

Grapevine

June 2021

Volume 72 No. 10

Sudbury Garden Club

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

by Audrey Hepburn

It is the month of June.
The month of leaves and roses.
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
and pleasant scents the noses.
- *Nathaniel Parker Willis*



ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 9th RSVP - JUNE 2ND



Please join us for our Annual Meeting which will be held in Helen Crary's backyard. We will be serving light snacks, wine, and sparkling water. Please wear your fanciest garden hat and we will be voting on our favorites. (More Hat information to follow!)

We will have our business meeting and plenty of time to socialize with members.

- **Date:** Wednesday, June 9th (rain date June 10th)
- **Time:** 3-5 pm
- **Place:** 1 Hunt Road, Sudbury
- **RSVP:** by **JUNE 1** to Helen (hcrary@gmail.com)

PARKING: Please park either in the front field or the street, not in the driveway unless unable to walk the distance.

RSVP HELEN TODAY!

Slate of Officers for 2021/2022

Members will vote on the slate of officers for the upcoming year at the Annual Meeting.

- Jo Ann Forester and Patti Walch - Co-Presidents
- Kaffee Kang and Barbara Fay - Co-Vice Presidents
- Beth Iosua and Pat Drobinski - Co-Secretaries
- Janelle Landrigan - Treasurer



After the Annual Meeting



Right after the Annual Meeting, Juju has offered to give a tour of her beautiful garden filled with vegetables and much more.

Members can just walk over, or drive...**50 Ridge Hill Road.**

What a great way to end the meeting!

BOARD MEETING

June Outgoing/Incoming Board Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner



Join us at the upcoming Outgoing/Incoming Board Meet! All are welcome.

- **Date:** Wednesday, June 16th
- **Time:** 4-6pm
- **Location:** Patti Walch's home: **59 Hopestill Brown Road**
- **RSVP:** by June 11th to **Patti** Please include, if you plan on attending the meeting and if you would like to contribute to the potluck dinner.

Feel free to stroll the gardens in the yard too. Patti should have things blooming, she hopes!

[RSVP Patti](#)

CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES

Membership Renewal - \$10 Late Fee after TODAY

We are so close - **59** members have renewed their membership! If you have already renewed, **remember to mail me your check!**

Click here to renew your membership on SignUpGenius.

Sign up this week to serve on the Hospitality Committee and the week you would like to provide Library Flowers. If you haven't signed up by June 1st, you will be assigned a date!

Your check, made payable to SGC and write Membership in the memo, can be mailed to me at 35 Pendleton Road, Sudbury.

Or if you prefer to pay by credit card go to the **SGC website**. **Important Note:** there is a fee to use the square, so dues are: Active membership is \$42.00 and Supporting \$84.00

Any questions? Contact Ann Boland at **ann755@gmail.com**



Just a Reminder ---



As Members of the Sudbury Garden Club, we all have access to the list of all the other Members, and their communication information. We must remember to safeguard that information for the others as we want everyone to do for us.

This information is **NOT** to be used by any other organization, no matter how worthy, without express permission of the Board.

GCFM

GCFM Annual Meeting - June 2

Inviting All
Garden Club Presidents, Club Members, GCFM Board of Directors
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

**First Virtual (via Zoom) Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2021 - 10:30am-1:00pm**

A virtual meeting on Zoom
Keynote speaker Uli Lorimer, Native Plant Trust

Questions? gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

Hope you can join, native plants are important to GCFM President.
Lynn Noland

Our own Lynn Noland will be voted in as GCFM Central North District Director!

[Register to attend the GCFM Annual Meeting](#)

PLANT SALE SUCCESS!!

**Thank you to ALL who helped make this year's Virtual Plant Sale
a tremendous success!**

Many hands helped put this event together, but none of it would have been possible if it weren't for the incredible vision and time spent by Kaffee Kang who researched website options, worked with the committee and answered our thousands of questions about how it would work. She then inputted every single plant option, its' details, and a picture for sale. Her efforts took many, many, hours including the week of the Plant

Sale when she was visiting her family after the Covid restrictions. She was patient, she was always willing, and she was in my mind a real superstar!!! Thank you Kaffee. A giant thanks to so many others as well. To Patty McCann and Barbara Clifton who magically produced our labels, Pauline, Janelle and Barbara Baumgardner who tracked our plant supplies so carefully and put the numbers together for such helpful analysis, Jo Ann for gathering and coordinating all our wonderful helpers the day before and day of the Sale and for redesigning our signs. Jeanne Lucy and Joanne Bennett for making the design changes to all our signs and to those who allowed us to post them in front of their homes. To Juju who designed our “Thank You” signs. To Lynn who is ALWAYS there to help in every way, to Barbara Fay who got us LOTS of great publicity in the papers, and to Ann who sent out a million (well maybe not quite) fun and creative messages encouraging us along the way.

To the members who dug and delivered their plants – wow such a help!!! Jeanne Malone for putting together the Thank You Bags – we received many compliments, to Leslie who dug again the MOST plants for the Sale and who also worked on the many details of putting the Sale together. To Lynn who is always there in every way helping us solve problems, and to Heather who flew in like a knight in armor the day before the Sale picking up and delivering hundreds of plants, as Pauline did as well, and she helped contact our no-shows and deliver the left over plants – wow such a relief at the end when we were all tired.

There were so many others as well who helped on Friday organizing our plants and picking our orders. It was organized, but then it wasn't, so with everyone being flexible, we figured out how it should work. Thank you everyone for going with the flow. Through it all I noticed everyone enjoying each other's company – the best part of all.

In all – we sold more member plants than we have ever recorded in our history! Our total profit was \$7400. Oh what a relief it is...Thanks to our beautiful “Village” of members, we will be moving forward next year funding our programs and outreach in town at a good strong level.

Patti

Photographs Wanted!

Our first ever virtual Plant Sale was a success! Thanks to all members who donated plants and helped out in other ways. And because our customers liked it so much, we are planning to continue to offer them the option of pre-ordering from the website. For that purpose, we need to compile a photographic library of plants that we might offer for sale in the future. So, while your gardens are flourishing this spring, summer, and fall, please take photographs and email them to: sudburygardenclub.ma@gmail.com



Thanks for your help!

Kaffee

BIRDIE BITS

Singing the Blues!

For the past 5 winters or so bluebirds have stayed around our home all year, eating suet and winter berries and cheering us up with their color. We feel grateful that Mass Audubon and other conservation groups have brought the bluebirds back in much greater numbers than when we moved here in 1975.



By March the number of bluebirds usually drops to just one pair. We watch as they investigate our birdboxes and finally choose the best real estate, this year very near our sunroom windows where we could watch with our morning coffee like eager parents! By April 19th we noticed both parents feeding babies. How exciting! But by April 24th we noticed that the female was missing. Had she been taken by a hawk? I checked the entire yard for feathers. I opened the box, a cluster of babies, no mom. The male worked feverishly from dawn to dusk feeding by himself and removing white fecal sacs from the birdhouse to keep it clean. We worried endlessly about the survival of the babies with just one parent.

I went to my bluebird Bibles, Julie Zickefoose's "Baby Birds" and "The Bluebird Effect". She said if the babies were at least a week old when the female disappeared, the babies might survive. The female has a brooding spot of no feathers on her chest so that she can keep hatchlings warm. After a week the babies can survive without her warmth. The male has no brooding instincts but strong feeding and guarding instincts. I called Mass Audubon and was told there was no help for these birds beyond what was taking place. There are too few rehabilitators to ever deal with all of the catastrophes of nature's spring hatchlings!

Julie Zickefoose is a bird rehabilitator in Ohio. She feeds babies live mealworms without their heads! Also a scrambled egg and worm mixture. Yikes! Wild Birds Unlimited in Sudbury had no live worms, so I bought dried worms and researched how to serve them." Soak in warm water for 30 minutes", and we cut them up in smaller pieces and placed them in a clear glass saucer on a feeding tray near the bluebird house. The male instantly went to work, carrying several in his beak at a time, to and from the birdhouse for hours without stopping. At one point he landed at the house and seemed to lose his balance, fluttering at the door. I imagined sheer exhaustion. Three little beaks, maybe four, opened all at once. Periodically, the male chased chipmunks, squirrels, blue jays, and grackles away from his house, constantly on guard.

About 5 days after the female disappeared, we got a huge surprise. Another female flew to the feeder and was chased away by the male. Later the male joined her on a branch near another empty bird house and looked in as if to say, "How would you like to settle down in THIS house? She agreed. On April 28th there was a new nest in the second bird house. We worried that the male would desert his babies, but he kept right on feeding even while checking on the new nest.

On May 3rd we watched as two beautiful blue babies jumped out of the nest box. In the past few years, the fledglings flew first to a shrub close to the ground and then to a tree branch. These babies couldn't get off the ground, though. On May 4th the male spent all day feeding fledgling #3 on the ground. That baby also could not fly up. We lost track of the first two and knew the male wasn't feeding them. For survival both parents need to be with the fledglings for a few weeks after fledging to help babies learn to feed themselves. This just wasn't happening, and with only one parent, we could see the future. One baby remained in the house for 4 days after the rest fledged. We tried to make sure mealworms were available and even opened the nest box to see if we could feed the baby ourselves. We couldn't get the baby to open its beak. Alas, the baby died from neglect. The male just seemed to be finished. We know that none of the babies could have survived despite the heroic efforts of the male. We gave him a purple heart!

Now the male is standing guard and checking on 4 new eggs. We expect hatchlings any day now. Our hopes are high. We don't want to sing the blues again! The more we watch the birds in our yard, the more we appreciate that they are even here at all. There are perils galore for birds, especially the very young. We appreciate that birds choose our yard despite hawks and predators. Nature has truly lifted our spirits this Spring, and the bluebirds show us that life goes on and hope abounds.

Happy Summer everyone.
Karen and Marilyn

I found a baby bird! What should I do?



Give it a boost or leave it alone? When we see a baby songbird outside the nest, it's not always easy to know how we should respond. And while a baby bird may look like it needs help, most of the time intervening may actually do more harm than good.

Check out this handy chart that will show you exactly what you should do based on what you observe about the baby and its surroundings. With it, you can be sure you're doing only what nature needs and giving the birds you love their very best chance to thrive.

Virtual Program with Doug Tallamy on June 16 at 7 pm

Nature's Best Hope Your Yard Can Help Save Our Native Pollinators, Insects, Plants, Birds, & Wildlife

The Springfield Garden Club will host a program presented by entomologist and author Doug Tallamy on Wednesday, June 16 at 7 PM. The event will be virtual and will be accessible via Zoom.

The program is open to the public as well as club members via Zoom. Tickets for guests are \$12.50 and are available at [EventBrite.com](https://www.EventBrite.com).

For more information on this and other Springfield Garden Club events go to www.gcfm.org/springfieldgardenclub or visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMAGardenClub/>

Nature's Best Hope

Your Yard Can Help Save
Our Native Pollinators, Insects, Plants, Birds, & Wildlife

Find Out How at Springfield Garden Club's Special Program
Featuring

Dr. Doug Tallamy

Dr. Tallamy is a University of Delaware faculty member and well-known author of the landmark "Bringing Nature Home" and "Nature's Best Hope".

He is a passionate, knowledgeable, and inspiring advocate for using native plants in our home gardens to protect and restore our natural ecosystems and the wildlife that depends on them.

June 16, 2021 - 7:00 pm via Zoom and open to the public

Purchase tickets (\$12.50) at www.EventBrite.com by typing Springfield Garden Club in the search box.

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

SEPTEMBER 2021 GRAPEVINE
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25



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Sudbury Garden Club

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