Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

September 2026 Vol. 34, No. 9

Rolling Into Fall – When Less is More

Heidi Dollard is a Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Pollinator Network. She works to educate gardeners and homeowners on how they can support pollinators and other beneficial wildlife while creating a beautiful and low maintenance landscape. She has a MS in Biology, is a Master Gardener, a member of the Garden Club of Amherst and has been a consultant for the Hampden Hampshire Conservation District Native Plant program. She has been an enthusiastic native plant gardener for many years.

Garden Clean-up: Less is More

with Heidi Dollard

Wednesday, September 23 at 6pm
Greenfield Public Library
Community Room

How you clean up your yard all year has a great environmental impact! By doing less, you can do more to address the biodiversity crisis, reduce global warming, build your soil, and save work and money while still maintaining an attractive landscape. I offer information and advice on ecological gardening based on my own experience and education. My focus is the specific hows and whys of managing residential land as workable useful habitat for both people and essential wildlife.

September President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Welcome to the cooler and shorter days of fall. As you can see, I was cutting up some homegrown tomatoes and cucumbers when it looked like I needed a pepper to complete a happy veggie face. Playing with your food can be fun! Once we get past the Franklin County Fair, we have another event to look forward to this month. We have booked Heidi Dollard for a lecture at the library. Please spread the word. Once we create a flyer I will pass it around. Since we are paying a speaker fee, it would be great if we can get a good-sized group to maximize our investment. I hope your gardens are productive, and late season flowers are filling your vases. Thank you to member Annette Kilminster for her lovely acrylic painting of St Steven's Swamp on the next page. See you at the Fair! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

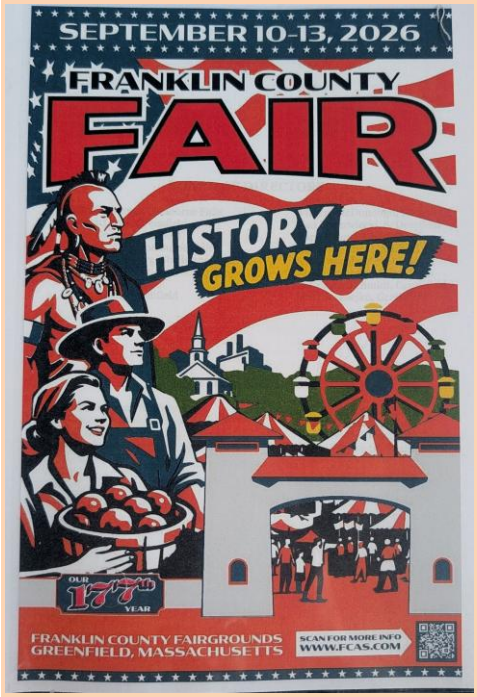
September 8, 6:00 – 9:00pm – Fair Booth set-up
September 9, 3-9pm – Fair Booth set-up
September 14, 5:00pm – Steering Committee meeting
September 23, 6:00pm – GGC presents Heidi Dollard at GPL
September 26 - Full Harvest Moon peaks at 12:49 pm

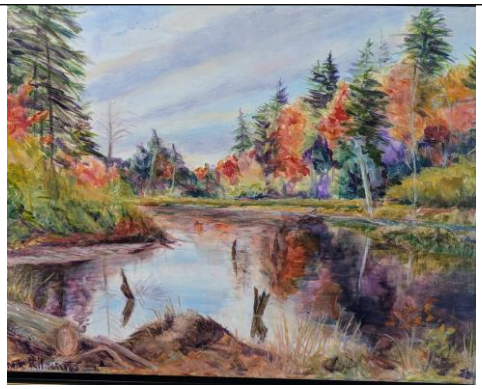
Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful ~ Heather Stillufsen

The **177th Franklin County Fair** is next week! We have firmed up our design and identified the tools, plants, and special touches we will need. Does anyone have some old-fashioned toys we could borrow? Things like old marbles, jacks, a cornhusk doll, wooden ball and cup, old-looking jump rope, old hoop with stick, etc. We are looking for toys that child-ren might have used back in the early 18th-19th centuries. We are working on getting some herbs to plant inside the spokes of the wagon wheel. Other things we could use are potting soil, bricks, flat rocks for a path, mulch to go in between the rocks, more milk crates to give the plywood floor more support, straw gardening hat, old-looking hand tools, lots of geraniums and marigolds (our primary flowers for the booth), a checked cloth/dishtowel, maybe an old jug. If you think we can use it, bring it along. Pick-up for all items is Monday, 9/14, 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Cathy Stillerman, Robin Doran, Terry Atkinson and Deb Loomer plan the layout of the shower curtains that will decorate the walls.

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



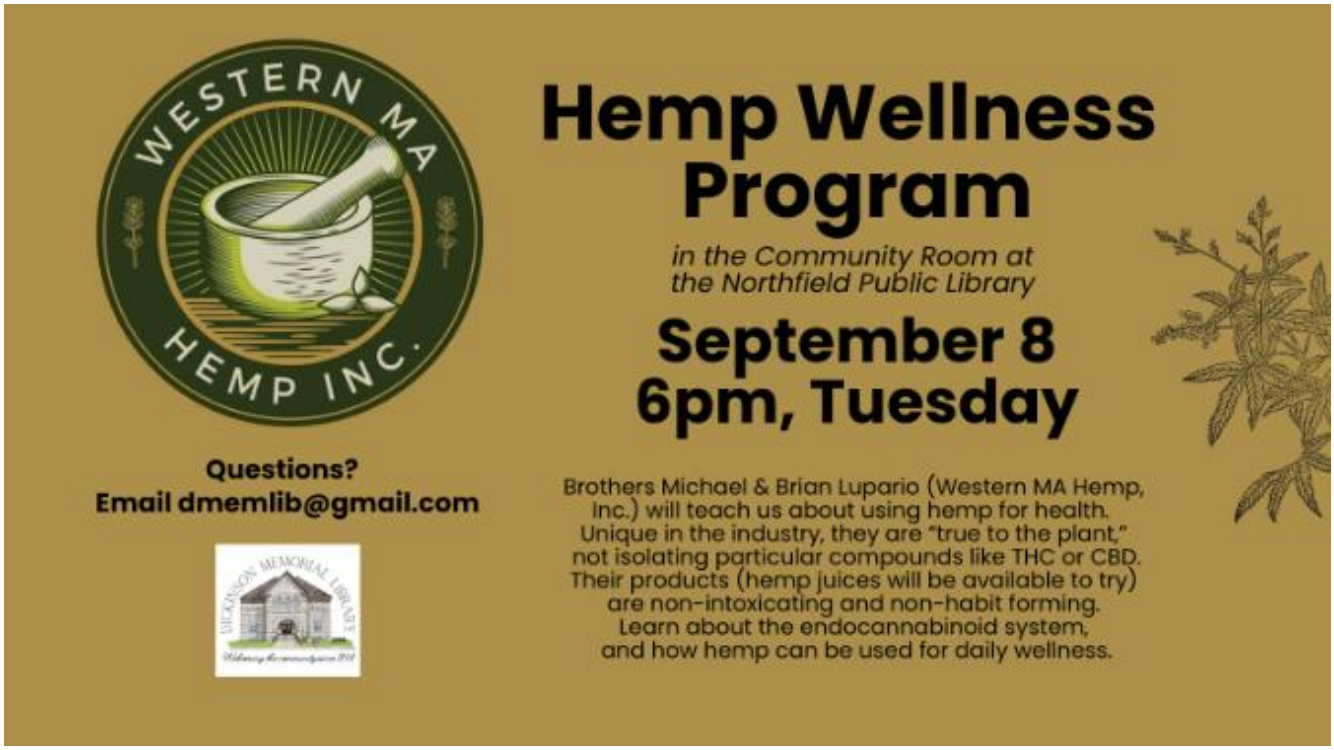


Officers 2026:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website: Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President: Marsha Stone
Treasurer: Becky George
Recording Secretary: Jane Alexander
Corresponding Secretary: Nicki Shipman
At Large Member/s: Eva Carrier; Celt Grant; Leslie Schaler

Our Inaugural August **Garden Party** was a lovely success. Great weather, great company, great food, plenty of cold beverages – what more could we want? Many thanks go to our intrepid hosts, Lisa and Marek Machalski. Here are some photos to memorialize the day.

Our Hosts, Lisa and Marek



GGC member Paulina Borrego, Librarian at the Mass Aggie Seed Library, highly recommends their hemp cream. It has really helped her hand arthritis. She worked to bring this program to the Dickinson Public Library. I am sure that many of us in the club have gardening hands that could use some relief! Here is the LINK to their website. Would folks like us to schedule a visit to the farm in 2027?

Paulina also wants the club to know that the Mass Aggie Seed Library has a new partner: The Herb Library. The Herb Library is dedicated to information on herbs and has free samples to give away. Both libraries share the same space on the third floor of the Science and Engineering Library (all the way at the back) in the Lowrise of the Lederle Graduate Research Center.

Call before you go for Library Hours:
413-545-1370
Directions to UMass Amherst and parking:
Set your GPS to "UMass Amherst Campus Center Parking Garage"
Campus Map featuring Lederle:
Lederle Graduate Research Center at UMass Amherst (FYI - it has handicap spaces)

Herb Library

Join us for three days of *Growing Together* with curated vendors, food trucks, demos and speakers, floral installations and award-winning plant and design exhibits! Advanced purchase of timed tickets is required.

Friday Speaker Schedule - Location: Maple Grove Tent

10:30am | Seasonal Container Plantings
Susan Nock of Thistle Containers

11:30am | Live Ikebana Demo
Joanne Caccavale assisted by Kare Finstadsveen

12:30pm | Bulaklakan, traditional Philippine folk dance
Philippine Dance and Culture Organization

1:30pm | Guiding Gardeners for 235 Years and Counting
Carol Connare, 14th Editor of the Old Farmer's Almanac

2:30pm | Live Ikebana Demo
Nefertiti San Miguel, assisted by Rita Cutroni

3:30pm | Dualing Floral Designs
Erin Hines and Kimberly Burke, MHS Horticulturists

There are **THREE FULL DAYS** of different speakers, food trucks and events. Click **HERE** for the full schedule.

For tickets to the show, click **HERE**.

There will be many vendors at the show. Click **HERE** to see the list of vendors.

Friday Food Trucks

Augusta's Chicken on the Road
Fusion Fuel Food Truck
Jamaica Mi Hungry
The Lemon Press
Sweet Botanical Bakes
Apritivo
Nashbowls of New England

Ask the Expert

Meet our expert to ask all your plant and gardening questions (about our Garden or yours!)
10am | Trial Garden
11am | Weezie's Garden for Children
12pm | Bressingham Garden
1pm | Italianate
2pm | Herb Garden

“Forest Fires in Massachusetts: Myths and Reality”

Saturday September 12, 2026

• 11:00 am to 1:00 pm — Presentations & panel discussion in person and on zoom. Please register to attend in person.

• 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm — Walking tour of the Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area

Where:

The National Spiritual Alliance, 2 Montague Avenue, Lake Pleasant, MA. Please park near the intersection of Old Northfield Road and Lake Pleasant Road if possible. Light snacks and beverages provided.

Cost: Open to the public. No charge.

RSVP: jasinclair@verizon.net (ZOOM Registration coming soon)

Subject and background:

Wildfires in the Western United States and Canada are more and more prominent in the news. There is also growing interest in the role of wildfires and intentional fires (“prescribed” burning) in New England.

In Massachusetts, public agencies are increasingly using prescribed burning in state forests and wildlife management areas, such as the Montague Plains and Muddy Brook wildlife management areas, and Myles Standish State Forest.

Our speakers are experts on these issues and will discuss important questions:

• What is the goal of prescribed burning and where is it happening?

• Does prescribed burning help with wildlife habitat restoration?

• Does prescribed burning help to prevent or mitigate forest fires?

• What is the risk of wildfires in Massachusetts?

(See next page for information on the presenters and sponsors.)

Presenters:

David Foster is director emeritus of the Harvard Forest and its Long-Term Ecological Research program and currently coordinates Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities and serves on the editorial board of From the Ground Up. David's research and conservation focus began with his PhD studies on fire history and ecology of the Labrador wilderness but has increasingly focused on the role of natural and anthropogenic forces, including fire, that have shaped the New England landscape over past millennia. He is an author most recently of "Meeting of Land and Sea: Nature and the Future of Martha's Vineyard," and "Wildlands of New England: Past Present and Future."

Michael Kellett has worked for 40 years to create national parks, save forests, and protect wildlife. He is co-founder and executive director of RESTORE: The North Woods, a New England-based nonprofit organization. He was the lead author of the paper, "Forest-clearing to create early-successional habitats: Questionable benefits, significant costs."

Bill Stubblefield has a lifelong passion for natural history and holds a Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from Harvard University. He currently devotes his time to activism on behalf of all lifeforms on Planet Earth.

George Wuerthner is an ecologist and photographer who has visited more than 400 designated wilderness areas and more than 200 National Park System units. For a dozen years, he worked as Ecological Projects Director for Doug Tompkins's Foundation for Deep Ecology and is now Executive Director of Public Lands Media. He has published 38 books, including "Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy," "Protecting the Wild: Parks and Wilderness Foundation for Conservation," and "Keeping the Wild: Against the Domestication of the Earth."

SPONSORED BY:

Climate Democracy Project, Climate Action Now-Western MA, Climate Communications Coalition, Community Land and Water Coalition, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, Elders Climate Action - MA Chapter, Friends of the Notch Forests, Northeast Wilderness Trust, Partnership for Policy Integrity, Protect the Montague Plains, RESTORE: The North Woods, Save Massachusetts Forests, Sierra Club Massachusetts, Standing Trees, Wendell State Forest Alliance

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN GARDENS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Email the club to purchase member tickets ($5pp) for you.

Hillside in Ashfield, MA. Open 10-4

My garden is a 1-1/2 acre terraced garden on an east-facing slope. I prefer showy annuals and perennials and go for as much color as possible throughout the season. Stonework is the backbone of the garden for both terracing and edging details, and the design has inadvertently resulted in a bit of a maze with several beds connected by crushed stone paths.

Swampfield in Sunderland, MA. Open 10-2

Since 2015 we have created 7,000 square feet of perennial border, in a mixture of sun and shade. Our sunny borders are filled with classic cottage garden plants and many natives. The two woodland gardens are lush, with towering actaeas and tiny primroses and everything in between. The garden crescendos in the fall as mums, asters, sedums, and more explode alongside scores of ornamental grasses and shrubs.

Kinsey-Pope Garden in Amherst, MA. Open 10-1 OR 1-5.

Begun in 1978, 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 and perennials with more than one season of beauty. 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. There are 3 bridges, a gazebo, an arbor, benches and stone paths.

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2026

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT

October 9, 10 & 11 – End of the Hosta Season Sale, as well as, the Woody Plants!

Oct 30, 31 & Nov. 1 – Amazing Fall Colors Japanese Maple, Ginkgo, Fothergilla, etc.

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

Also by Appointment – Please Call Ahead

They accept cash and checks – but not credit cards!

Check out this YouTube video featuring O'Brien Nursery released August 2025.

The Garden Conservancy's Webinar: **A Moment in Time**

Tuesday, September 8, 2-3pm

In her book *A Moment in Time: Designing a Country Garden*, the award-winning landscape designer Kathryn Herman presents a four-season exploration of her own home, the historic Pepperidge Farm estate in Connecticut, which she has tended and developed lovingly for over 30 years. Her garden is a favorite destination in the Garden Conservancy Open Days program. Herman is well-known for creating poetic gardens that are contemporary yet inspired by quintessential English gardens— perfect for today's lifestyles and a lovely way to update and complement a historic house. Here, she breaks down her design process by touring her garden in sections and adding thematic essays full of a career's worth of tips and tricks so all home gardeners can adapt elements of her approach themselves. Join an online discussion and gain insights into elements such as form and structure, color, ornament, incorporating history, creating meadows, cultivating an orchard, planning a perennial garden, making a garden appealing to wildlife, and planning for seasonality.

KATHRYN HERMAN is founding Principal of her Connecticut-based landscape architecture firm. Her work encompasses a wide range of distinguished residential estates and select commercial projects across the United States, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. She has received numerous honors including American Society of Landscape Architects awards, Palladio Awards for excellence in classical design, and the Arthur Ross Award. Her projects have been featured in publications such as *Veranda*, *Architectural Digest*, *House & Garden UK*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Email the club to order yourself a ticket at the member price of $5.00.

A Panel Discussion

Joe Graveline

Co-founder and past president of the Nolumbeka Project, and founder of the first Peoples Harvest, the predecessor to the annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.

The Reverend Doctor Harvey Hill

Episcopalian priest and professor who recently joined St. John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield.

Chelsey Little

Superintendent and Pre-Treatment Coordinator of Montague's Clean Water Facility.

Melissa Langley

Water Quality Program Manager at the Connecticut River Conservancy, managing field, lab, and grant work for monitoring water quality in the River.

The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew
8 Church Street, Greenfield, MA
Organized by The Green Team at James and Andrew

Watch livestreamed on YouTube at The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew

For more information on this event, visit The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew website.

Knepp Castle, West Sussex, England | Photo: Charlie Harpur

The Garden Conservancy's Webinar: The Kitchen Garden

Tuesday, September 22, 2 pm - 3 pm

The Kitchen Garden is dedicated to one of gardening's oldest yet often overlooked forms of gardening. For over 12,000 years, humankind has domesticated and cultivated edible plants, yet the kitchen garden has long stood in the shadow of its ornamental counterparts. Recently, growing one's own produce has seen a surge in popularity, propelled by renewed interest in organic food, self-sufficiency, and sustainable living, bringing this historic, practical, and increasingly influential garden type back into the spotlight. Toby's presentation will celebrate the art of the kitchen garden and provide attendees with inspiration and ideas for what to grow in gardens of all shapes and sizes. He will highlight the work of such renowned contemporary garden designers as Patrice Taravella of Babylonstoren in South Africa, Arne Maynard of Gordon Castle in the UK, Charles Dowding of Homeacres in the UK, and Charles Stick of Sleepy Cat Farm in the United States.

DR. TOBY MUSGRAVE is an international authority on gardens and plant history, on which he has been widely published. His books for Phaidon include *The Gardens: Elements and Styles* and *Green Escapes*. He is also a garden designer, has presented on numerous television programs and is faculty lecturer at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad.

SPECIAL OFFER: If you purchase the book featured in this webinar, Kitchen Garden by Dr. Toby Musgrave, you will receive complimentary admission to the webinar. Member price of $35 includes book, free shipping, and admission. *A recording of all webinars will be sent to registrants 24 hours after the event. We encourage you to register, even if you cannot attend the live webinar.* ***Contact the GGC email to order your ticket at $5 for the webinar or $35 for the book and the webinar.***

This program has received a grant in the amount of $200 from the GGC

COMING IN OCTOBER at the **GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER**
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026
11:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Caterpillar Lab: A Live Insect Drop-in Exhibit

Get up close to the incredible world of caterpillars and visit the Caterpillar Lab's drop-in live caterpillar exhibits in the Great Hall. Explore and view these amazing insects under a microscope, and learn what they eat, how they transform into butterflies and moths, and the fascinating ways they survive in the wild. You'll even discover which caterpillars may be living right in your own backyard. Visit for a few minutes or linger awhile — there's always something new to notice. Designed to engage everyone from curious kids to experienced naturalists. All ages. *Sponsored by Magic Wings, the Greenfield Garden Club, and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.*

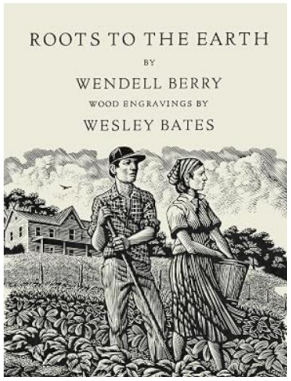
Saturday, Oct. 3rd
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. (to be confirmed)

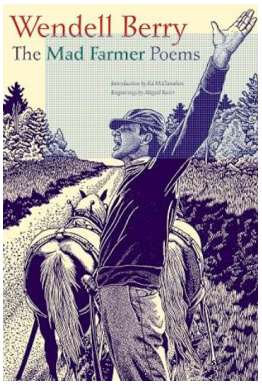
Caterpillar Lab Walk (Max 20-25 people)

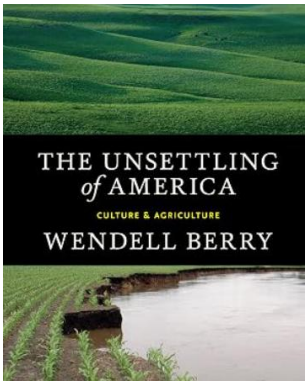
Join the Caterpillar Lab for a guided walk through downtown Turners Falls and portions of the Canalside Rail Trail in search of native caterpillars and the plants they depend on. Discover these remarkable insects in their natural habitat while learning about their life cycles, host plants, and the important role they play in healthy ecosystems.

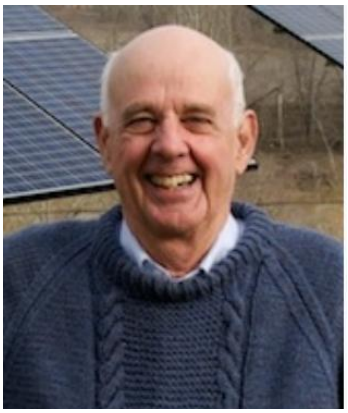
Saturday, Oct. 24th
Saturday Movie Matinee: time TBD
The Extraordinary Caterpillar.

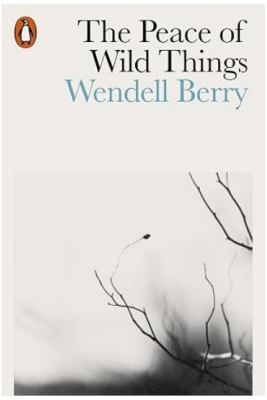
The Extraordinary Caterpillar follows scientists and community activists in this peek into the dazzling world of nature's tiniest superheroes. From suburbia to exurban meadows, abandoned lots to city parks, this captivating family documentary shows that exploring our environment begins not in distant wilderness, but right outside our doors! Filmmaker Jeff McKay's documentary features Sam Jaffe and the Caterpillar Lab, Doug Tallamy, and David Wagner. Accept this invitation to discover the amazing creatures quietly working miracles in our backyards, celebrate the magic of nature, and find out practical ways to make a difference. *Sponsored by Magic Wings, the Greenfield Garden Club, and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.*

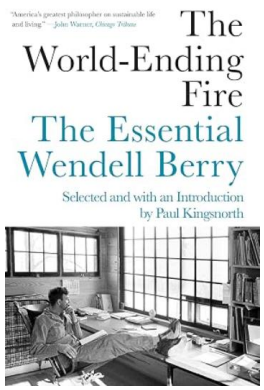


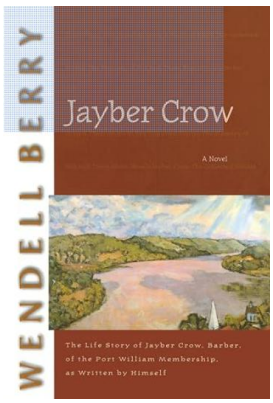








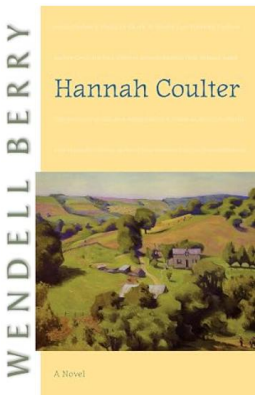


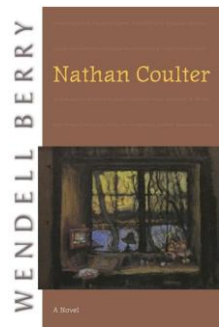


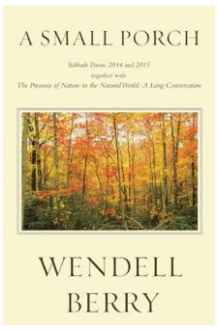
Remembering **Wendell Berry**, who passed away at age 92 on August 31, 2026. Wendell was a poet, farmer, writer, activist, and academic. “Over the years, he called himself an agrarian, a pacifist, and a Christian—albeit of an eccentric kind. He wrote against all forms of violence and destruction—of land, communities, and human beings—and argued that the modern American way of life is a skein of violence. He was an anti-capitalist moralist and a writer of praise for what he admires: the quiet, mostly uncelebrated labor and affection that keep the world whole and might still redeem it. He was also an acerbic critic of what he dislikes, particularly modern individualism, and his emphasis on family and marriage.” (*Jedediah Britton-Purdy)* Berry wrote at least twenty-five books (or chapbooks) of poems, twenty-four volumes of essays, and fifteen novels and short story collections. He championed small family farms and the environment.

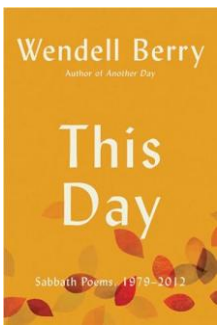
Sparrow

A sparrow is
his hunger organized.
Filled, he flies
before he knows he’s going to,
And he dies by the
same movement filled
with himself, he goes
by the eye – quick
reflex of his flesh
out of sight,
leaving his perfect
absence without a thought.









September dates of Interest from

The Farmer's Almanac

September 1: Meteorological fall begins; Aurigid meteor shower peaks

September 4: Last Quarter Moon

September 6: Moon and Mars make a close pairing

September 7: Labor Day

September 8: Moon and Jupiter appear close together

September 9: September Epsilon Perseid meteor shower peaks

September 10: New Moon at 11:27 p.m. EDT

September 11: Patriot Day; Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

September 13: National Grandparents Day

September 14: Crescent Moon meets brilliant Venus

September 17: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

September 18: First Quarter Moon

September 20: Yom Kippur begins at sundown

September 22: Autumnal equinox at 8:05 p.m. EDT; Venus near greatest brightness

September 25–26: Neptune reaches opposition

September 26: Full Harvest Moon at 12:49 p.m. EDT; National Public Lands Day

PLEASE NOTE THAT BECKY GEORGE, OUR TREASURER, IS MOVING TO AMHERST ON SEPTEMBER 16TH. HER NEW ADDRESS IS LISTED AT RIGHT. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK SO WE DON'T LOSE YOUR MAIL.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 16, 2026 ..... $6,142.99

Income $45.15
Interest $0.15; Membership $45

Expenses $100.00
Grant: $100.00

Balance as of August 15, 2026..... $6,088.14

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 286 Pomeroy Lane,
Amherst MA 01002 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Friday, September 26th
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Greenfield Garden Club
PO Box 309
Greenfield, MA 01301-0309

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. Please thank them for their generosity when you make a purchase.

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

Conway Natives
351 South Shirkshire Rd, Conway
10% off plants and consultations

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

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)
269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden-related

Here We Grow
123 Russell St (Rte 9), Hadley
15% off everything in the store

LaSalle Florists
23 LaSalle Drive (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

Any vendors interested in offering our club member - gardeners a discount, please contact one of the club's officers – thank you!!

Mill River Farm Market – Conway
Road/corner 116 & Rtes 5/10. S. Deerfield
10% off plants in Spring and Fall

Nettlepoint Farm
138 Highland Ave, Greenfield
10% off online orders with the code GFGARDEN

O'Brien Nurserymen
40 Wells Road, Granby, CT
10% off plants

Patten Hill Flower Farm
135 Reynolds Rd, Shelburne Falls
10% off workshops taught by owner Barb Parry

Shelburne Farm & Garden
355 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne
10% off anything garden-related

Silver Garden Daylilies
23 Pickett Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

Warm Colors Apiary
2 South Mill River Road, South Deerfield
10% off