Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

May 2025 Vol. 33, No. 5

It's Extravaganza Time!

The EXTRAVAGANZA is coming!

Saturday, May 24th

8:30am – 12:30pm

John Zon Center

35 Pleasant Street

Greenfield, MA

We need your help!

Our grant program is taking off and we need to earn money in order to send it back to the community. Please volunteer if you can, and come to the sale!

Plant Sale – please divide and pot up plants EARLY so they will look good on the day of the sale. If you are planting seeds, consider planting extra for the club. Please label plants with name and bloom color if you know it. Larger plants sell better than small, lonely plants. Annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, trees, bulbs, corms, tubers and houseplants are all welcome!

Tag Sale – please be thinking about and put aside any garden-related tag sale items for this popular table.

Bake Sale – please consider baking for the bake sale. Breakfast goodies are popular. We will serve coffee/tea.

Drawing – we will have many wonderful drawings this year, as our vendors are donating to the cause.

Vendors – we will have a wonderful selection of vendors selling plants, crafts, artwork, maple syrup, and much more.

Drop Off: Friday, May 23rd between 4-6pm at John Zon Center. This event runs rain or shine. Please let us know if you can volunteer Friday/Saturday. Many hands = light work!

May President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

May is going to continue the flower parade that April has begun. The daffodils, tulips, hellebores, forsythia (that's my white forsythia at left) and magnolias, to name just a few, have been lovely this spring. I have a tray of pansies and strawberry blonde marigolds waiting to be planted. Some of my houseplants have been trimmed and put outside (fingers crossed for no late frost!). As usual, there is a plethora of things to do this month, and this newsletter contains some of those that have crossed my path. I hope you find something to sooth your soul or give you a chuckle as you browse. I hope to hear from everyone letting me know you can donate something to the Extravaganza – some plants, tag sale items, a favorite muffin, etc. We need posters put up and cardboard boxes. Every little bit helps! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 – Happy May Day!
May 3 & 4, 11-3 Patten Hill Farm Surplus Dahlia Tuber Sale (see page 3)
May 11 – Happy Mother's Day!
May 13 – 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meeting
May 17, 9-12 noon – Greenfield's 15th Annual Bee Fest
May 23, 4-6pm – drop off plants, bake sale items, tag sale items at John Zon
May 24, 8:30 – 12:30 EXTRAVAGANZA!!

The earth laughs in flowers ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Registration for Summer Cohort is Open: UMass Extension's Pollinator Steward Certification Program. Registration runs through May 31, although it may close sooner if they reach capacity. The course mut be completed by August 31. The program includes lectures on foundations of pollinator ecology, unique pollinator groups, habitat provisioning, and beyond. Click the link above to see the full course description, the instructors, and to register. The course is fully online and asynchronous.

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

A note about buying tickets for any Garden Conservancy webinar or Open Garden Day. Their new website is giving our membership trouble, so make sure you tell them you are with the Greenfield Garden Club in MA and to make sure your info is added manually to make sure you get the emails with zoom links or the email with site addresses.

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

Greenfield 15th Annual Bee Fest

Downtown Greenfield – May 17, 9-12 noon

Each spring, Greenfield Bee Fest celebrates Lorenzo Langstroth, the "Father of Modern Beekeeping," with fun and learning for all ages as we highlight the vital role of the honeybee in sustaining our environment.

Patten Hill Flower Farm

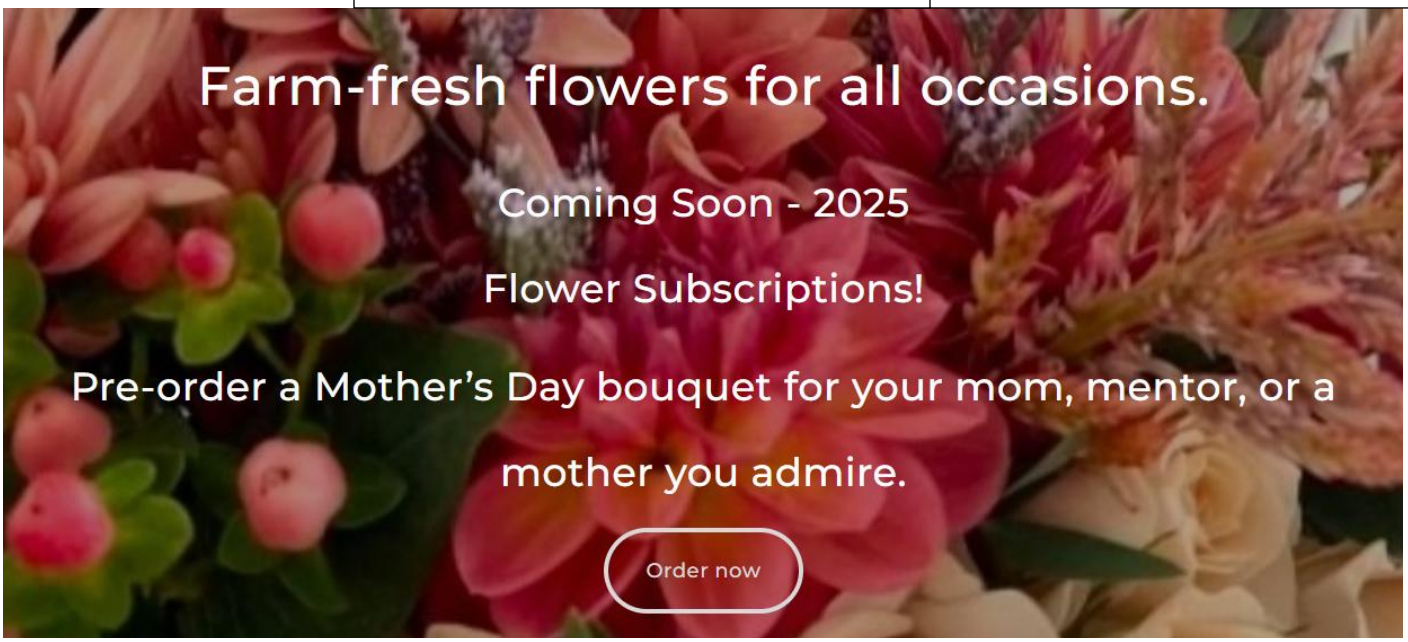
135 Reynolds Rd

Shelburne Falls, MA

Dahlia Surplus Tuber Sale

May 3 and 4, 11-3

All tubers $6 plus tax



Hillside Nursery: Growers of Lady Slipper Orchids & Select Woodland Wildflowers

Open House

- Saturday, May 31, 2025
- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Hillside Nursery, 4 Norman Road, Ashfield, MA 01330

Come visit the nursery! We are having an informal open house to welcome friends and families to see the nursery. There will be some plants for sale as well. (Most plants are not available online until the order window opens this fall for spring 2026.)

Hope to see you soon!

Parking at Red Gate Farm (4 Norman Road, Ashfield, MA)

Right: Jack in the Pulpit
Below: Lady Slipper

Hillside Nursery will also be at Trade Secrets 2025, the rare plant and garden antiques sale being held at Lyme Rock Park, CT May 17 – 18. Learn more at their website. There are also wonderful gardens on tour on those dates as well. Rub shoulders with Martha Stewart, Bunny Williams, Frances Palmer, & more!

GREENFIELD GARDEN CLUB's
28th Annual Plant Sale
EXTRAVAGANZA
Saturday May 24, 2025
8:30am – 12:30pm
John Zon Community Center
35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield, MA
Rain or Shine
Perennials, Herbs, Annuals, Shrubs, Trees

Greenfield Garden Club

- **Houseplants**
- **Dahlia, Canna, & Calla Bulbs**
- **Morning Coffee & Baked Goods**
- **Drawing &Tag Sale**

***Plus*: Special Plant & Craft Vendors**
Soil pH Tests 9-11 *with* W. MA Master Gardeners $2 (bring soil sample)

All proceeds to support the many community projects of the Greenfield Garden Club

In June we are planning on visiting the **Kinsey-Pope gardens** (see page 10) with owner Carol Pope. Becky and Laura visited her gardens on a damp April 26th thru the Garden Conservancy, and in chatting with Carol, we learned that she was disappointed that the Conservancy had not scheduled an open garden day in June or July, so we jumped in and said that the GGC would LOVE to come see her gardens in June. Stay tuned for the date. We will bring libations of wine and appetizers.

Bay State Perennial Farm

36 State Road, Whately, MA 01093

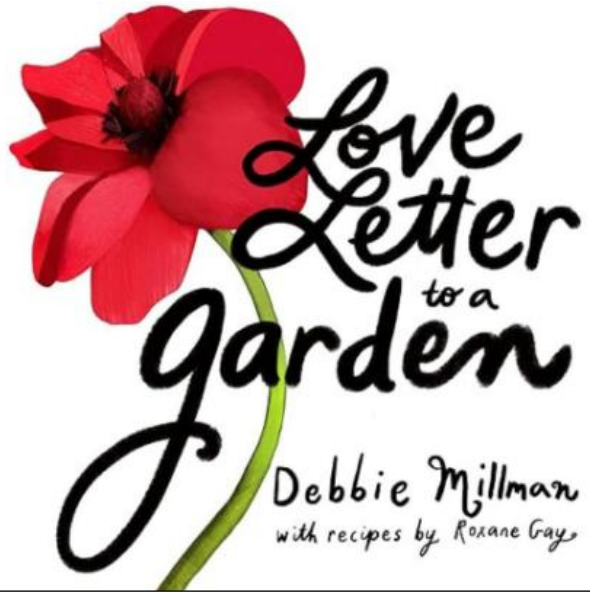
413-665-3525

Opening for the 2025 Season on Saturday May 3rd.

Open Thursday - Sunday

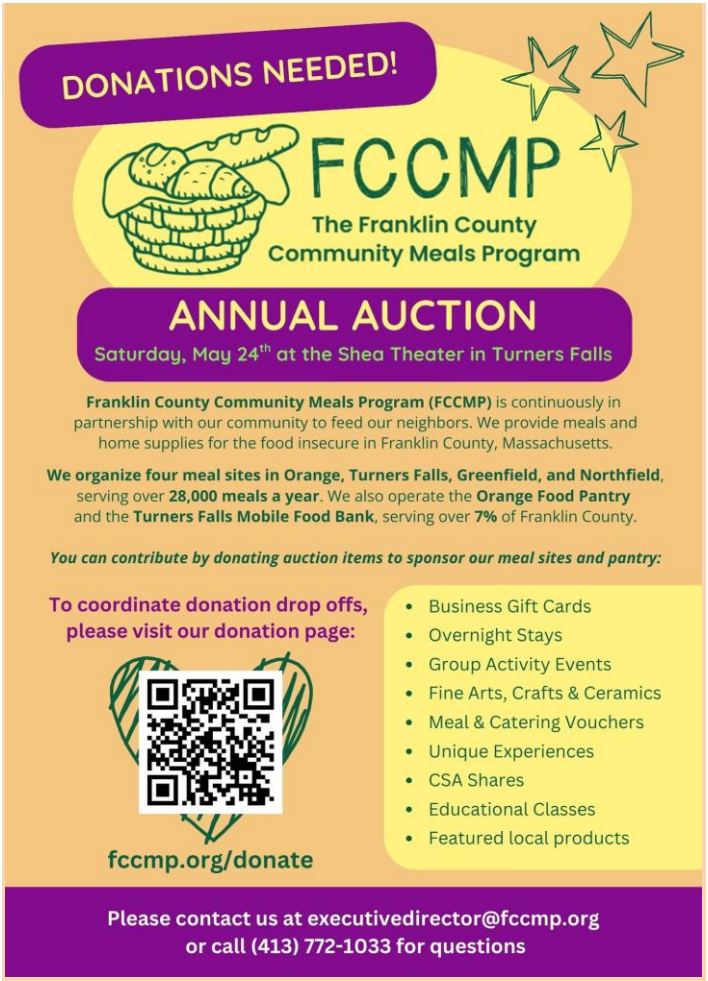
Closed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

At right: Lindera benzoin (Spicebush)



Garden Conservancy Webinar – Tuesday, May 8 – 2:00 pm EST (via Zoom) $5 members/$15 non-member. Recording will be sent. Register Here.

DEBBIE MILLMAN has been named "one of the most creative people in business" by *Fast Company*, and "one of the most influential designers working today" by *GDUSA*. Millman is an illustrator, author, educator, and host of the podcast *Design Matters*. Broadcasting for 20 years, Design Matters is one of the first and longest running podcasts in the world. The show won a Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in 2011, and Apple has named it one of their "All Time Favorites" three times. In 2023 the show won two Webbys, three Communicator Awards, a Signal Award, and three awards from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts, and earned an Ambie nomination.



The annual auction is here! There is still space to showcase local businesses and creative projects through the silent and live auctions, all for the benefit of Franklin County and North Quabbin.

Great Falls Coffeehouse

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center present:

Michael Nix & Gloria Matlock

With Children's Choir "Twice As Smart"

Duos by **Michael Nix,** Banjar and guitar and **Gloria Matlock,** voice and drums,
with special guest appearance by **The Children's Choir** of the
Twice As Smart School directed by **Gloria Matlock.**
Together they will perform gospel, spirituals, folk, jazz etc.

Friday, May 9, 2025 7 PM
In the Historic Great Hall of
The Great Falls Discovery Center
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls ~ Handicapped Accessible

Refreshments available ~ Doors open 6:30 pm
Suggested donation $7 to $20 ~ Children FREE
No one is turned away
More information 863-3221 or greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

dcr Massachusetts

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2025

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT
sales@obrienhosta.com

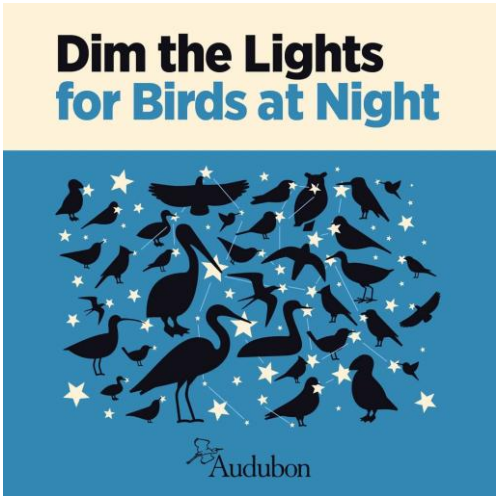
Use your 10% discount on your purchases!

May 2, 3 & 4 – Enticing Epimediums, Explore our Expanded Choices
May 9, 10 & 11 – Primroses, more selections than ever before.
May 16, 17 & 18 – Cypripediums – Lady-Slippers, easier than you think!
May 23, 24, 25 & 26 – Unfurling Japanese Maples, in a Rainbow of Colors!
May 30, 31 & June 1 – We are still adding new Itoh Peonies to tempt you with.
June 6, 7 & 8 – Krazy, Kuantities, of Kousa Dogwood Selections
June 13, 14 & 15 – Exotic Arisaemas, Japanese & Chinese Species
June 20, 21, & 22 – A Thousand Shades of Hostas, at their Best!

June 27, 28 & 29 – Japanese Stewartia, A Spectacular Four-Season Tree
July 4, 5 & 6 – Hazy, Hot & Humid, Checkout out Cool Ferns
July 11, 12 & 13 – Discover our Dazzling Daylily Display, for 2+ months, a Tradition
July 18, 19 & 20 – We offer Hardy Hydrangeas, that will bloom in your garden.
July 25, 26 & 27 – Is your Anemonopsis Blooming, or still teasing?
August 8, 9 & 10 – Hosta Dividing Demo, Each Day at Noon
August 22, 23 & 24 – Unique Conifers for the Winter Garden, ahh hell, Everyday!
September 5, 6 & 7 – Japanese Woodland Peonies! Granby Farm Day (Saturday)
September 12, 13 & 14 – Did you see dem, cooool Sedums?
September 26, 27 & 28 – Many Dwarf & Variegated Ginkgos, for Golden Fall Color
October 10, 11 & 12 – End of the Hosta Season Sale
October 31, Nov. 1 & 2 – Visit now for Amazing Fall Colors of Japanese Maples, etc.

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)
Also by Appointment – Please Call Ahead
They accept cash, check, or firstborn child – but not credit cards!

Plant Hacks shared by member Jacqueline Lejeune. Just click on the link and watch the video!



Migration season has begun. Please turn off your non-essential outdoor lights. Night-migrating birds, like songbirds and shorebirds, can be disoriented by artificial light at night. Turning off or dimming lights can help them complete their migratory journeys safely. www.stopbirdcollisions.org from 11pm to 6am through May 30th. #lightsoutforbirds

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Did you miss the Festival of Flowers in Springfield? **Art in Bloom** at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts is taking place Friday, May 2 – Sunday, May 4 during museum hours. It is included with general admission. Enjoy dozens of arrangements, special events, tours, dining and shopping!!

Kinsey-Pope Garden - Amherst, MA – Open Garden Days 2025

This is a garden begun by my late husband and me (both academics with no formal garden training) soon after we moved here in 1978, working and learning together for twenty years. I have been the primary garden designer from the beginning, and designer and gardener for another twenty years, now recently with some wonderful garden help. It is a landscape of many uncommon trees with strikingly beautiful bark and a wide variety of textures, flowers, berries, and great autumn color; many shrubs with more than one season of beauty; perennials flowering in three seasons; ground covers of unusual dramatic effect covering all beds during all seasons; and in winter offering a wide palette of interesting shapes, lovely bark, and many evergreen trees and shrubs. In addition, there are three bridges over a stone-lined swale, a hand-built screened gazebo and curved top arbor, a charming little pond, many benches and Japanese stone lanterns, large-stone walkways and stone walls, and a Japanese inspired fence surrounding all of the 1/2-acre garden. Register HERE for April 26th. TGC member price: $5pp

Open Days 2025: *April 26,* ***May 31****, and September 27.*
Hours: Two Sessions: 10–1, 1–5

Festival of Flowers – photos from the night that the Springfield Museums were open with cocktails and appetizers in almost every museum. It is an annual event that is lots of fun to experience, as floral designers and garden clubs work to interpret a work of art in flowers. Many thanks to Norm and Marsha for this year's photos.

In May, stop by the **Greenfield Public Library Local History Room** as we celebrate Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth, Greenfield resident and the "Father of Modern Beekeeping." Langstroth developed the moveable frame beehive, which made it possible to harvest honey and check on the bee's health without destroying the beehive.

But Langstroth wasn't just a tinkerer-he was also a writer with a deep appreciation for poetry and literature. When he published his classic book *Hive and the Honey-Bee* in 1853, he sprinkled its pages with quotes from some of the English language's greatest poets and playwrights, bringing together science, nature, and art.

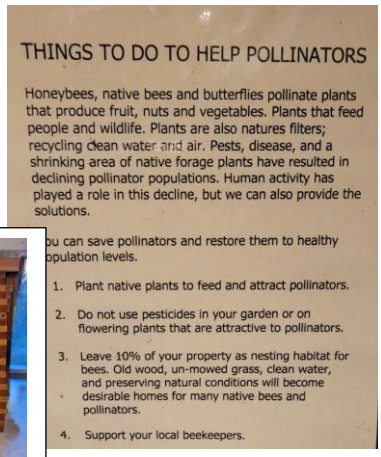
For our May exhibit, we've expanded on Langstroth's literary inspirations, offering the full context of the poems and prose he loved. Think of it as a literary garden, with a Langstroth bee buzzing from line to line, gathering wisdom and beauty from every flower.

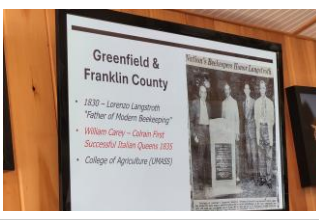
The self-guided program will be on view in the Local History Room for the month of May.

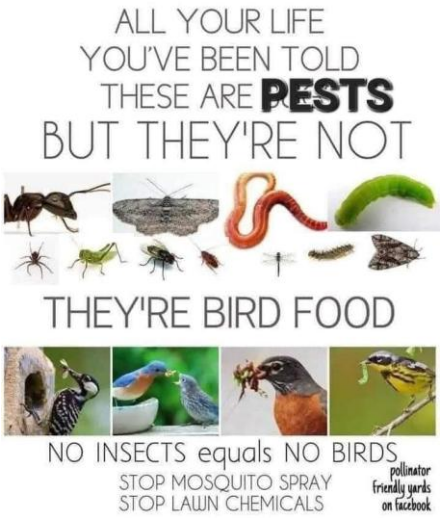
Saturday June 14 10am–4pm Rain or Shine

Ticket sales begin May 5th

Celebrate and support your GGC discount vendors! In April we visited Warm Colors Apiary for a talk and tasting with Dan and Bonita Conlon. We learned a lot about bees and beekeeping, and tasted some delicious honey. Many members ordered some 1- and 2-pound jars for pick-up a week later. Apple Blossom and Buckwheat were my favorites! Call in an order today, and ask for your GGC discount.







Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 14, 2024.....$7,568.56

Income $230.20
Interest $0.20; Membership: $230.00
Expenses $640.00
Just Roots donation: $150; grants: $490
Balance as of April 15, 2025 .....$7,158.76

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

June NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, May 28th
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

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