) and public interaction (staffing booths at fairs and farmers markets, speaking on gardening-related topics, etc.) The organization welcomes volunteers with a variety of skills and physical abilities and does its best to describe the requirements for each volunteer opportunity clearly, so that members may choose opportunities for which they are best suited.

When is the WMMGA training program offered?
The training program is offered every other year; the next series of classes will take place in the spring of 2024.

What should I do to become a Master Gardener in Western Massachusetts?
The WMMGA application process has two parts: • First, completion of a brief application form. The 2022 application form will be available to applicants by June 2021 and must be submitted by November 15, 2021. • Second, an hour-long interview with two Master Gardeners, which will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time October - November 2021. Decisions about admission to the program will be made by the end of November 2021, and all applicants will be informed of the results of their applications at that time.

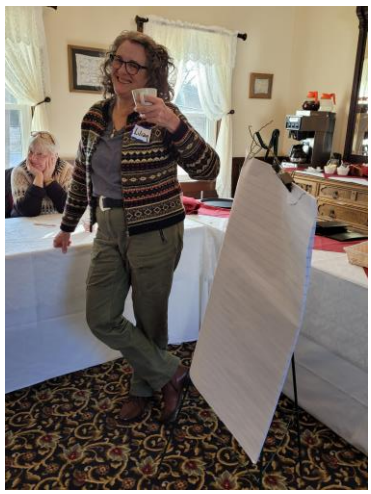
How is the training program structured?
Each training class typically includes about 50 students. Classes will be presented as on-line pre-recorded lectures, two subjects per week, to be completed during the week at your convenience. In addition to the lecture series a live on-line Q & A session will be held weekly. Additionally there will be on-line sessions created for discussions with Master Gardeners. Up to four in-person gatherings will be scheduled for hands on activities. An in-person orientation program will be held in late February/early March.

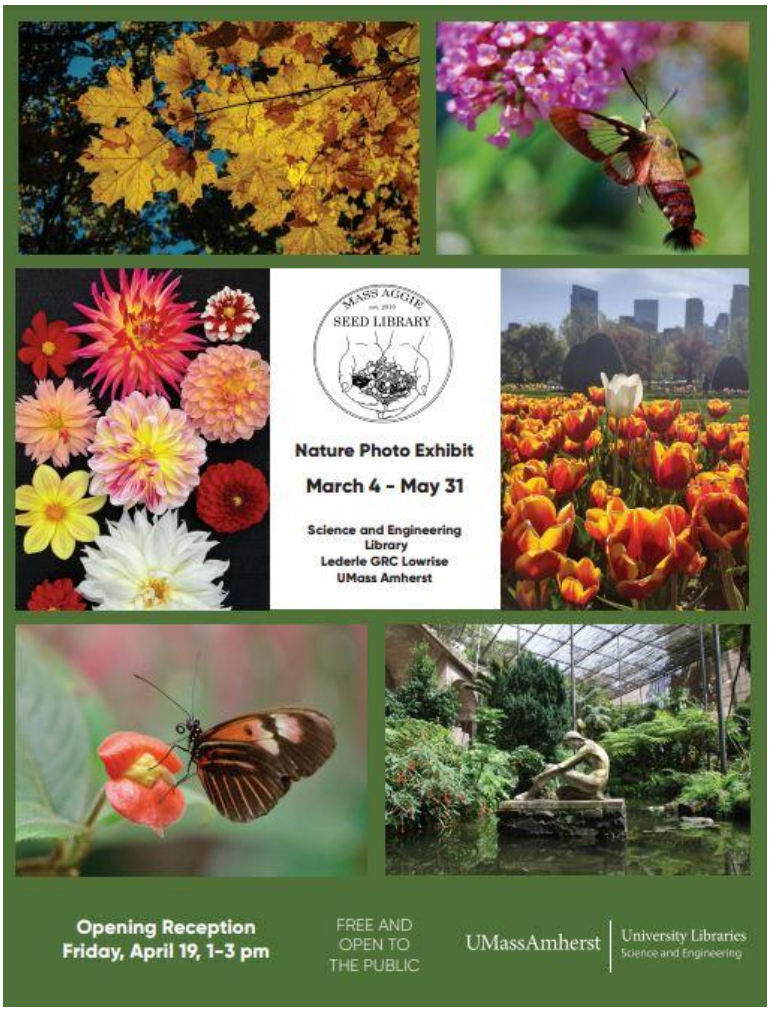
Who are the teachers?
Instructors are experienced botanists, farmers, horticulturists and landscapers, representing the University of Massachusetts School of Agriculture, Native Plant Trust, and other reputable programs. Much of the program will focus on sustainable gardening practice, including no-till/low-till gardening, integrated pest management (minimal use of toxic herbicides and pesticides), and permaculture. The instructional program includes a mix of lecture and hands-on activities.

How much does it cost to enroll in the WMMGA training program?
Although the instructional program is managed entirely by volunteer Master Gardeners, there are outright costs including instructors' stipends, and curricular materials. (Tuition for the 2022 program was $375.).

Read more about the program details HERE. They will no doubt be updated soon for the next class of Master Gardeners.

The Greenfield Garden Club's 33rd **Annual Meeting** on Sunday, February 25th was very well attended, and everyone had a wonderful time. There was a lot of good conversation, great food, laughter, and learning going on. Copies of the Annual Reports will be emailed to everyone, including those who were not able to make the meeting. If you have yet to renew your membership, please do so soon as we will be updating the membership list and removing inactive entries. Don't miss out on a new year of learning and garden-centric activities. We have many new members and look forward to the year ahead.





International Garden and Nature Travels Exhibit

Monday, March 4 through Friday, May 31
Reception: Friday, April 19, 1-3 p.m.

The UMass Amherst Libraries, in partnership with the International Programs Office, are hosting the **International Garden and Nature Travels Exhibit** in the Mass Aggie Seed Library in the Science and Engineering Library, Lederle GRC Lowrise in the Mass Aggie Seed Library.

The exhibit highlights plant, garden, and landscape photos submitted by UMass Amherst students, faculty, staff, and community members. The idea for the exhibit came from a conversation last spring between Paulina Borrego, Science and Engineering Librarian, and Summer Cable, International Student and Scholar Success Advisor.

"We were discussing how easy it is to snap a good quality photo using your phone and share your love of plants," says Borrego. "As community members travel near and far, it is an easy way to explore and share our experiences with the natural world."

The Mass Aggie Seed library collects and distributes organic open-pollinated and heirloom seeds. It is open for all to use on a self-service, non-mediated basis during the hours the Science & Engineering Library is open. No library card is needed to take or return seeds, but books and other materials are available for loan with a community borrower's card.

Sowing Solutions Workshop: Structural Tree Pruning *with* Walker Korby

- Saturday, March 9, 2024
- 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- The Permaculture Place, 49 Conway Street, Shelburne Falls, MA, 01370
- 413-489-4977

Learn from Walker Korby, expert arborist, tracker, & naturalist, all about pruning trees for tree health, harvest, and safety.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the latest version of its **Plant Hardiness Zone Map** — the first update since 2012. The familiar color-coded map helps gardeners, farmers and landscapers determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a given location. The zones are based on average low temperatures — a key factor in whether a certain plant is tough enough to survive the winter. National temperature data shows warmer zones are shifting northward.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Jan 15, 2023 .....$7.266.45

Income $2,120.22
Interest $0.22; Annual mtg & dues $2,120.00
Expenses $137.65
Thankyou cards, envelopes, stamps, printing, labels
Balance as of Feb 16, 2024 .....$9,889.02

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

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, March 27th
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