Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

October 2023 Vol. 31, No. 10

Annual Oktoberfest: Featured Speaker and Libations!

DATE: Sunday, October 29

TIME: 2pm onward

LOCATION: 41 Meadow Ln, in the backyard

SPEAKER: Meryl LaTronica from Just Roots

LIBATIONS: we are working to include a local brewery in our campfire taste-testing!

Meryl LaTronica, Just Roots, Director of Farm Operations, is a dedicated and experienced production farmer, farm-based educator, community organizer, and mentor to new farmers. She will be talking about and exploring with us what these climate extremes are doing to the Just Roots Farm and the general farm community in MA. A great discussion for the GGC membership!

Our annual gathering around the fire pit at the home of Marsha and Norm will return this year. Meryl LaTronica from Just Roots Farm will speak starting at 2pm. There will be a brief "intermission" around 3:00 or 3:30 as we prepare for the libations and snacks/hors d'oeuvres. Please bring a snack to share if you feel so inclined – it's not required. We hope to have a selection of beers from a local brewery, as well as some favorite ciders. As of press time, the brewery has not been confirmed, but we will send an update when we finalize the plans. We want them to come and talk about their brewery and their products. Rain will simply move us inside. **RSVP** so we can plan the food and beverages: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

October President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

As I work to get the newsletter out, it is once again raining. How many sunny days did we really have this past summer? Do I prefer drought or too much rain? I guess the latter? I want to be like Goldilocks and have it be "just right." Unfortunately, the world is changing, and we must try to help it right itself as we also try to be prepared. Please join us on October 29th as we welcome Meryl from Just Roots to talk about gardening resiliency. We are excited to be planning the Annual Meeting already, and we want to hold it at the new Greenfield Public Library. It helps to have a GPL team member on our steering committee! If anyone has a recommendation for a catering partner, please email the club. What a lovely space to use for a speaker and a nice meal. We are looking at meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2024. We have some speaker ideas, but welcome your input on that as well. Who from the New England area would you like to hear? Enjoy the fall season! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 30 & Oct 1 – Garlic and Arts Festival
October 3 & 25, 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meetings
October 4 – Gardener's Supply 50% & Up Fall Clearance starts
October 10 - Doors open at 6pm for Stewart Udall movie in Noho
October 29, 3:00pm – Oktoberfest with speaker and libations

I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion
~ Henry David Thoreau

Greenfield Farmers Market

Only 4 outdoor market Saturdays left in the year! Saturday the 7th looks very rainy, but they will still be there decked out in rain gear with all the goodies you have come to expect. Be sure to get some ingredients for a lovely fall soup or casserole!

Bridge of Flowers Sale and Volunteer Opportunity

As you know, the BOF will be undergoing extensive reconstruction next year (2024). The Bridge team of gardeners has already been removing some plantings this season and have replaced them with annuals. Plans are now in place to seriously start removing plants under the guidance of the Head Gardener starting on October 16th. There is a sign-up online for people who are interested and able to help dig and move perennials to their predetermined "hold-over" spot. The committee thanks the GGC in advance for any help they can provide. Here is the link to sign up to volunteer:

volunteersignup.org/BK87H

Don't forget their **Art Sale October 14-15**, to be held at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, 53 Main St, Shelburne Falls, MA. Over 60 artist's work will be for sale to benefit the repair fund. Click on this link to see the artist's names and to view a gallery of submitted works.

The Bridge closes its gates the last day of October, 2023.

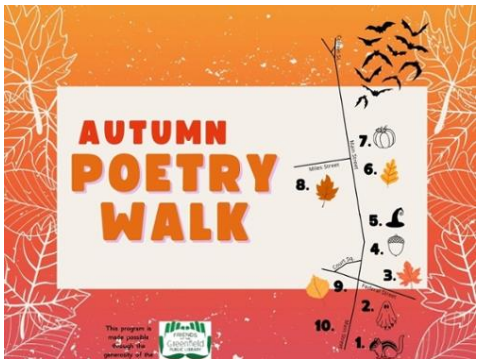
Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent ***Monthly Garden Chores*** *on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

Greenfield Public Library

Poetry Walk

October 2-31

There will be ten autumn poems posted at different downtown locations. A poetry walk map can be picked up at the Library or down-loaded from the image on the web. There will also be a posted map at each of the locations.
This program, generously funded by The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library, is free and open to every-one. The GPL would also like to thank the local downtown businesses who have graciously provided their window space to post poetry.



Officers 2023:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website: Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President: Marsha Stone
Treasurer: Becky George
Recording Secretary: Pamela McBride
Corresponding Secretary: Eva Carrier
At Large Member/s: Nicki Shipman; Michelle Tirrell

2024 UMass Garden Calendar is now on sale!

Purchasing plants for the landscape can be a considerable investment of both time and money. Selecting the right plant for the right place is the first step in making the most of this investment. This means selecting the best-suited plant material for your location according to light exposure, water availability, hardiness zone, soil conditions, and environmental exposure. The next step, and just as important to success, is following proper planting procedure.
Our 2024 calendar includes guidelines for preparing the planting hole, avoiding problems with circling roots, amending the soil before planting, and shares the results of a two-year UMass study looking at plant establishment success using different root preparation methods at planting.

UMass Extension works with the citizens of Massachusetts to help them make sound choices about growing, planting, and maintaining plants in our landscapes, including vegetables, backyard fruits, and ornamental plants. Our 2024 calendar continues UMass Extension's tradition of providing gardeners with useful and practical information. Many people also love the daily tips and find the daily sunrise/sunset times highly useful!

COST: $14.50; shipping is **FREE** on orders of 9 or fewer calendars - **FREE SHIPPING ENDS NOV 1!** (*Note: There is no free shipping on bulk orders of 10 or more.*)
FOR IMAGES IN THE CALENDAR, details, and ordering info, go to http://ag.umass.edu/gardencalendar

O'BRIEN NURSERY OPEN GARDEN DAYS OCTOBER 2023

October 13, 14 & 15 – End of the Hosta Season Sale

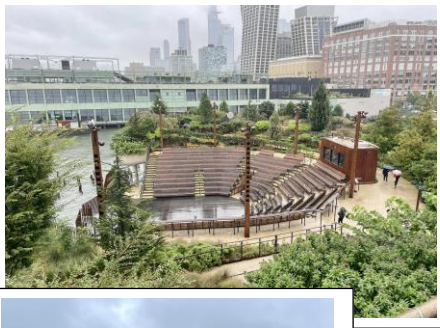
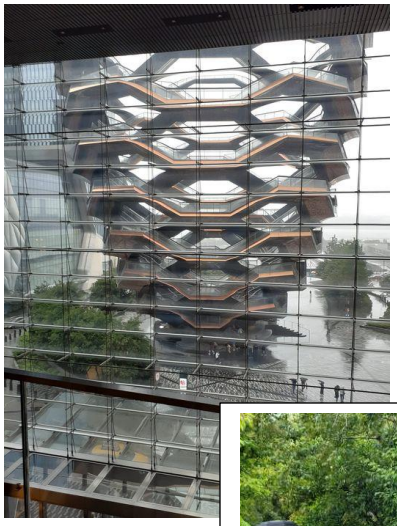
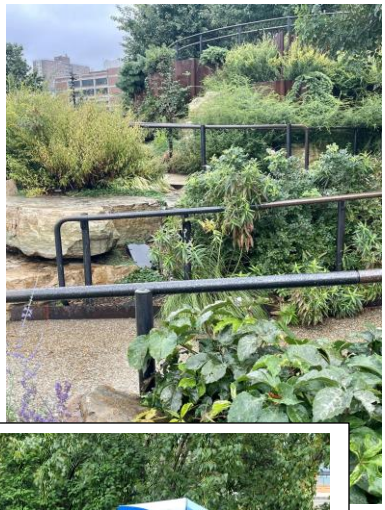
October 27, 28 & 29 – Amazing Fall Color of Japanese Maple, Ginkgo, Fothergilla, etc.

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

O'Brien Nursery – 40 Wells Rd – Granby, CT 06035

860-653-0163 * www.obrienhosta.com

Bus Trip to NYC – 25 stalwart folks took the bus into NYC on September 23rd, and everyone had a great time despite the weather. Here is a selection of photos from our time in the city that day. We are grateful it wasn't the 8 inches of rain they saw recently!

Mohawk Trail State Forest's Trees of Peace

Did you happen to see the article in the Recorder recently about the Mohawk Trail State Forest's Trees of Peace? I guess the location of these towering white pine trees has been a secret in order to protect them, but if you take care not to approach them too closely (stepping on the roots will compact the soil), but view them in their majesty from the marked trail, they are truly a sight to behold. The tallest tree in this protected grove is 173.8 feet tall. The Mohawk Trail State Forest, which spans 6,000 acres, boasts 30 of the state's 33 tallest trees and 17 of the tallest trees of the champion species in Massachusetts. This includes many of the tree varieties that take the superlative as the tallest of their kind in New England, the Northeast, and even east of the Mississippi river in some cases. I understand there is a hemlock in the forest that is about 500 years old. These pines are all first succession trees – about 150 years old. With the beautiful fall days ahead, this would be a great time to take a day trip to the forest and get the ranger to tell you where to access the trees for viewing. How wonderful to have these trees right here in our backyard! The pine trees are suffering from a fungus and have not grown much in the past few years. At some point they will fall, and other, younger pines will be shaded out. The grove will be gone. So, pack a picnic and head out to Charlemont to enjoy their beauty while we still can. You will not be disappointed!

Pumpkin Hummus

Served at a recent steering committee meeting, this hummus does not say 'pumpkin,' it's taste is smooth and delicious!

Ingredients:
1 15 oz can puréed pumpkin
1 15 oz can garbanzo beans
3 tablespoons tahini
2 cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
Juice of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons olive oil
water, as needed

Put all ingredients into a food processor and blend until smooth. Add small amounts of water, as needed, to achieve desired consistency. Serve chilled with rice crackers, pita chips or fresh veggies.

Greenfield Public Library's Spice Club

Do you love to cook and want to try new flavors and recipes? Stop by the library and pick up this month's Spice Club Kit.

In October, we are cooking with oregano, one of the most popular herbs in the cook's garden. Used fresh or dried, it adds plenty of flavor to all types of dishes from soups, sauces, and salads to meat and fish. Included in this month's kit are a sample of oregano, recipes and information, along with tips on propagating and growing the herb. Registration is not required, but supplies are limited. Spice Kits can be picked up at the Reader's Advisory Desk on the second floor, on a first come, first served basis.

Unavailable to make it into the library to pick up a kit? We have all the recipes for this and the other spices we've explored on our **Spice Club Blog** at https://gplibraryma.wordpress.com/

ORDERING IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2024 GROWING SEASON!

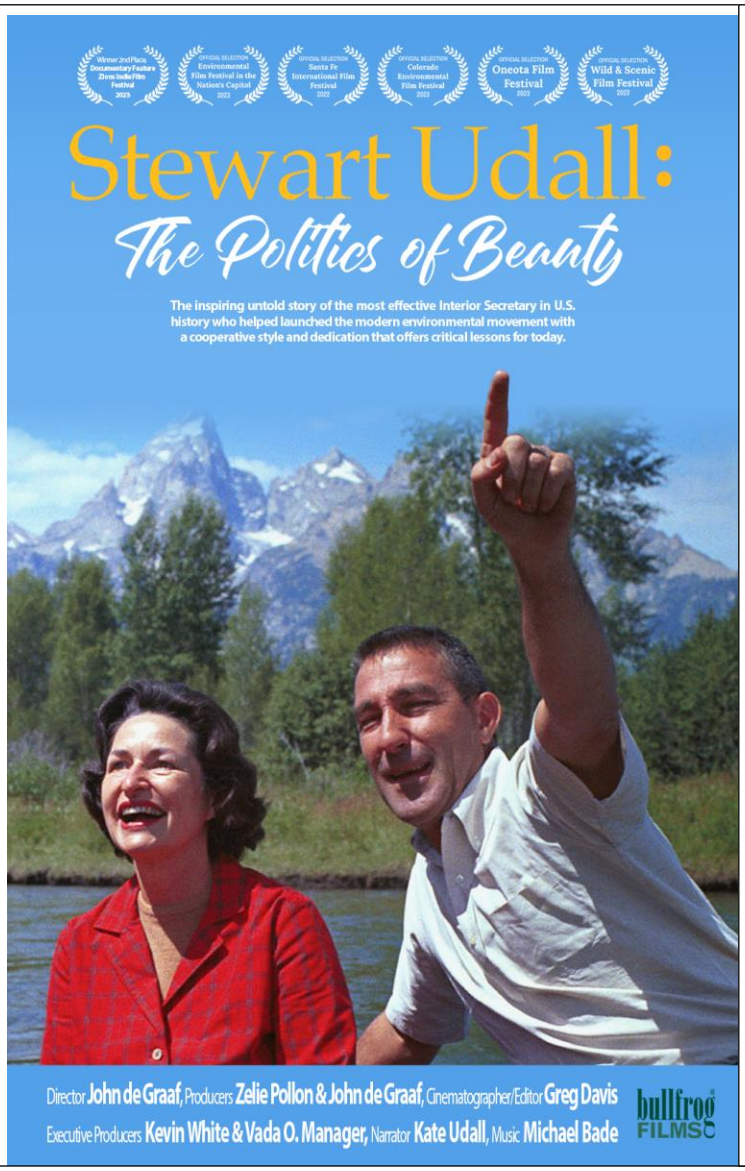
Visit the Nourse Farm website at Noursefarms.com or call their Customer Service line at 413-665-2658 to place your order today! Strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, elderberries, asparagus, horseradish and rhubarb.

HOUSEPLANT SWAP * SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th * 1:00 – 2:30 PM
GARDENER'S SUPPLY * HADLEY

Join Gardener's Supply, located at 285 Russell Street in Hadley, for a Houseplant Swap! Bring a pest-free, beautiful houseplant - or two or three - for trade. They can be potted or bareroot. Swap plants and meet and chat with other plant parents. Registration for this event is $5 and is required. Registration fee will be donated to the Local Food Shelf. (There is a $1.25 ticket transaction fee per order when using Ticketleap.)

AT HOME MUSHROOM GROWING SEMINAR at GARDENERS SUPPLY * OCTOBER 28 * 10-11 AM

Learn how to use Mycoterra Farm's mushroom growing kits**.** (Mycoterra Farm was started by Julia Coffey, and is located in South Deerfield.) Tickets for this seminar are $15 and are available here: Hadley, MA - Fall Seminar: At Home Mushroom Growing Tickets in Hadley, MA, United States (ticketleap.com)



The Massachusetts premiere of the award-winning documentary film "Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty." presented by Filmmakers Collaborative & Kestrel Land Trust

The only full-length biographical film of this towering figure in mid-20th Century American conservation. Stewart Udall is noted for his service as Secretary of Interior under both JFK and LBJ. Stewart and his brother Morris (Mo) Udall were raised in a Mormon family in the far rural north of Arizona. They went on to become towering public figures in their native Southwest and on the national stage. Stewart Udall was a Renaissance man and authored numerous books on American history and public policy. An early campaigner for racial justice and environmental justice, Stewart was also a poet and admired Robert Frost. He played a key role in raising the profile of poet Frost in the White House and in Washington, D.C. cultural life. As Secretary of Interior, Udall in essence converted JFK, and subsequently both LBJ and Ladybird Johnson into becoming conservation leaders in their own right. Under Udall's leadership, more units were added to our protected lands and waters than under any other leader at the helm of Interior. Including national parks, national wildlife refuges, national seashores and more. Plus, Stewart Udall was directly responsible for the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the establishment of a National Trails program. Udall was one of the earliest public leaders at the federal level to warn of the looming dangers of climate change. After leaving public office, Udall was a tireless advocate for both compensation to "downwinders" affected by the years of testing of nuclear weapons in Nevada, and for compensation to Navaho uranium miners for the detrimental impact on their health. During his entire career, Udall worked across the aisle, making a point to collaborate with his Republican colleagues to get important work done to protect our air, lands and waters. This film reflects on a turbulent time when the nation was polarized by many social and political divisions–the 1960s, yet a time when many political leaders in both parties found a way to work together to get important business done for the future of the nation.

The screening will be followed by a panel conversation with

- Writer/Director, **John de Graaf**
- Consulting Producer, Laurence Cotton (a former resident of the Connecticut River Valley)
- Biographer, Thomas Smith (a Massachusetts resident who appears in the film)
- Stewart Udall's personal aide, Sharon Francis (a New Hampshire resident who appears in the film)
- Moderated by Kestrel Land Trust Executive Director, **Kristin DeBoer**

Show Date/Time: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm Doors at 6:00 pm **Ticket Prices:** $10.00 for Adults ($13.95 after Fees) - Children & Students FREE **Where/ How Tickets Can be Purchased:**
Purchase online **HERE** (scroll to the bottom of the page if using mobile), or you may visit or call the Academy of Music (Northampton) box office at 413-584-9032 ext.105.

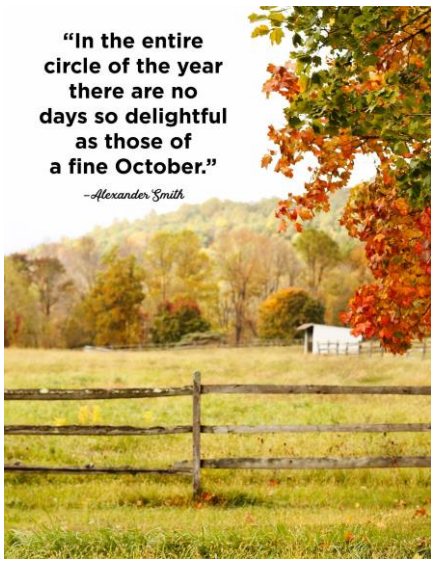
MIKE'S MAZE in SUNDERLAND

Reminder! Mike's Maze is open for the 2023 season through November 5th.

HOURS: Fridays 11-5, and Saturday/Sunday 9-5. Fridays: $12/adult & $10 for seniors, $16/$14 on the weekends.

A Winner in the Garden: BUTTONBUSH

Buttonbush is a great native shrub for naturalizing in wet areas and attracts more than 24 species of birds and many species of butterflies. It has glossy green leaves and fragrant round flower clusters that look like mini-satellites in mid-summer, which turn into red spheres of seeds in the fall. The foliage is infused with areas of red in the fall to match!



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Aug 15, 2023 .....$9.493.33

Income $1,240.25
Interest $0.25; $1,240.25 NYC Bus Trip seats
Expenses $50.89
Supplies for the Fair display
Balance as of Sept 16, 2023.....$10,682.69

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

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Monday, October 30th
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

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