

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

2006 Board Members:

April 2006

President:

Karen Ferb

First Vice President:

Carol Tvelia

Second Vice President:

Mary Ann Tchinnis

Treasurer:

Marita Morello

Recording Secretary:

Joanna Drake

Corresponding Secretary:

Lynn Kane

Parliamentarian:

Sandra Franco

Historian:

Josephine Miller

Immediate Past Presidents:

Barbara Gustafson

Kathy Marcus

Greetings from the President

As a graduate of Indiana University, I was interested to hear that IU biologist Roger Hangarter has received first prize from the National Science Foundation and *Science* magazine in a contest to make science more "visually appealing" for his film "Return of the 17-Year Cicadas." Now Hangarter has worked with Dennis DeHart of Buffalo State (an artist) and John Gibson of Indiana University (a musician) to launch **sLow-life**, a collaborative project with the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Chicago Botanic Garden. The exhibit has closed in Washington D.C. and will begin to travel in April. Watch for a regional appearance, but in the meantime have a look at its companion Web site at slowlife-exhibit.org. See also Hangarter's wonderful site, plantsinmotion.bio.indiana.edu/plantmotion/starthere.html, which, like the film and the exhibit, makes extensive use of live and time-lapse filming. You can watch the cicada film and other fun stuff at the Hangarter Lab Web site, ww.bio.indiana.edu/~hangarterlab.



Mark the Date

- ✓ Sunday, April 23, 9a.m. to 4 p.m.
Long Island Master Gardener Plant Sale at Holtsville Ecology Site.
- ✓ Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m.
April General Meeting to be held at the North Patchogue Fire Department.
- ✓ Saturday, April 29
Spring cleanup at the Community Garden; rain date, Sunday, April 30
- ✓ Thursday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.
Patchogue-Medford Community Summit, Patchogue-Medford High School
- ✓ Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m.
Patchogue-Medford Library bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden. Tickets \$40 per person, on sale at Main Desk of library beginning March 15.
- ✓ Wednesday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Garden clean-up day
- ✓ Saturday, May 20
Plant and Yard Sale at the Community Garden



Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Josephine Brennan

Dianna M. Popp

Ruth Shackelford

Richard Waldman

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Garden Gazette

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

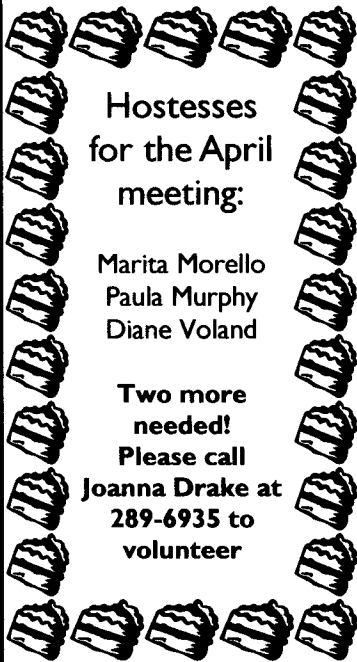
Submissions must be received two weeks before the general meeting in order to appear in that month's edition of the *Garden Gazette*.

More on the Newsletter

At the March meeting, Ruth Shackelford presented the suggestions of the Newsletter Committee about preparing the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis rather than on a monthly basis. After discussion, members voted to keep the newsletter on a monthly basis. Keep up the good work, Jo, Dianna, Ruth and Richard!

March Meeting in a Flash!

- ☛ Marita Morello's treasurer's report noted that the Club made a net profit of \$3,061.80 from the luncheon. Congratulations to all who contributed to making it a success.
- ☛ New member Kelleen Guyer is developing a Web site for the Club that will be accessible from the patchoguemedford.com Web site. Some information already has been posted, so check it out!
- ☛ President Karen Ferb announced that the new portion of the Terry Street garden will be receiving a donation of a flowering cherry tree from Peter Quattrale and some additional trees from Doug Steigerwald and Renee Alevas (in memory of her friend Susan Palermo). The Design Committee will determine where the trees will be planted.
- ☛ Members discussed locations for the Fall Harvest Dinner. Ideas included Patchogue Shores, the Bellport Country Club and the Patchogue Beach Club. If anyone can help with this, contact President Karen Ferb.
- ☛ The Patchogue-Medford Youth Council will be providing six to ten youths to assist us in our spring cleanup on Saturday, April 29.
- ☛ Is it too early to be thinking about Christmas? Club members enthusiastically supported Ruth Szuminsky's proposal for a holiday workshop in December to make holiday crafts. Ruth will be in charge of organizing the workshop.
- ☛ Josephine Miller volunteered to organize a Club trip to Wave Hill in the Bronx. The date will be June 6 since a bus was not available on June 1. More details will follow.



**Hostesses
for the April
meeting:**

Marita Morello
Paula Murphy
Diane Voland

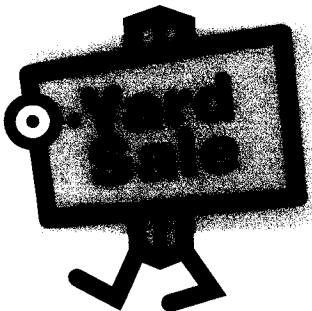
**Two more
needed!
Please call
Joanna Drake at
289-6935 to
volunteer**

Plants of the Month: All-America Roses for 2006

Lavender-eyed red-purple grandiflora "Wild Blue Yonder" with citrus and rose fragrance and exceptional disease resistance is the first lavender-hued rose to be selected in 28 years. "Tahitian Sunset" is a hybrid tea, peachy-yellow-pinky-apricot with a strong licorice aroma and excellent blackspot resistance, AND it is a rapid rebloomer. A touching tribute to the French chef is the butter-gold and uniquely fragrant "Julia Child." This and the bright yellow, orange, and red "Rainbow Sorbet" (luminous, large flowered, blooming all season and impervious to blackspot) are two floribundas rounding out the selections. All available from Jackson and Perkins, if not locally.



Grandiflora rose "Wild Blue Yonder"

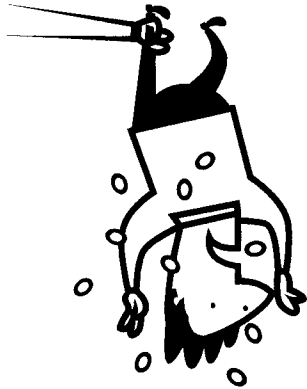


Don't Forget the Plant and Yard Sale!

It's not too early to begin assembling your donations for the Plant and Yard Sale on May 20. This is a great time to start cleaning out the attic and basement and setting aside items that you think someone might be willing to pay a few bucks for. Bring your contributions to the Yard Sale on the day of the sale (the earlier the better), or, if you can't make it that day, make arrangements with President Karen Ferb to drop them off at her house.

Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

Does Money Grow on Trees?



Taxes are now done and the IRS demanded I fork over even more this year, so I have been thinking of ways to save money. I have been pretty successful at keeping my expenditures down, except for spring when I help the local economy by giving in to my one indulgence—shopping for annuals. A shrub or two and a few perennials also find their way into the cart before I get to the checkout counter, and don't forget that bag of humus! But there are ways to save before you go to the local nurseries and stock up. Before you pick up the first plant, money should be spent on improving the soil. The Holtsville Ecology Center offers free leaf compost along with wood chips for mulch. When you are eyeing your neighbor's garden and see a plant that would look great in your own garden, ask if you could trade cuttings. Resist the urge to shop in the spring and wait until fall, when many garden centers have sales. And don't forget plant sales held by other garden clubs, botanical gardens and arboretums. Did you know about the Web site, www.freetreesandplants.com, which employs disabled workers to process their orders? The plants are free but you do have to pay for the shipping (which can be expensive!). Last but not least, you can save money by buying smaller plants. We all know that in a few years we will have to divide that perennial anyway. So, anyone willing to trade something for a bunch of Siberian Iris I need to split?

Web site to Watch:

Martha. Either you just thought of the wife of the first President of this country or of the woman who cooks, cleans, knits, sews, gardens and dabbles (illegally) in the stock market and gets caught. Let's focus on gardening, though. Martha Stewart's Web site www.marthastewart.com has a lot of really good information and great photographs. At the bottom of the page you will find a list of gardening topics. One is Gardening 101, where you can learn about garden design, seed starting, tools and more. There are also categories for Flowers, Roses, Indoor Gardening, and, of course, her signature "Good Things" with tips on a wide variety of gardening subjects such as planting bulbs. You can also download and print out her Spring Garden Planner, which is better than a lot of planners I have found in magazines that I paid too much for. This Web site is definitely worth looking at, even with the pop-up ads for Ralph Lauren. Just go to the top right corner when those appear and click on "close" and get back to the gardening information.

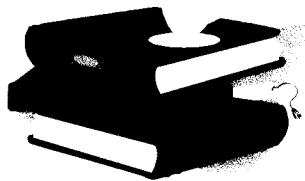


Tilling and Toiling in May

- All annual flowers can safely be planted outdoors after mid-May.
- Fertilize roses every 2-3 weeks and spray weekly with an all-purpose rose spray.
- Apply liquid fertilizer to early annuals and vegetables.
- Stake perennial plants that may be damaged by wind or rain before they're too tall.
- Prune spring-flower shrubs immediately after blooming.
- Prune back halfway new growth of needle leaved evergreens if desired.
- Apply summer mulches to perennial borders and beds.
- Plant tuberous begonias and caladiums outdoors in a shady, protected area.

Did You Know

that more new and heirloom vegetables are being introduced or returned to commerce this year than ever before? Tomatoes lead in number of debuts.



Book Review

Planting Design: Gardens in Time and Space, by Piet Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury, Timber Press. This book focuses on the general principles behind creating successful and beautiful plant combinations in both time and space — working with perennials in the context of trees, shrubs, and the surrounding landscape. The authors suggest looking across, into, and through the landscape and provide practical discussions of topics such as soil preparation, plant selection, and garden maintenance. Exceptional photographs show the growth of a designed landscape over time, opening the gardener to new ways of seeing and thinking about landscapes. This book will soon be available via interlibrary loan at the Patchogue-Medford Library.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

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“Come grow with us”
Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m., at the North Patchogue Fire Department.



There is no "The End" to be written, neither can you, like an architect, engrave in stone the day the garden was finished; a painter can frame his picture, a composer notate his coda, but a garden is always on the move.

—Mirabel Osler, prizewinning British garden writer

