Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

September 2025 Vol. 33, No. 9

Hop to It! Learn About Hops and Craft Beer

GGC Visit to The Brewery at Four Star Farms

Friday, September 12 at 4:00pm

508 Pine Meadow Rd, Northfield

We are visiting the farm to learn about their hops and grain production and how they use them to brew their craft beers. With luck the hops will not have been harvested yet, but even if it has, we will learn how it's grown, harvested, dried and then used in the beer-making process. They have a range of hand-crafted beer styles made from these exclusive in-house ingredients. Their hop field encompasses 17 acres! Of course we'll have to try some! They also serve hard cider and wine. We are waiting to hear if there will be a food truck onsite, but bar snacks will be available for purchase.

RSVP to the club email so we can let the farm know how many people to expect, and indicate if you'd like to join a carpool or go on your own. There is plenty of parking onsite, and many places to sit and enjoy your choice of beverage while admiring the view. Rain or shine.

greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

September President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

This fellow was in the gardens up at Pickity Place, and he looks like how I felt after eating my five-course herbal-themed meal! Everything was delicious, and everyone had a great time. Photos on page 4. I'm not sure about you, but here in Leyden, we have not had much rain in way too many weeks. We are not watering as we are on a well. At least we have not experienced any large tree limb drop as my brother in the UK has. I guess it was a good year for me not to have a veggie garden. We are gearing up for the fair booth starting 9/2. I hope it comes together swiftly. We have planned a visit to The Brewery at Four Star Farms this month. It should be an informative and relaxing visit. I hope you can join us! Meanwhile, come see the wonderful Roundhouse displays at the fair. ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2 & 3 – Fair booth set up
September 4 - 7 Visit the Roundhouse at the Fair!
September 10, 5:15pm – Steering Committee Meeting
September 12, 4:00pm – GGC visit to Four Star Farms
September 27-28, Garlic and Arts Festival in Orange, MA.

And into the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul. ~John Muir

Closing out 2025: Upcoming Activities Planned. Please hold the dates.

TBD – Our annual Oktoberfest is in the works

Saturday, December 6th at 3pm: Holiday Centerpiece Workshop at Floral Affairs in Greenfield. We have arranged for a private floral workshop to make a festive centerpiece for the holidays. Seats will be limited so reserve yours today.

Friday, December 12, 5 – 8pm: Annual Holiday Party and Yankee Swap. A great way to celebrate the season with food, drink, and the always fun Yankee Swap. More information will come soon.

Wreath-making: every year since covid it has been harder to find a home for our group wreath-making. Chapley Gardens was not able to get greenery so we hooked up with Wilder Hill Gardens in Conway for the past 2 years. After 35 years in business, Wilder Hill has closed. Greenfield Farmer's Supply always seems to get a nice selection if greens, so you could make your own, or look for a group that is offering wreath-making.

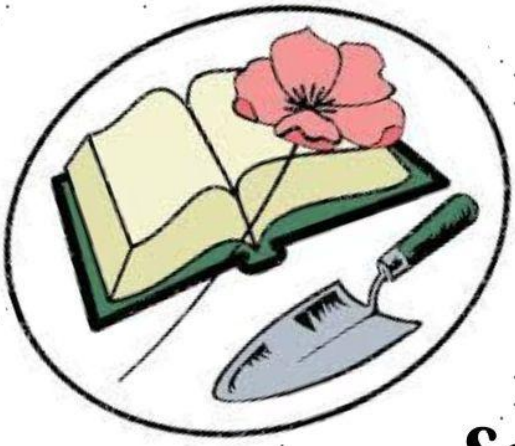
Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent ***Monthly Garden Chores*** *on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

Thank you to everyone who is about to contribute their time and/or lend the club their plants, bench, tiles, pots, signs, baskets, and lots of blue tchotchkes for the children visiting the fair to find. This is a group effort and we could not do it without your help.

Thank you!!

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

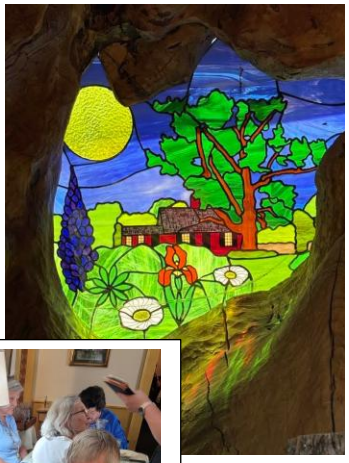


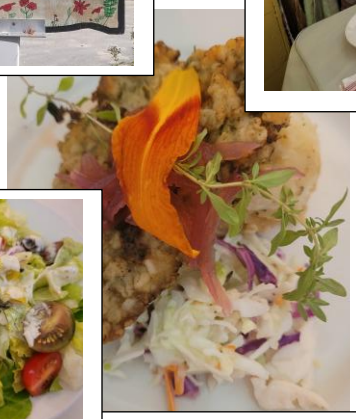
Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association

Saturday
September 6 & 13
10 am - Noon
Soil testing
and gardening advice.
On the Front Patio

For information on collecting soil samples , see "How to Test Your Soil" on their homepage at https://wmmga.org/

Our trip to **Pickity Place** was lots of fun. It was a beautiful day, and the food was absolutely delicious. The service was impeccable. The gardens have expanded quite a bit since the last time I was there, which was quite a while ago. They have a lovely shop selling their herbal concoctions and many gift items, and I understand they are working on a new cookbook. Looking forward to a future trip and trying a new menu!





Our fall plant sale is here! All plants are now 25% off for members and 15% off for non-members. We still have a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, trees, and vines, including a number of plants that offer vibrant fall foliage and late season color.

Visit our garden shop at Nasami Farm (open Thursday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm) to make your purchase.

Get out and enjoy the fall weather!

23rd ANNUAL HOUSATONIC HERITAGE WALKS

Free, guided walks throughout Berkshire County, Massachusetts and Litchfield County, Connecticut.

Saturdays & Sundays on…Sept. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 27 & 28, and Oct. 4 & 5

View the **2025 Heritage Walks Brochure** here**!**

We're extremely grateful for our 'HERITAGE WALKS' sponsors!

The Berkshire Eagle

BerkshireBank
Life is exciting. Let us help.

PLEASE NOTE–FOR ALL HIKES/OUTDOOR WALKS, PLEASE WEAR HIKING BOOTS/STURDY FOOTWEAR. SUGGEST BRINGING DRINK & SNACK, BUG REPELLENT AND BE PREPARED FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Garden Conservancy has listed its **Fall Webinar Schedule** online. There are 11 opportunities to attend a webinar for $5 between September and December. As usual, I will probably sign up for all of them in one fell swoop, and hope I remember to watch the recordings in the new, shorter time-frame. The first one will be on September 9th: Back to the Land: A New Way of Life in the Country. Pieter Estersohn addresses the current pulse of farming in the Hudson River Valley. New farmers, new methods, how to be profitable yet ethical. 35 farms will be highlighted. Email the club if you want tickets.

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2025

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT

sales@obrienhosta.com

Use your 10% discount on your purchases!

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

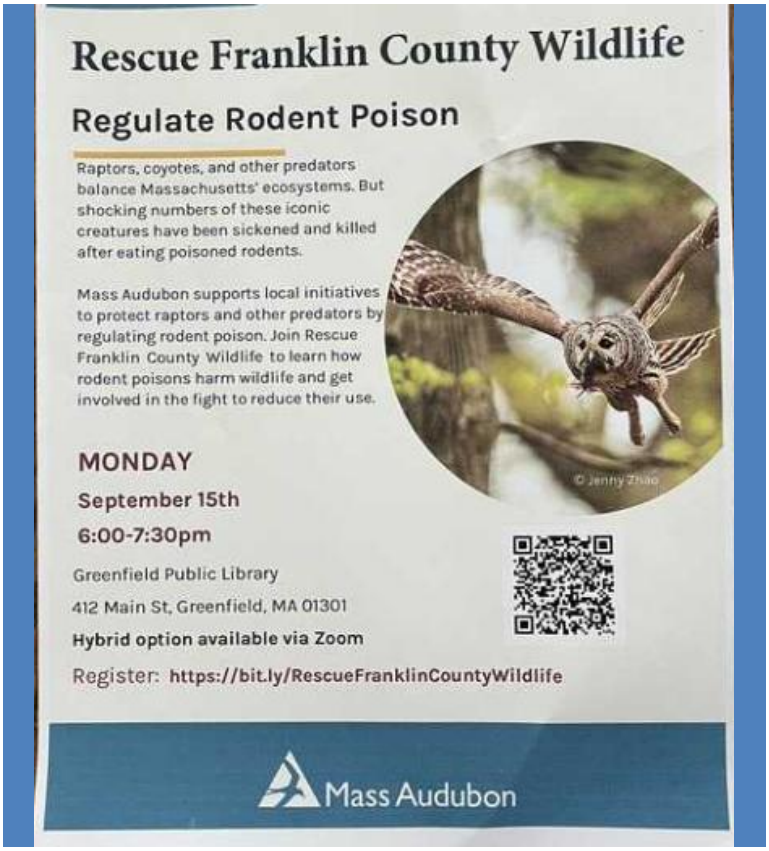
October 10, 11 & 12 – End of the Hosta Season Sale

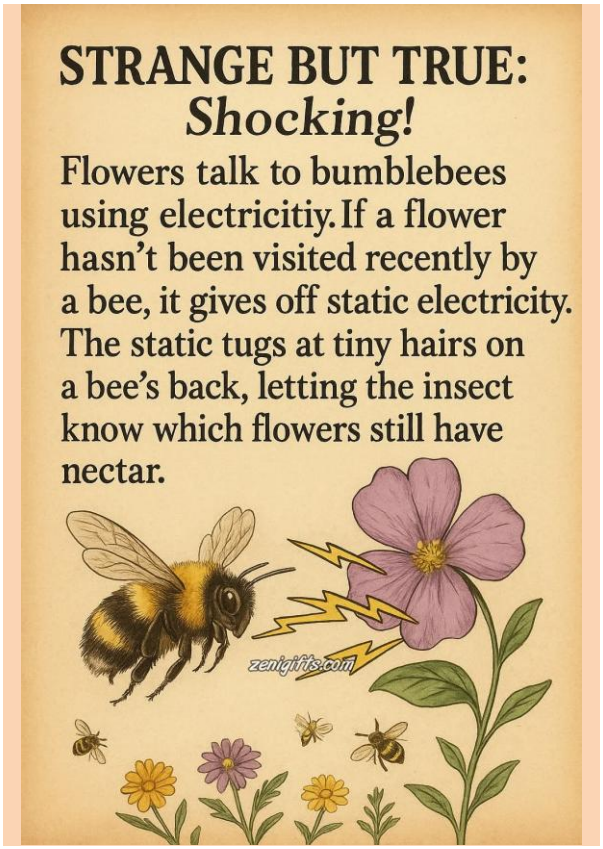
October 31, Nov. 1 & 2 – Visit now for Amazing Fall Colors of Japanese Maples, etc.

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!





Back to the Land, a New Way of Life in the Country

Tuesday, September 9th, 2 – 3 pm

$5 for GGC members

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

Pieter Estersohn will address the current pulse point of farming in the Hudson River Valley. He will speak about the diverse populations entering the field and the varied business models being introduced, or in many cases, reintroduced to the area by farmers who must exercise tactics based in being hyper-present in order to stay profitable within ethical parameters. Thirty-five farms will be covered, each offering insight into the challenges and rewards inherent in farming in 2025.

PIETER ESTERSOHN is a photographer and author who has worked on over 60 books covering design, architecture, and now agriculture. He is on the Advisory Council with *The Magazine Antiques* and is a frequent contributor to *The World of Interiors*.

A recording will be sent to all participants a few days after the lecture.

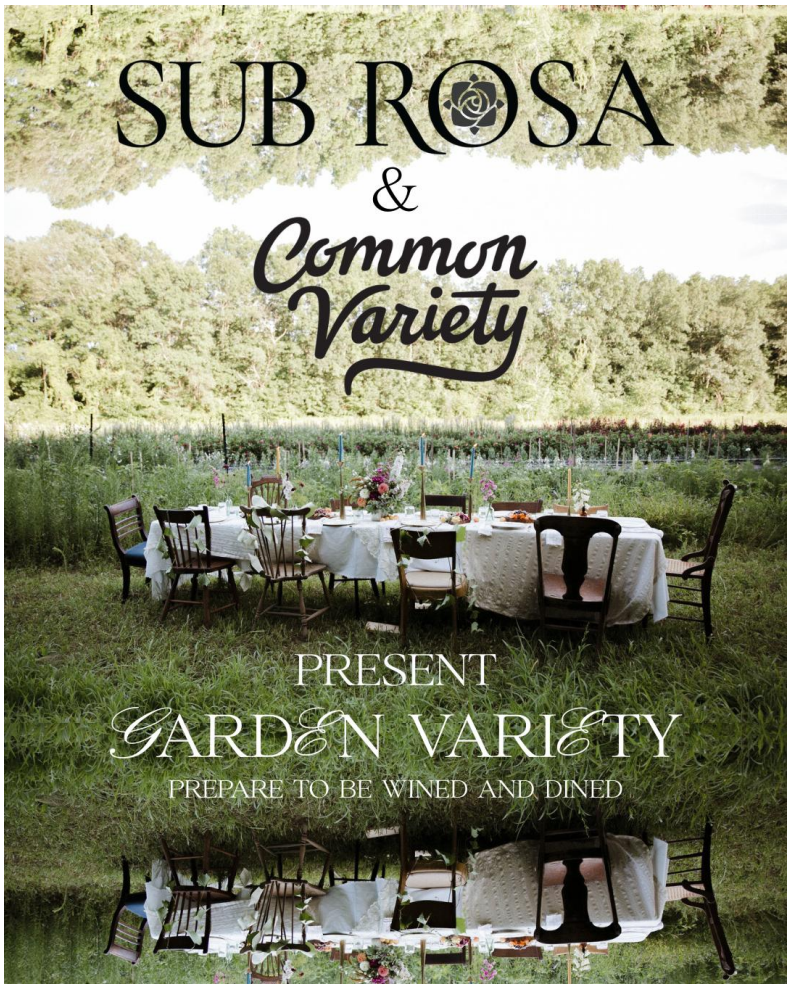
"A Garden Inferior to Few" The Williamsburg Garden of John Custis IV

Thursday, September 15th, 2 - 3pm

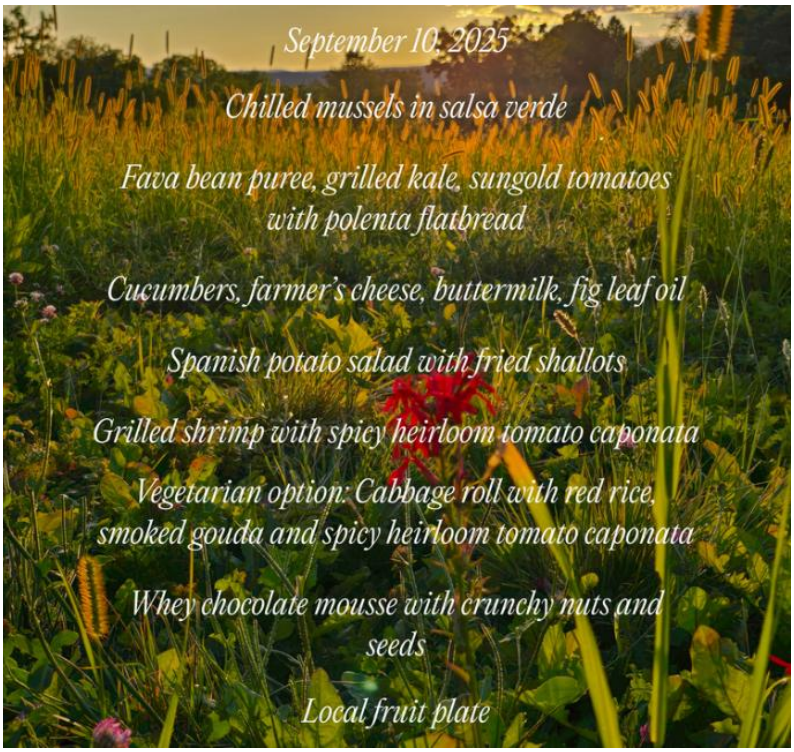
$5 for GGC members

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

John Custis IV, in addition to being a member of the political elite and the first father-in-law of Martha Washington, was the creator of one of the most renowned colonial gardens of the early eighteenth century. The four-acre garden was said to contain gravel paths, topiary, hundreds of native and imported plant varieties, and statues. While his correspondence with gardening luminaries such as Peter Collinson revealed much about the plants, the appearance and layout remained a mystery—until now. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation concluded a five-year archaeological excavation to uncover this important lost landscape. We will explore the evidence to discover the design for the garden, revealing a truly baroque layout. **JACK GARY** is Executive Director of Archaeology for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He leads a team of archaeologists, curators, and scholars to reveal the hidden stories of Williamsburg's past. He is the former Director of Archaeology and Landscapes for Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest.



Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00pm



Sub Rosa is excited to invite you to a very special five course dinner on **Wednesday**, **September 10th** - dreamt up by the chefs of **Common Variety**, the creative duo behind a new cafe and market opening in Montague this fall. Experience the pleasures of late summer harvests with your beloved friends and neighbors at your favorite botanical lounge.

Welcome cocktail at 6pm. Prix fixe dinner begins at 6:30pm. Pesca and vegetarians delight. LIMITED AVAILABILITY. One seating.

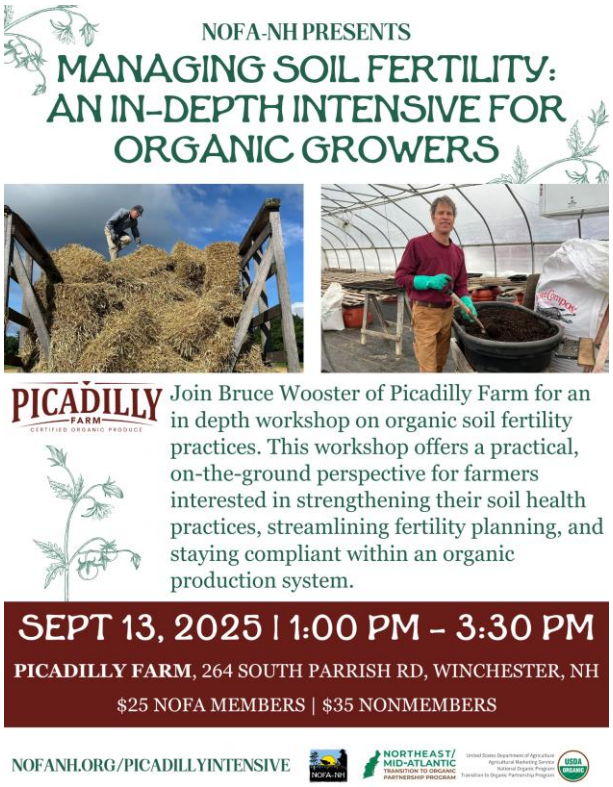
Gather a seven-top of your friends or be seated with your new favorite strangers. Come for dinner, stay for the company. Click HERE for reservations.

120 / person. Ticket price includes food + two drinks. Additional drinks and flowers available for purchase and your pleasure.

Quonquont Farm

Thursday, September 11, 2025, 5 - 7 p.m.

Come explore our beautiful dahlias and learn to create airy, whimsical arrangements using easy, sustainable techniques. Our designer will share simple tips for making your own floral designs at home with reusable items. You'll have the chance to walk through the garden and pick your favorite dahlias (plus any other flowers & greenery you like) then head to our open-air pavilion to design your bouquet. Enjoy light snacks and cocktails while you create, and leave with something beautiful you made yourself. This outdoor workshop will be held in our cutting garden and open-air pavilion. Registration includes flowers, vase, and refreshments. $95pp



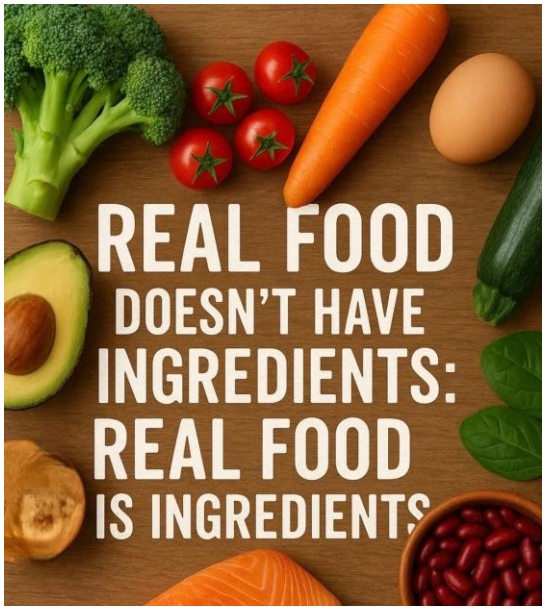
The Patron Saint of Gardeners

Lights Out Sept 6 – Oct 6

You've seen the iconic photos of the US at night, with all the massive areas of bright light strewn across the country - the eastern half lit up the brightest. It's interesting to see the web of our large and small cities, but it's a deathtrap for migrating birds. According to the Audubon website, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, mostly at night, and navigate using the night sky. Passing over areas of bright light, they become disoriented and fatal collisions with buildings result. Over one week in 2017 in Texas, 400 birds were killed by just one 32-story skyscraper. Audubon's 'Lights Out' program is a national effort to reduce this problem. The side effect being massive energy savings. How can we help?

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish pot and floodlights
- Substitute strobe lighting wherever possible
- Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible
- Turn off interior lighting especially on higher stories
- Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late or pull window coverings
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology

Lights Out Boston was founded in the fall of 2008. More than 45 tall buildings participate, turning off both internal and decorative lights at night. **Let's start a Lights Out in Greenfield!!**



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July16, 2025 .....$8817.97

Income $823.63
Interest $0.23; Membership: $45; Pickity Place trip: $443.40; Donation: $380

Expenses $496.40
Pickity Place: $423.40; 40 stamps: $73

Balance as of August 15, 2025 .....$9,145.20

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

October NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Saturday, September 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
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
324 Deerfield St, Greenfield
10% off anything in the store