Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

October 2025 Vol. 33, No. 10

The Annual Oktoberfest has Arrived!

Annual GGC Oktoberfest

Date: Sunday: October 26th

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Nettlepoint Farm, 138 Highland Ave, Greenfield, MA

Host: Syd St. John (they/them)

Guest Speaker: Peter Mitchell of Headwater Cider

RSVP: greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

In case of heavy rain, we will return to Norm and Marsha's garage, which worked fine one wet year.

We are excited to once again be at that time of year when we gather outside and enjoy a talk, some finger foods and sample some hard ciders. Syd will first give us a little history and a brief tour of her micro-flower farm, and then Peter, who will curate the cider selections, will talk about Headwater Cider and what he wants us to learn about each of his selections. Dress for the weather! Bring a folding chair! Bring a finger food to share if you are so inclined. There is plenty of on-street parking. The club will purchase some food and the cider. Be there or be square!

October President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

October! We fluctuate between heat and cold, but winter is coming! At left is a close-up of one of Phyllis Lawrence's hooked rugs at the GPL this month. They are absolutely gorgeous! There are many things to do around the area in October, if you are not too busy getting your garlic planted and NOT cleaning up your leaves (see page 10)! Be sure to RSVP for the **Oktoberfest** – it is sure to be a great event. Also, on 10/10 at 11am we plan to meet at **Mike's Maze** for a walk thru of their 25th anniversary maze, followed by a bite to eat at their café if you are so inclined. Please email the club if you'd like to participate and maybe carpool – you know the drill! I am sure I am forgetting something, but my first draft of this newsletter was eaten by my computer. Enjoy the warm days and crisp nights! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8, 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meeting
October 10, 11:00am – field trip to Mike's Maze
October 26, 3:00 – 5:00pm – GGC Oktoberfest (page 1)
Oct 31 – Nov 2 – Cider Days!

Ripe apples drop about my head... The nectarine and curious peach into my hands themselves do reach
~ Andrew Marvell

Boreal Spruce- Fir Forest Flower, Tree, Wild Edibles & Waterfall Hike at the Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor, MA Monday October 13th 10am-12:30pm

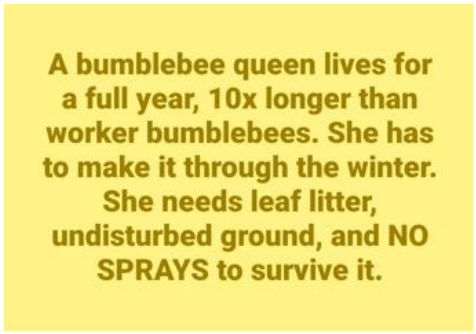
Join in for a fall hike at the Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor, MA with Naturalist & Director Aimée Gelinas M.Ed. Visit our newly created 2-mile easy to moderate loop trail and recently conserved land and waterfall while learning about the unique fauna and flora of high elevation forests and fields including plant, tree and wild edibles identification and history plus a visit to Georgie's Falls on this 2-mile hike. Program is FREE thanks to support from the Windsor Board of Health "Healthy Hikes Series" and supported in part by a grant from the Windsor Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency." Registration is required, email full_circle_o@yahoo.com

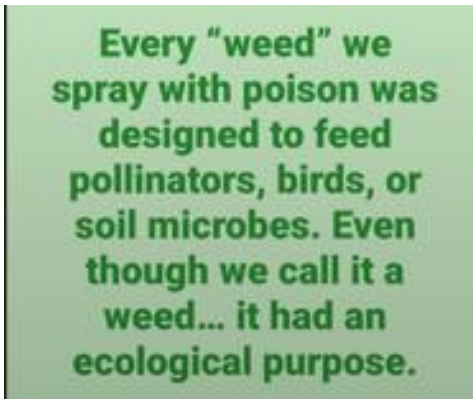
TAMARACK HOLLOW
NATURE & CULTURAL CENTER

THIS EARTH, OUR HOME

Hooked Rugs by
PHYLLIS LAWRENCE
On exhibit through October
in the Conference Room Gallery
Opening Reception
and Rug Hooking Demonstration:
Saturday, October 4 , 10 - 11:30am
Greenfield PUBLIC LIBRARY

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





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

See the workshop on 12/10 that YOU are sponsoring!!

Culinary Workshops Fall Fundraiser

STONE SOUP CAFÉ

THURS SEPT 25 5-7 PM

SWEET & SAVORY
Cooking with Honey Vinegar

Join **They Keep Bees** for a unique hands-on cooking class where honey takes center stage as a complex ingredient. Bi will demonstrate how to make and incorporate honey vinegar into your cooking and offer a delicious tasting. You'll leave with recipes and a honey vinegar starter.

Cost: $65

Sponsored by: Franklin First Federal Credit Union

THURS OCT 23 5-7 PM

THE ART & SCIENCE OF KIMCHI

A hands-on workshop exploring the fundamentals of lacto-fermentation. Participants will chop, salt, mix, and pack their own jar of kimchi while learning about the transformative process of lacto-fermentation. Everyone will leave with a jar of homemade kimchi and the knowledge to continue the fermentation journey at home. Hosted by Young-In Kim and **Greenfield Community College's Farm & Food Systems** program and the **Permaculture Club.**

Cost: $75

Sponsored by: Franklin First Federal Credit Union

WED DEC 10 5-7 PM

BAZINGA! Flavor Bombs for Your Meals

Tired of bland food? You need herbs, spices, pestos & curry pastes to wake up your cooking! Chef Kirsten Levitt teaches the building blocks of flavor, how to layer spices and herbs, and how to make "flavor bombs" to use throughout the week. You'll leave with new skills, new tastes, and a few jars of magic to take home.

Greenfield Garden Club

Cost: $75

Sponsored by: Greenfield Garden Club

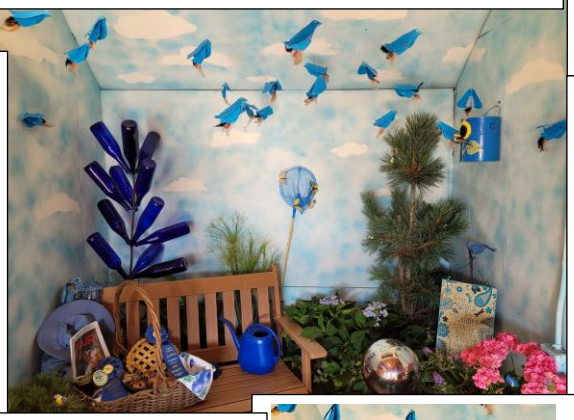
SIGN UP!
www.fcts.us/apps/pages/AdultEd

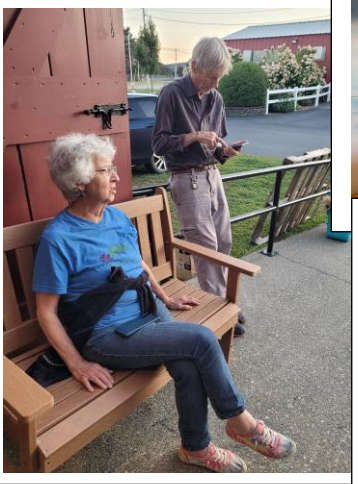
All proceeds benefit Stone Soup Café.
If cost is an issue, we retain a few spots for those who need to pay less.
Email info@thestonesoupcafe.org.

Workshops hosted at:

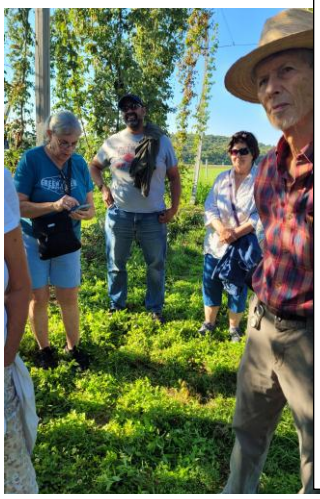
Franklin County Technical School

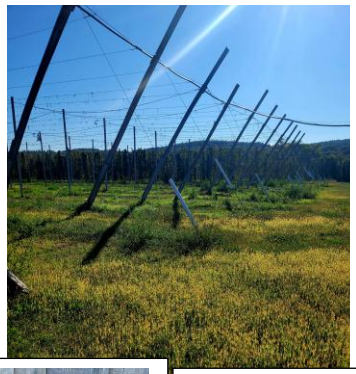
We are extremely thankful for the support of so many people this year for the Franklin Country Fair Booth – “A Blue-Ribbon Affair.” We won a blue ribbon, and donated the $150 prize money back to the Roundhouse. They are also very appreciative! We hope to start planning next year’s booth early in 2026 to give us plenty of time to brainstorm and discuss our plans. We will have a sign-up at the annual meeting for a Fair Committee. Please enjoy the photos of this year’s booth.

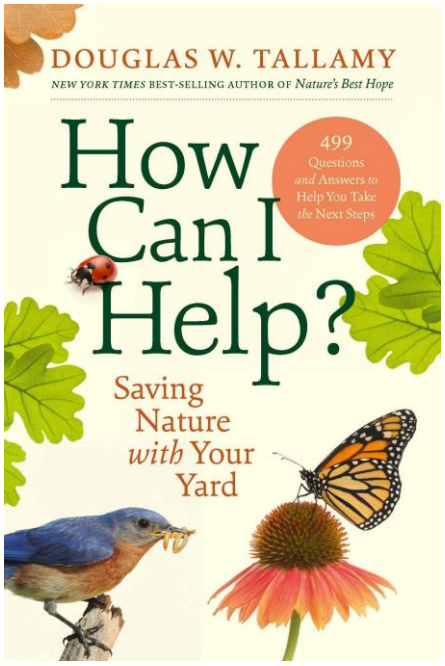




Several GGC members gathered together in Northfield on September 12th for a tour of Four Star Farms and a taste of their beers at their on-site Brewery. It was a beautiful afternoon, and a section of hops vines had not been picked yet, so we were able to get up close and personal with the vines and the cones. Our guide Liz was very informative and her ability to tell when the cones were ripe was impressive. In fact the whole operation was impressive and the beers made with their hops are very tasty.







Doug Tallamy had a new book published back in April. Here he tackles the questions commonly asked at his popular lectures and shares compelling and actionable answers that will help gardeners and homeowners take the next step in their ecological journey. Topics range from ecology, evolution, biodiversity and conservation to restoration, native plants, invasive species, pest control, and supporting wildlife at home. Tallamy keenly understands that most people want to take part in conservation efforts but often feel powerless to do so as individuals. But one person can make a difference, and *How Can I Help?* details how you can be the future of backyard conservation.

Next Steps for Nature

with Doug Tallamy

Thursday, October 16, 7pm EST

Free to all. Join virtually. A link will be provided when you register. The webinar will be recorded and available to watch after the premier. You can participate in the Live Chat during the premiere. Register now: https://wildones.org/next-steps-for-nature/

Doug Tallamy has changed the way we think about our yards. An entomologist, ecologist, and best-selling author, his research shows how native plants sustain biodiversity and support pollinators and birds. He co-founded Homegrown National Park, inspiring people to shrink their lawns and restore habitat. He has written Bringing Nature Home, Nature's Best Hope, The Nature of Oaks and Next Steps for Nature. Sinc 209, he has served as a Wild Ones Honorary Director – becoming a lifetime Honorary Director in 2018. His science-based insights continue to inspire people from all walks of life.

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2025

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT

sales@obrienhosta.com

Use your 10% discount on your purchases!

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!

Art in the Orchard

Easthampton, MA

Open until Thanksgiving weekend, this wonderful walking sculpture trail winds through productive fruit gardens. The self-guided trail is about a half mile long. A walk through the labyrinth will add another quarter mile. Estimated viewing time is between 2 - 4 hours. Open all daylight hours. Pay what you can, but know that you can walk the trail for free. Suggested voluntary donation is $10pp or $25 per group. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and appropriate clothing as you will be in farm fields and trails. PYO (apples) is also available, and there is also a farm stand. There is no charge for parking. Picnicking is encouraged!

TurnPark

West Stockbridge, MA

Turnpark Art Space is a hidden gem – a marble quarry turned into a 16-acre sculpture park and art venue. There I s the outdoor sculpture collection, two indoor exhibition spaces, ad a marble amphitheater for outdoor performances. Located at 2 Moscow Rd in W. Stockbridge, it is open Wednesday – Monday (closed Tuesdays) from 10:00 am – 5:00pm. Adults $14, Seniors/students $10. Please click on the link above to view additional pricing, see who is exhibiting, and read the guidelines for your visit. You can also read the article in the Life & Times section of the September 20th edition of the Recorder. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing for the outdoor spaces.

The Contemporary Garden

Tuesday, October 7th, 2 – 3 pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Join us for a virtual roundtable discussion to celebrate the publication of *The Contemporary Garden* (Phaidon, 2025) with a panel of designers and garden experts featured in the book. Spanning the late twentieth century to the present, *The Contemporary Garden* showcases 300 stunning gardens, from roof gardens to wildflower meadows, each celebrated with a large-format image and an insightful description that will deepen the reader's understanding of the creator's work. Organized alphabetically by designer, this stunning book celebrates the visual beauty and creativity of gardens and demonstrates how our evolving stylistic and horticultural aesthetic fosters an increasingly strong connection with the natural world. Curated in collaboration with an international team of horticultural experts, this wide-ranging collection includes established and lesser-known designers, capturing the global rise of garden design and offering a rich source of inspiration. *The panelists are Andrea Cochran, Andy Sturgeon, and Christine E. Ten Eyck. The virtual roundtable will be led by Victoria Clarke, Commissioning Editor of The Contemporary Garden.*

The New Beautiful: Innovative Spaces and the Changing Face of Gardens

Thursday, September 15th, 2 - 3pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

A new, motivated generation of garden makers are just as, if not more, concerned with ecology as aesthetics. This might require that we accept a wider definition of "garden", and a broader sense of what beauty can be, but the reward for embracing a different ethos is a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with the little world outside your back door. These gardens are a good news story to give us hope, as well as dynamic works of art and activism, science and sustenance. They offer a glimpse of what's possible, a brighter future, and a gentle plea for nature.

STEPHANIE MAHON is Editor of *Gardens Illustrated* and host of the *Talking Gardens* podcast. Twice winner of the Garden Journalist of the Year Award, she previously edited *The English Garden* magazine and the Society of Garden Designers' *Garden Design Journal*. She is author of several books, including *Wild Gardens: Inspired by Nature for the National Trust*.

The White House Rose Garden: Renovation of an Iconic Space

Thursday, October 30th, 2 - 3pm

$5 for GGC members

Contact the club to order tickets for you!

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

In 2018, OvS embarked on one of its most ambitious projects in the firm's history: the renovation of the White House Rose Garden. In this presentation, Eric Groft, Principal-in-Charge of the project, will illustrate the research, planning, and design that helped guide the Garden's renewal and curate an outdoor experience transcendent of each administration. The presentation will address OvS' White House Rose Garden Landscape Report, and how it informed the design updates that allow for universal accessibility, modernized systems of irrigation and drainage, improved media technology and other electrical infrastructure, as well as a renewed palette of roses and other blight-resistant species that are better suited for this hallowed space.

ERIC GROFT CEO and Director of OEHME, VAN SWEDEN | OvS, is renowned for his diversity in residential, commercial, and institutional work. He prides himself on a sense of regionalism, attention to the vernacular, and his work with cultural landscapes. Eric's commissions include landscape master planning and design efforts for residential gardens throughout the east end of Long Island and the northeastern region of the United States. His commercial body of work features the American Museum and Gardens in Bath, UK, the Federal Reserve Campus in Washington, DC, as well as the 2020 renovation of the White House Rose Garden. Eric has a passion for horticulture and is dedicated to shepherding the evolution of OvS' New American Garden Style. He is widely recognized as an industry leader in ecological sensitivity, environmental/wetland restoration, and shoreline stabilization/revetment. He frequently lectures on these topics and the work of OvS.

FOR ALL GARDEN CONSERVANCY WEBINARS:

You will receive the webinar link directly from Zoom.

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.

Build a Brush/Log Pile for Wildlife

Turn fallen wood into a thriving natural shelter. This simple garden feature provides food, cover, and nesting sites for countless species. A brush pile turns a forgotten corner into a mini ecosystem, perfect for a healthy, wildlife-friendly garden.

Stacked logs and branches: hideouts for amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals.

Decaying wood: home for beetles, fungi, and insect larvae (food for birds).

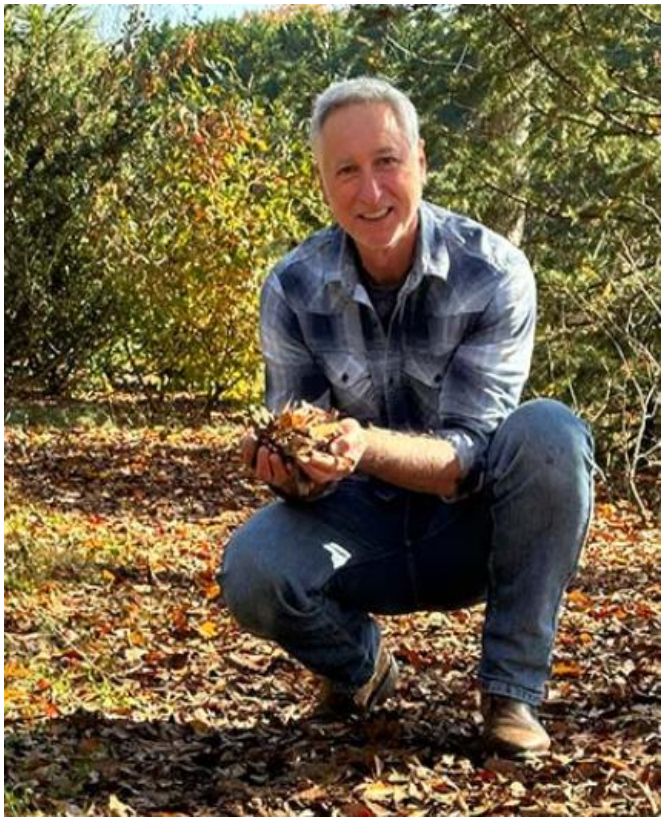
Hollow spaces: overwintering shelter for butterflies and beneficial insects.

Goldenrod: blooms late, feeding bees and migrating butterflies.

Joe-Pye Weed: tall nectar-rich flowers for Monarchs and pollinators.

Do you enjoy seeing birds, butterflies, moths, bees, and other insects? Then do them (and yourself) a favor: don't 'clean-up' your yard and garden in the fall. Birds and insects need the seeds, stems, and leaves to survive the winter. Here's a short video overview of the benefits: https://joegardener.com/video/leaving-the-leaves-and-seed-heads-support-overwintering-wildlife/

Astilbe "Dark Side of the Moon" is the Proven Winners Perennial of the Year for 2026

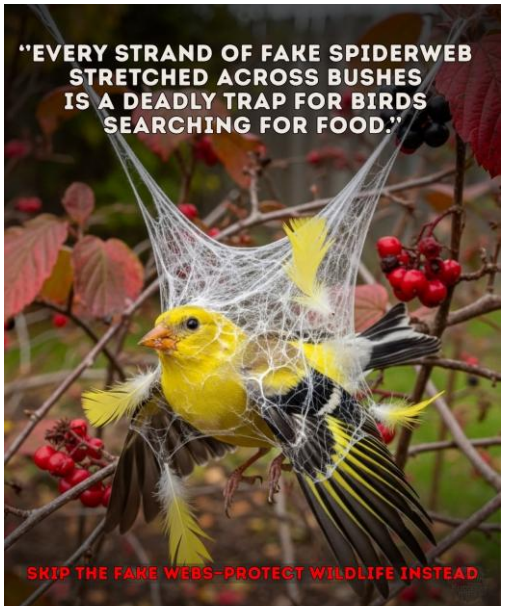


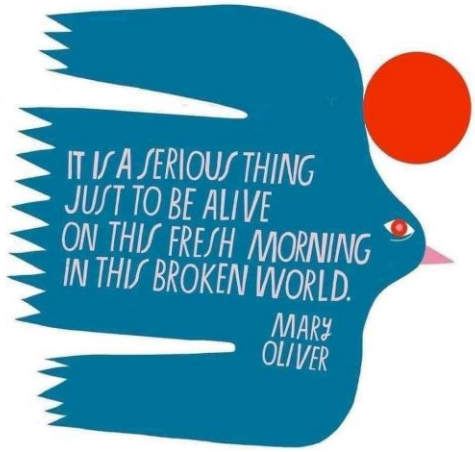
Native late-bloomers like black-eyed Susan and Joe-Pye weed aren't just pretty flowers — they're arks saving species from extinction. These plants co-evolved with local butterflies, bees, and birds for thousands of years. When you replace them with exotic ornamentals, you're breaking million-year-old relationships that can never be rebuilt. A single native oak supports 500+ species; a non-native tree supports 5. We're in the middle of the 6th mass extinction, and your plant choices are voting for life or death. Choose natives. Save the world, one flower at a time.

Native plants are the last hope

Japanese artist Azuma Makoto has sent his floral sculptures into space and sunk them to the bottom of the ocean, but most of the time, he thinks about the life and death of flowers.

Flower Punk is a hypnotizing short documentary that brings you inside his work and process. After watching, you won't be able to think about flowers the same way again.





Treasurer's Report

Balance as of August 16, 2025.....$9,145.20

Income $20.22
Interest $0.22; Membership: $20
Expenses $923.40
Pickity Place: $423.40; Grant $300; computer $200
Balance as of September 15, 2025...$8,242.02

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:
Tuesday, October 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

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