



FALL is my absolute favorite season!
It's fruitful, colorful and cooler but not cold.
Yet. How did our garden grow? Good!

Lots of firsts for us: tomatillos (easy to grow and prolific), okra (will plant sooner next year but getting fruit now), strawberries (modest amount of fruit but next year will be better as the plants matured and multiplied) landscape and ornamentals (dahlia above).

Apples were extra abundant. Made a lot of cider and apple butter and BBQ sauce. Tomatoes did good as did peppers. We are smoking a lot of peppers (right) and putting them in hot sauce and batches of chile relleno casserole to freeze. Yum!

Craig, GT Editor

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Ilseley Arrangements



July arrangement by Gale Burns.



September arrangement done by Ginny Heidke.



August arrangement by Martha Hill.



MGC in Action!

Tour of Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg July 16, 2024



Sheldon Museum Garden Party July 23, 2024







Lorenc Garden Tour, July 30, 2024





Rick and Heidi Franz Tremblay's Garden Tour, August 13, 2024





Suzanne Albinson's Garden Tour, August 20, 2024





Sheldon Museum Garden

August 21, 2024





Fall Mosaic Box Arrangements, September 10, 2024



Sheldon Museum Garden, September 24, 2024





Parting Thoughts

WORKING on this newsletter I was struck again by the beauty and diversity of gardens we visited this summer. So much is possible with time and effort!

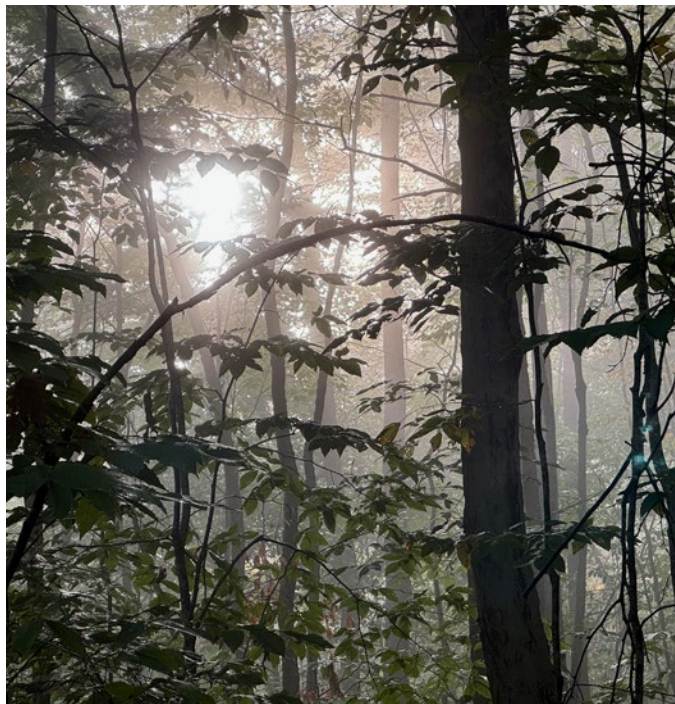
Our landscaping is new and can't compare. But thankfully a gardening club isn't a competition. We each do what we can and as a community, it's more than we can do alone. Grateful for each of you!



I have learned you can eat tomatoes with just about everything and I'm really trying to eat them all. The okra did okay (above right). Made biochar (buckets filled with below) to improve our clay soil.



I think the best gardens grow with little help from us. I buried some Sunchoke (above) in loose soil (from a pond I dug) three years ago and now they are perennial! But my ultimate garden is the bit of forest we have (below on a foggy morning). Like the gardens we saw this summer it is lush, layered and a pleasure to walk through. It makes it's own compost (fall leaves) and is filled with a diversity of things I can't name (also like the gardens we toured). I love all my gardens but the garden I love best is the forest.





Upcoming Events

*TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024, 1PM

Film: The Gardener (length 1:51)

The Gardener is a documentary film which reflects on the meaning of gardening. Influential gardener Frank Cabot recounts his personal quest for perfection at his twenty-acre English style garden in the Charlevoix County in Quebec. After the film, Sandy will talk about her visit to the gardens this past summer. She will let you in on a secret – how to get a ticket to visit next year!

Hospitality: Janet Mosurick, Vivian Branschofsky

Location: The Residence at Otter Creek

Facilitators: Sandy and Dick Bemis

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024, 9AM

Sheldon Museum Garden Party, LAST CALL!

Autumn cleanup of the garden. Time to remove all annuals and do a final weeding and watering.

Location: 1 Park Street, Middlebury

What to bring: Gardening gloves, tools, bucket for debris and water to drink.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, 1PM – 3PM

Workshop: Hand building a Vase or a Garden Pot with Clay

Kathy Clarke of the Middlebury Studio School will demonstrate and assist as we use the “cookies” building method to create. There will be a charge for the clay used payable during the workshop. The event is limited to 8 people.

Please sign up with Andrea Landsberg.

Location: Middlebury Studio School, 2377 Route 7 South Middlebury

Facilitator: Andrea Landsberg

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, 1PM

Workshop for Holiday Decorations

We will build decorations to be used to decorate the Ilsley Library as well as to incorporate into arrangements for all of the other Addison County libraries.

Location: Ilsley Library

Facilitator: Sandy Bemis, Nancy Merolle

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024, 10AM

Holiday Decorating at The Ilsley Library

An annual event to decorate The Ilsley holiday tree, lobby, and balcony for the holidays. We will also make arrangements for each of the other Addison County libraries and deliver them.

Location: The Ilsley Library

Hospitality: Bobbie Shinehouse, May Morris

Facilitators: Sandy Bemis, Nancy Merolle, Lorraine Abramson, Andrea Landsberg

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, 5PM TO 7PM

Holiday Party at The Swift House

Please bring a finger food hors d'oeuvre or a finger food dessert to serve 8 to 10 people. Each member and guest will receive a ticket for a free glass of wine. Our thanks to Matthew and to Serena Kim, our member, for making their lovely property available to us.

Location: The Swift House, 25 Stewart Lane, Middlebury

Hostess: Marilyn Needham, Ryan Nevius

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025, 10AM ILSLEY

Library Decoration Take Down

Please join us as we take down all of the holiday decorations on the main floor of the library. This requires lots of hands.

Location: The Ilsley Library, main floor

Facilitator: Marilyn Needham

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025, 1PM

*Silvia Jope's 'Close to Nature'
Landscape Design talk*

"Keep your indoor cleanliness inside. Outside is a different environment," declares Silvia. Just one of the take-home messages that environmentally minded gardeners are relieved and inspired to hear. In this talk, award winning landscape designer Silvia Jope will teach the basic steps behind landscape planning while approaching it through the lens of ecology and sustainability. Silvia aims to inspire gardeners to create landscapes that are havens for people and wildlife alike and that are energy wise, multifunctional and beautiful. **Topics include:** the pillars behind "Close to Nature" landscapes, overview of landscape design, analysis and site plans, and a step by step landscape planning sample.

Location: The Residence at Otter Creek

Hospitality: Esther Johansson, Mary Duddles

Facilitator: Elaine Coon

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025, 1PM

Sarah Salatino of Full Circle Gardens

As our climate changes, summers will be hotter and drier. Quickly falling rain can cause damaging runoff rather than gently soaking into the soil. Join Sarah Salatino of Full Circle Gardens and explore ways to rethink how we garden to prepare for droughts again. This presentation will give you water-wise ideas, practices, and perennial varieties to keep your gardens gorgeous during droughts.

Location: The Residence at Otter Creek

Hospitality: Barbara Buskey, Ginny Heidke

Facilitator: Cilla Leng

