

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

"All the dirt you need to know . . . and a whole lot more!"

October 2007

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Karen Ferb

Mary Ann Tchinnis

Guy Vitale

Richard Waldman

Please email submissions:

karenferb@hotmail.com

Or mail to:

Garden Gazette

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

Submissions must be received two weeks before the general meeting in order to appear in that month's edition.

Greetings from the President

Remembering the old adage, many hands make light work, I would like to encourage as many of our members as possible to participate in putting the garden to bed on Saturday, October 27 beginning at 9am.

We have over 85 members, but we seem to see the same dozen or so members constantly being responsible for ALL club activities and projects. One hour of your time on Saturday will go a long way toward helping with the cleanup process and planting 300 daffodil bulbs.

Now is the time to bring in houseplants that summered in the garden, add lime to the soil if a pH test shows it's too acidic, and dig up your tender bulbs of dahlias, gladiolus, tuberous begonias and caladiums if you plan on saving them for next year. Dry and store the bulbs and tubers in a cool place.

The Harvest Dinner is set for November 4. We will have more information at the meeting. Plans are moving forward for the Christmas house tour. We still need more members to house "sit" the day of the tour. Tickets will be available for reservation at this month's meeting. Tickets are \$20 per person. We are only selling 200 tickets. Be sure to get yours early so you won't miss out on what is sure to be a wonderful event.



Mark the Date

- ☑ Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 PM, at the Swan Lake Park Civic Association Club House, 86 Lake Drive, Patchogue. The speaker will be Master Gardener Marian Porter; her subject will be "Flowers of the Bible".
- ☑ Saturday, October 27, 9:00 AM, cleanup at the Community Garden, corner of South Ocean Avenue and Terry Street. Raindate, Sunday, October 28.
- ☑ Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 PM, Potluck Harvest Dinner, Domino Yacht Club, at the end of Roe Avenue on Great South Bay, East Patchogue.
- ☑ Sunday, December 9, 1:00-6:00 PM "Homes for the Holidays" Christmas house tour. For more information, call Mary Ann Tchinnis, 289-8122.



Hostesses for the
October Meeting

Joanna Drake
Marita Morello
Paula Murphy
Ruth Szuminskyj

Please arrive at the
Swan Lake meeting
place at 6:30 PM.

Thank you all for the
wonderful treats!

Chrysanthemum
'Cheerfulness'



September Meeting in a Flash

- ◆ All members were encouraged to participate in the garden cleanup; see "Mark the Date".
- ◆ House sitters are still needed for the Christmas House Tour. The Holtsville Ecology Center will be providing poinsettias for table decorations.
- ◆ The metal sculpture by a local artist to be erected in Sylvia Roeloffs' memory will be dedicated on Friday, October 26 at 11:30 AM at the main entrance to the municipal lot on Terry Street behind the library. All are welcome to attend. The club donated \$150 towards the memorial.
- ◆ The president and both vice presidents will be serving a second term. Lynn Kane is to determine if the other officers will continue. Voting will take place at the October meeting if there are no nominations from the floor.
- ◆ Upcoming Chamber of Commerce events, including the installation dinner dance honoring garden club member Kelleen Guyer, were announced.
- ◆ A donation of \$150 was made to Friends of Shorefront Park to assist in construction of handicapped accessible play areas for children.
- ◆ Please donate ribbon and artificial flowers and begin assembling baskets for the annual luncheon; 45 are needed for the 2008 luncheon raffles.

Plant of the Month: Chrysanthemum, The Autumn Queen

This is a genus of about 30 species in the Aster family native to Asia and northeastern Europe. The flower was introduced into Japan sometime in the 8th century. The emperor adopted the flower as his official seal, and the position of the emperor is known as The Chrysanthemum Throne.

There are many types of chrysanthemums. The Japanese are very large, often curiously shaped and showy, growing as tall as 6'; these are seen in exhibitions. The incurved have petals that turn in, while the reflexed have petals that turn out. The anemone-flowered have a cushion-like disc of quilled petals in the center and a fringe of long tasselled florets. The pompoms are small and globular and come in single or double varieties.

Chrysanthemums are just about the easiest of all of the perennials to grow, but they resent "wet feet". They can be planted almost any time as long as they have time to establish their root system before the hottest weather. They grow best and produce the most flowers if planted in full sunshine with plenty of food and moisture. They can be grown from seed, cuttings, or divisions or purchased. When plants are 6" tall, pinch $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top of each branch for bushier plants and more blooms; pinch again at 1'. Feed lightly every two weeks with a balanced fertilizer. There are hundreds of varieties, providing many options for height, color, flower size, and time of bloom.

Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

'Hidcote Manor'



In the Cotswold region of England there are historic gardens open to the public that have influenced garden design worldwide. A 7 hour flight from JFK airport to London, a trip to the bookstore or library, and now even a few simple clicks on the computer via the Internet will open your eyes to ideas that can transform your own Long Island garden.

Hidcote Manor Garden, about 100 miles from London near the town of Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire, is well known for its series of outdoor 'rooms', separated by high hedges of yews, hollies and beech. These partitioned gardens are planted with a variety of herbaceous plants that bloom at different times in conjunction with each specific room theme such as the white and red gardens. Lawrence Johnston's mother bought the 10.5 acre estate for him in 1907, and work began transforming the gardens by 1910 with a majority completed by 1920. With the aid of 12 full-time gardeners and advice from many well known designers and garden writers (e.g., Gertrude Jekyll and Edith Wharton), Johnston brought a variety of rare shrubs and trees to this part of the Cotswolds. Now it is your turn to see and experience the gardens that began 100 years ago. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Tilling and Toiling in November

◆ Make sure that the canes of your climbing roses and other vining plants are securely fastened to their supports. Winter winds can whip and severely damage unprotected plants. Don't tie them so tightly that the string or twist-tie cuts into the stem.

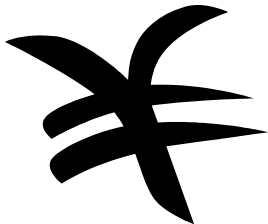
◆ Spring bulbs may still be planted.

◆ Cut Chrysanthemum stems to 2-3 inches from the soil once they have begun to die back.

◆ You can continue to transplant your perennials throughout the fall and winter, as long as they remain dormant.

◆ Tender bulbs should be dug up and stored in a cool, dark area after first frost.

◆ Don't forget to drain hoses and put them away, turn off outside water to prevent burst pipes, and be sure to clean, sharpen, and oil your tools.



Kengai, or cascade form of Kiku, up to 6.5' long, 11 months to train.

Field Trip

'Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum'

Discover the exquisite beauty of kiku, meticulously cultivated chrysanthemums, a traditional Japanese art never before seen on this scale outside Japan. Five years in the making in collaboration with Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo, this is the most elaborate flower show and cultural exhibition ever presented by the New York Botanical Garden in its 116-year history. More than just a flower show, this exhibition is a cultural feast of everything Japanese, from drumming and samurai sword fighting to bonsai and tea ceremonies. It opens in the Bronx on October 20, 2007. See also <http://www.nyba.org/kiku/>.



Book Review: Pathscaping

A legion of plants has been shown to thrive underfoot, especially when they can get their roots under paving. And there's no lack of plants that will happily lean or spill over path edges. Nor is there a shortage of materials available for hardscaping the paths in an endless array of textures and colors. A guide to imaginative pathscaping is the 2006 "Garden Paths and Stepping Stones" by Tara Dillard (Sterling, \$24.95; as low as \$16.74 including shipping from Half.com, or request it from the library). It features 125 different paths that feature styles from very casual to natural trails to elegantly formal walkways. Do-it-yourself instructions cover materials, elements of design, each step of construction, and maintenance tips.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 PM, at the Swan Lake Park Civic Association, 86 Lake Dr., Patchogue. See <http://www.swanlakepark.org/Contact.htm#Map> for a map.

O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather.

--Anonymous

