Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

October 2024 Vol. 32, No. 9

Annual Oktoberfest with Guest Speaker Field Maloney

West County Cider was started in 1984 by Judith and Terry Maloney with a commitment to making small-batch ciders with impeccable apples from local orchards. Forty years later the family has grown but the tradition continues. They use fine-winemaking techniques and focus on freshness of flavor and total respect for each individual apple variety.

Every harvest year represents a new a foray into the possibility of the apple. Pine Hill Orchards, also in Colrain, presses their fruit. They grow five acres of cider apples. Starting with 100 cases in 1984, they made more than 2000 last year. They still ferment and bottle their ciders in the cellar of their farmhouse—they are still small. But they are proud of how widely their ciders are celebrated. Come and hear Field Maloney talk about all things cider!

October President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Welcome fall! My chestnut harvest is in! The rest is for the rodents, deer, raccoons, opossums, turkeys, and bear! (I didn't see the bears, just their scat and some broken branches.) It's a vibrant time of year – my favorite – and there is much to see and do in our area. There are many ideas around about how to put your garden to bed – seek them out. We are putting out info on the grant program to try and encourage folks to apply. We moved the Oktoberfest to a slightly earlier time, and we're going to have a wonderful speaker in Field Maloney. RSVP while you are thinking of it. Rain would just move us indoors which worked fine last year. We're in the home stretch of 2024 – check out the Nov and Dec events on the next page. We are already planning the Annual Meeting! I hope you have a cozy, apple-infused fall! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17, 6:00pm – Mayor's Walk at Highland Park
October 17, 7:26 am – Full Hunter Super Moon (3rd supermoon of 2024)
October 27, 1 -3 pm – Annual Oktoberfest around the firepit
November 13, 5:15 pm – Steering Committee Meeting
December 7, 9 am – 12 pm – Make a wreath or swag at Wilder Hill Gardens
December 13, 5:30-8:30 pm – Holiday party with Yankee Swap

Without darkness, nothing comes to birth. As with light, nothing flowers ~ May Sarton

The **Grant Committee** met in September and asked Pamela McBride to design a flyer (above) to be sent out to as many Franklin County entities that work with children as we can think of – schools, including before, after, and summer schools, libraries, day care centers, recreation centers, community gardens, etc. We have created a Google Sheet to list these groups and their contact emails as we will be sending out the flyer electronically. We will also do a press release in The Recorder. If you know of a group that we should include, please send it to the club email and we will add them to the list.

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

Should children be taught how to grow food as part of their schooling?

With the **GGC Grant Program** back up and running, this should help schools continue on the path of getting children's hands in the soil and growing food. We hope to get teachers and others who work with children interested in submitting grants to the club once again. We are fortunate to live in an area that is so invested in agriculture. Let's encourage them to continue!

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

PRUNING WORKSHOP with Sara-Evelyn Lane and Andrew Young

Sara-Evelyn Lane of Broadfork Permaculture and Andrew Young of The Whole Tree are interested in running a 2-part pruning workshop in Greenfield in November and again in late winter (March). They would like to do an on-site, physical demo of pruning shrubs or smaller trees, for about 10 or 12 people. GGC members and friends are welcome to sign up.

“Over the years, we've consistently seen clients (and others) run into the same problems again and again with pruning, which we feel like we can address. It would be AMAZING to see a sea change in how people (and professionals) prune their trees, from large to small, so that the lives of these trees can be extended and supported. Right now, we see pruning that is shortening trees' life spans and ability to adapt to changing climate conditions, and it breaks out hearts.”

Pat and Henry Leuchtman recently had the pair trim back some shrubs on their Greenfield property, and were very happy with the results. Pat suggested we might get them to run a workshop for others who might be interested in learning to do this for themselves.

The 2 dates have yet to be determined. Please look at their websites at the above links and see their many qualifications. This would be a wonderful opportunity for folks to get hands-on training. A small fee (around $25) will be charged. Please RSVP to the club email ASAP so we can see if there is enough interest to run this workshop series. We would need 10 – 12 people to make it worthwhile. (greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com)

What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures

A new book by author Ayana Elizabth Johnson that may take the doom and gloom out of the equation for the average person. “With a thoughtfully curated series of essays, poetry and conversations, the brilliant scientist and climate expert Ayana Elizabeth Johnson has assembled a group of dynamic people who are willing to imagine what seems impossible, and articulate those visions with enthusiastic clarity.” – Roxanne Gay (*Listen to a piece on* All Things Considered *about this new book.)*

Our climate future is not yet written. What if we act as if we love the future?

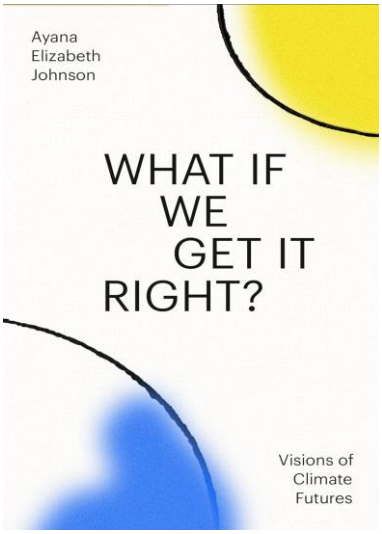
Sometimes the bravest thing we can do while facing an existential crisis is imagine life on the other side. This provocative and joyous book maps an inspiring landscape of possible climate futures.

Through clear-eyed essays and vibrant conversations, infused with data, poetry, and art, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson guides us through solutions and possibilities at the nexus of science, policy, culture, and justice. Visionary farmers and financiers, architects and advocates, help us conjure a flourishing future, one worth the effort it will take—from every one of us, with whatever we have to offer—to create.

If you haven’t yet been able to picture a transformed and replenished world—or to see yourself, your loved ones, and your community in it—this book is for you. If you haven’t yet found your role in shaping this new world or you’re not sure how we can actually get there, this book is for you.

With grace, humor, and humanity, Johnson invites readers to ask and answer this ultimate question together:

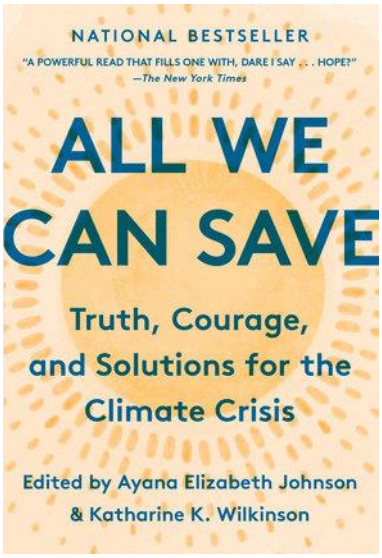
What if we get it right?



About the Author

Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson is a marine biologist, policy expert, writer, and Brooklyn native. She is co-founder of the non-profit think tank Urban Ocean Lab, co-founder of the climate initiative The All We Can Save Project, and co-creator of the podcast *How to Save a Planet*. In 2021, she was named to the *Time* 100 Next list.

You may also like this other national bestseller:

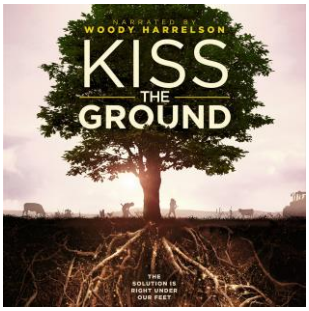


Wilder Hill Gardens is having an **end-of-season sale** on **October 12 & 13**. The address is 351 South Shirkshire Road in Conway. We will also be returning to Wilder Hill on December 7th for our annual wreath-making. More info in the next newsletter.

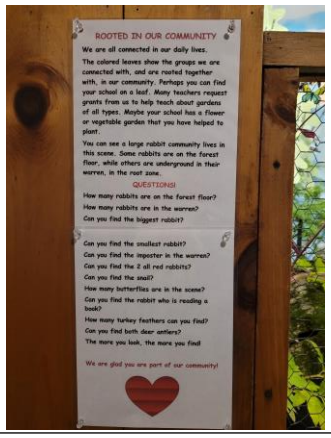
The final in the series of **Walks in the Park with Mayor Ginny Desorgher** will take place on **October 17th at 6pm at Highland Park**. Several members of the GGC Steering Committee plan to go. We don't want to miss this last chance to engage the mayor on the status of some of the parks and other areas of town that need attention. Please feel free to join us! We want Greenfield to be a clean and welcoming place for visitors and residents alike. Please dress for walking and for the weather.

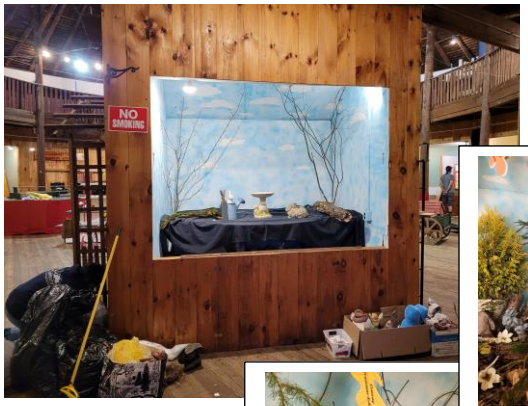
COMMON GROUND – this movie was recently shown in Greenfield, but if you missed it, or want to see it again, you can catch it on December 7th in Keene, NH. This film is about Regenerative Agriculture, an idea we all need to get behind.

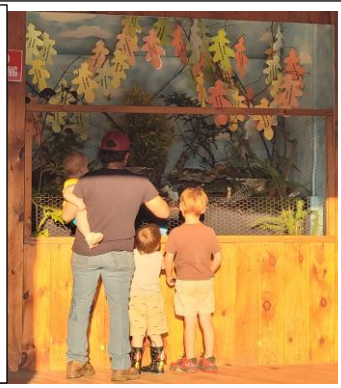
From the filmmakers of 'Kiss the Ground' (Netflix) comes the follow-up documentary 'Common Ground', winner of the Tribeca Film Festival. Common Ground is an important new documentary film featuring Laura Dern, Jason Momoa, Woody Harrelson, Ian Somerhalder, Donald Glover, Rosario Dawson, Mark Hyman, Gabe Brown, and many others. Directed by Josh and Rebecca Tickell, Common Ground provides hope for future generations with concrete ways to fix a broken planetary system. The film explores how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health and the planet.

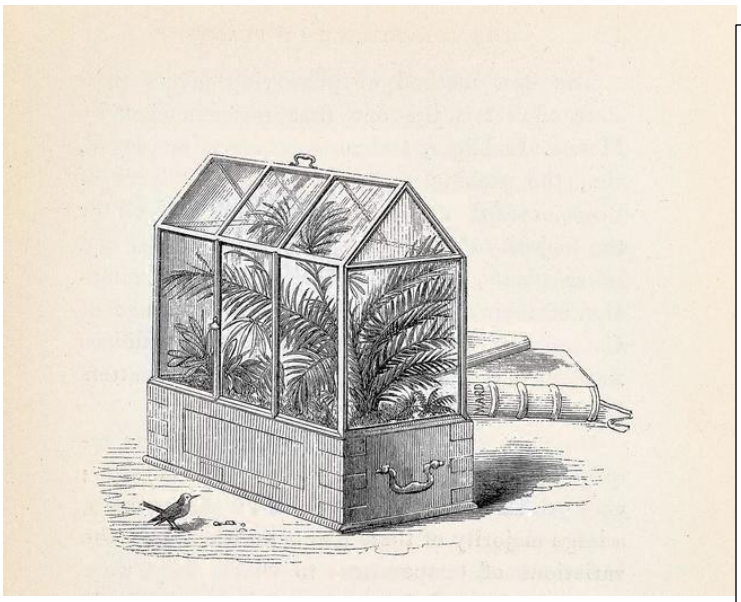


The Franklin County Fair 2024: Rooted in Our Community. We started with an idea that would show how we are also rooted in our community – the leaves on the trees are grant recipients, our valued vendors, and other organizations we have worked with over the years. The bunny warren was a nod to the kids for something fun to look at and find the biggest, smallest, the imposter, the 2 red bunnies, etc. Many thanks to the old and new members that worked to pull the booth together. We won a blue ribbon, and donated the winnings ($150) back to the Roundhouse.









Garden Politic in Nineteenth Century America

Thursday, October 3rd at 2 pm

Live on Zoom

REGISTRATION

$5 for members of the Garden Conservancy

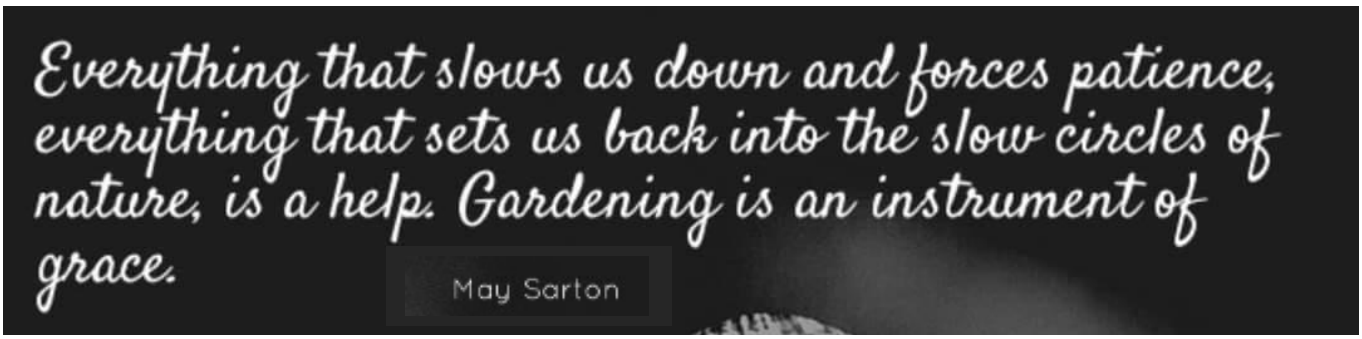
$15 for General Admission

A recording of this webinar will be sent to all registrants a few days after the event. We encourage you to register, even if you cannot attend the live webinar. ***You can even call after the fact to purchase the recording.***

How did ordinary home gardeners in nineteenth-century America perceive their gardens as tied to the fates of the nation and the world? This webinar event explores how caring for plants brought these gardeners face-to-face with the greatest political issues of the day: colonialism, conquest, slavery, and democracy. It focuses on a selection of gardeners who were also famous writers—including Emily Dickinson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Frederick Douglass—and shows how their homes and gardens were important places for broader environmental thinking. This talk draws on research from Mary Kuhn's new book, *The Garden Politic: Global Plants and Botanical Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century America*.

About the Speaker:

Mary Kuhn is an assistant professor of English at the University of Virginia. She is the author of *The Garden Politic* and many articles on the relationship between people, plants, and politics. At UVA, she routinely teaches courses in nineteenth-century literary studies, environmental literature, and the environmental humanities.



A recording of this webinar will be sent to all registrants a few days after the event. We encourage you to register, even if you cannot attend the live webinar.

Visionary: Gardens and Landscapes for our Future
Thursday, October 31 at 2 pm
Live on Zoom

REGISTRATION
$5 for members of the Garden Conservancy
$15 for General Admission

GGC members are Garden Conservancy members! Call 845-424-6500, Monday to Friday, 9-5, tell them you are with the GGC to purchase at the member rate.

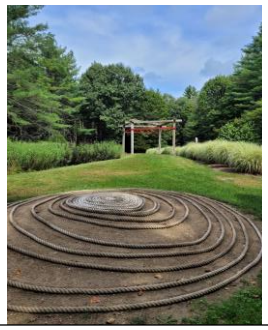
Photographer Claire Takacs and landscape architect and planting design expert Giacomo Guzzon will present their new book, *Visionary: Gardens and Landscapes for Our Future*. They will share stunning imagery and discuss key themes and findings, highlighting a selection of the book's eighty gardens and public landscapes from around the world. These featured spaces showcase innovative, inspiring, and beautiful ways to work with our changing climate across diverse scales, climates, applications, and budgets.

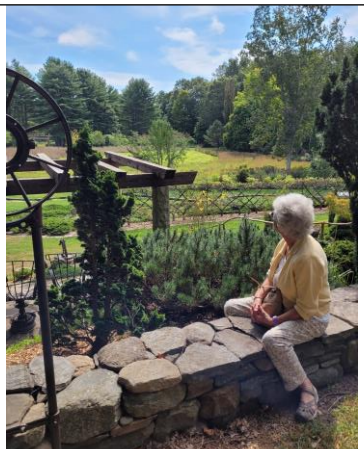
About the Speakers:

Claire Takacs is a multi-award winning photographer who, for the last twenty years, has specialized in capturing the world's best and most beautiful gardens and landscapes. Her work is defined by her use of light and her ability to capture defining moments in gardens, revealing their essence and excellence in design and planting. Her work features regularly in leading international magazines and books.

Giacomo Guzzon is a landscape architect who also lectures in planting design at the University of Greenwich, University of Sheffield, and the KLC School of Design in London. He is a principal landscape architect and head of planting design at the international landscape architecture firm Gillespies in London. Giacomo contributes to a variety of international conferences and publications. He has lectured in Hong Kong, the United States, and Europe.

Our trip to **Bedrock Gardens** on September 7th was a highlight of the month. John Forti was a wonderful tour guide, and we learned a lot from him. He said the gardens were suffering a bit from drought, but we found them gorgeous nonetheless. Most folks stayed overnight the night before in the area, which added to the charm of the trip.





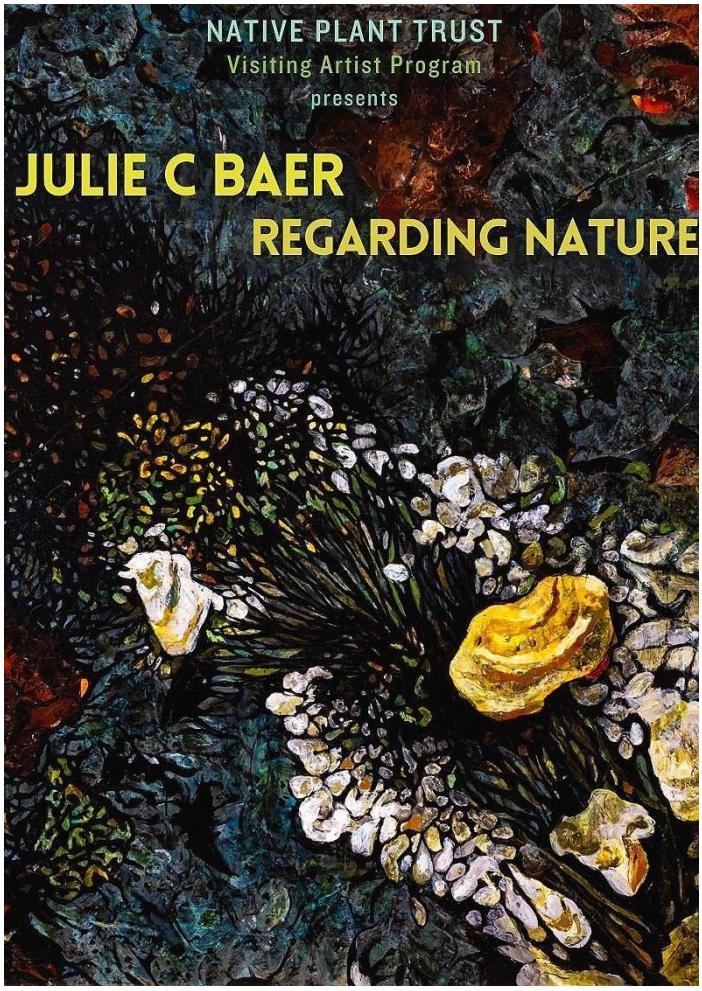
From Margaret Roach's website: "When I read the other day that Native Plant Trust, the nonprofit plant conservation organization in New England, had successfully raised the money to complete the endowment fund needed to save its region's most imperiled native plants in a seed bank, it was like a silver lining kind of story.

Yes, the plight of natives in the region, like the state of native species in other regions around the country, is dire. Native Plant Trust estimates that "a staggering 17 percent of the region's native plants are on the brink of extinction, with an additional 5 percent already lost." But efforts like the seed bank offer hope—the silver lining I mentioned—and the seed bank is just one of the organization's hopeful seed-focused projects.

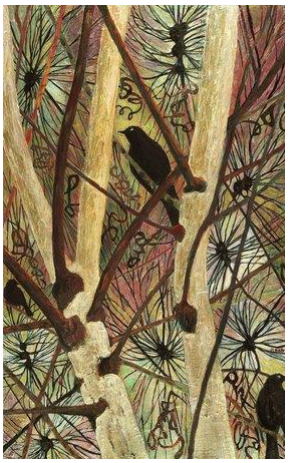
I talked with Tim Johnson about those projects, and about how seed works to promote diversity and evolution, and why local seed is so important and more. Tim in January became chief executive officer at Native Plant Trust, which was founded almost 125 years ago as New England Wild Flower Society, the nation's first plant conservation organization, and the only one solely focused on New England's natives. He has an extensive background in environmental horticulture and biological science, and until recently, he led the Smith College Botanic Garden. (Click on the link to read/hear the interview.)"

Many of you will remember our trip to Nasami Farm where we saw the seed-saving operation in person. They are doing a truly fantastic - and laborious - job collecting and processing and planting out the seed. If you have not visited lately, be sure to do so next year (the public shop closes for the season on October 6th).

(Photo of Tim by Sam Masinter. Collecting swamp milkweed seed, *Asclepias incarnata*; photo by Kate Stafford. Collecting zig-zag goldenrod, *Solidago flexicaulis*; photo by Alexis Doshas.)



We are thrilled to introduce our **2024 visiting artist**, Cambridge, MA-based mixed-media artist **Julie C. Baer**. For her project, ***Regarding Nature***, Julie will create new work inspired by the changing forms of plants, algae, fungi, and lichens across their life cycles. She will study naturally occurring arrangements and visual patterns throughout Garden in the Woods. Her work will focus on these discoveries and encourage viewers to see features of a familiar space in fresh and surprising ways. Baer is a mixed-media nature artist whose work invites viewers to attend to and care for their natural surroundings and for themselves. Her practice involves repeated, close observation of the natural world, including light, movement, color, and shape. She is particularly interested in how nature changes over time, in keeping with the seasonal cycles of budding, blooming, fruiting, seeding, dying, and dormancy. Series such as *Arboretum* and *Tidepools* (2023) surprise viewers by depicting trees and intertidal water bodies from unexpected angles, while *Rewilding* (2022) records the biodiversity that emerged in Baer's own urban garden as she planted native plants. In all her work, Baer attends to the interdependence of flora and fauna within ecosystems and to patterns in the natural world. By employing collage and varying the distances from which viewers see the subjects of her paintings, Baer challenges those who encounter them to reexamine, reencounter, and restore the species and habitats impacted by human activity.



Conventional Nurseries Are Exacerbating the Spread of Invasive Species

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst recently published a pair of papers that, together, provide the most detailed maps to date of how 144 common invasive plants species will react to 2º C of climate change in the eastern U.S.

The **study** also documents the role that garden centers, many of which still sell invasive plants, currently play in seeding future invasions. Together, the papers, published in **Diversity and Distributions** and **BioScience**, and the **publicly available maps**, which track species at the county level, promise to give invasive species managers in the U.S. the tools they need to proactively coordinate their management efforts and adapt now for tomorrow's warmer climate.

The Five Hundred Yard Field Trip

Nasami Farm is proud to be a participating nursery for **The Five Hundred Yard Field Trip**, a free ecology curriculum aligned with the science standards in MA, VT, NH, and NY that allows teachers to seamlessly incorporate the study of native plants into their life science lessons.

We are producing kits that are designed to suit the Pussytoes Project (grades K-2) and the Caterpillarpalooza (grades 3-5) course plans. If you are part of a school and interested in purchasing one of these kits, click the button below to find more information and place an order. **Order a Kit**

The goal of the Five Hundred Yard Field trip is to help students create a habitat using native plants and learn about the ecosystem created. Lessons are free to download. Plants are easily purchased from MA native plant nurseries. See the "Get Plants" tab for the native plant nursery in your area. No bus fee or permission slips necessary! Plant, watch and learn!

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

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)**

October 11, 12 & 13 – End of the Hosta Season Sale
November 1, 2 & 3 – Amazing Fall Color of Japanese Maple, Ginkgo, Fothergilla, etc.

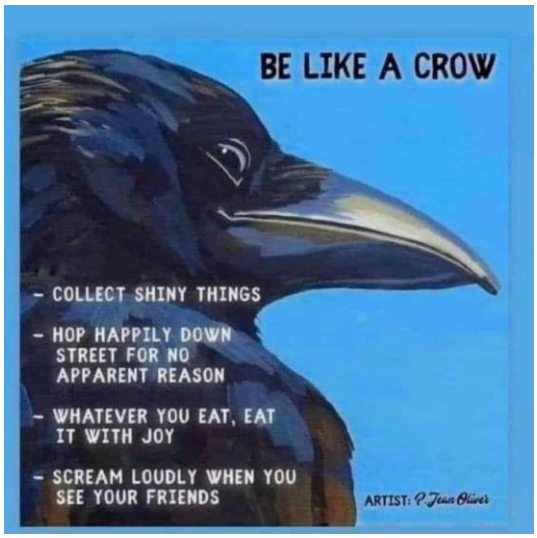
Triple Brook Farm has one of the best Native Trees for Fall Color: Black Tupelo, Nyssa sylvatica or Sourgum

Prized as one of the best native trees for fall color and a superb nectar source for honeybees, **Black Tupelo** is a hardwood tree of medium stature, 30+ feet at maturity. In the landscape it creates abundant shade, food for many bird species, (the drupes have culinary uses as well) and the bonus is dazzling, fiery hues in autumn.

For those without a green thumb, this humble and resilient tree tolerates poorly-draining soils and **can grow in standing water.**

Tupelo is reputed to be drought-tolerant as well.

See their Sale Section for a Great Deal on this underutilized native tree if you are looking for, and have room for, one or two!



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Aug 15, 2024 .....$7,783.39

Income $780.19
Interest $0.19; 1 new member: $20; Airbnb reimbursement $760

Expenses $500.00
Airbnb for Bedrock (reimbursed- see above)

Balance as of Sept 15, 2024 .....$8,063.58

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

November NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, 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

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