

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

April 2007

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Carolyn Savastano

Ruth Shackelford

Richard Waldman

Please email submissions to

rshackel@optonline.net

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 of the Garden Gazette.

Greetings from the President

April is certainly following its cue about "April showers." My daffodils and other early spring bulbs have suddenly started to blossom. We will have some interesting events and plans to discuss this month after our speaker. Please plan on attending to hear what's new and what's coming up for the club. If you are interested in vegetable plants, Richard Monko, our resident "farmer", has some ready to go. Please contact him about varieties and costs. Now is the time to clean out your attics, basements, and garages in preparation for our Plant and Yard Sale. We are also looking for plants you would like to share, remove, or divide. We could use some help on the committee. Please consider signing up at the meeting. Do try to visit the McGrath's Garden (see below).. The daffodil walk is quite amazing!



Mark the Date

- Tuesday, April 24, general meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse, 86 Lake Drive, East Patchogue (see last month's newsletter for a map) The speaker this month will be Carolyn Villegas of Brookhaven Hospital.
- Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. until ?, Spring Garden Cleanup. Bring any tools you want to work with, a sense of humor, and a strong back!
- Saturday, May 19, annual Plant and Yard Sale in the garden. Contact chairperson Carol Tvelia for more information.
- Saturday, June 9, 9:00 a.m., Breakfast in the Garden—bring a dish to share, your beverage of choice, and a chair if you want to sit down.

Robin McGrath's Spring Garden Walk

The garden will be open on Saturdays, the 21st and 28th of April and Sundays, the 22nd and 29th of April. No advance notice is needed. Just go to 227 South Dunton, East Patchogue any time between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. Bring family and friends if you like. Thank you, Robin, for sharing your wonderful garden with us.



March Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ Members voted to continue holding monthly meetings at the Swan Lake Park Civic Association clubhouse. In return, the Association asks only that we provide some beautification for them.
- ❖ Members were again reminded that annual dues are now payable. If you have not yet paid, please bring a check to the April meeting made payable to Patchogue Garden Club in the amount of \$15 for a single membership or \$20 for a family membership. A new membership list will be prepared after the meeting, so please pay your dues to ensure that your name stays on the list.

Plant of the Month



As we learn more and more about the importance of sustaining our native plants, we want more of them in our gardens. Our native wild hydrangea is not an exciting shrub compared to many on the market, but a new introduction found in an Alabama garden is bound to be very popular. *H. arborescens* 'Hayes Starburst' has most unusual flowers that open as the usual white lacecaps in spring on new growth. In a few days the outer florets become double to make a starburst effect, then the interior flowers double. Flowering goes on for several weeks. Like the species, it is 3-4' tall and broad and hardy to zone 4. It requires good drainage, prefers part shade, and should be watered in hot dry weather. It may be pruned yearly, but it is not necessary! Pruning before the end of February, until approximately 6-8 inches above the ground, results in long stems with large flower heads, while no pruning leads to more and smaller inflorescences. To give the plant a better start, don't prune in the first winter / spring after planting.

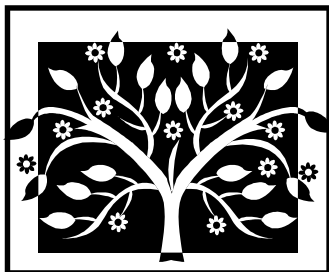
Garden Conservancy Open Days Schedule



The open days gardens have been published. See The Garden Conservancy Web site, www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays/, for the locations of the gardens on Eastern Long Island as well as the dates and gardens for the rest of the state and country in case you are planning a trip. The dates for Eastern Long Island are April 28, May 5 & 20, June 10 & 23, and July 14 & 15. As an organization member, the garden club is eligible for discounts on garden admission tickets and on the *Open Days Directory*. See Carol Tvelia for more information.

Field Trips

June 22 – 24, Newport Flower Show: Sea Fever...A Salute to the Tall Ships. Open to the public Friday Noon-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm. Tickets: \$18. Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Avenue, Newport RI. More Information: www.newportflowershow.org. Closer to home, but still world-class, is Old Westbury Gardens, located at 71 Old Westbury Road in Old Westbury, NY, open from April 24 through October 31, Wednesdays through Mondays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for autumn and holiday calendar and admission rates: 516.333.0048. See www.oldwestburygardens.org/index.html for information.



Hostesses for the
March Meeting:

Violet Mulligan
Paula Murphy
Ann Rubbo

Please call Arlene
Lamberti at 289-
3667 to coordinate
when and where to
meet at the new
space.



Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

Making the Most of Spring

Think you have to wait for the summer months to see blooms on shrubs? Why not consider some of these to extend the bloom season? Happy hunting!

Dwarf Fothergilla: Great for shade and small spots; covered with white flowers in the spring. In fall the foliage is bright orange-scarlet.

Flowering Quince: Early spring flowering in a variety of colors (red, pink and white) and an informal growth habit that can reach 6 to 10 feet high and wide.

Forsythia: Early showy yellow blooms on arching branches. Best in full sun.

Japanese Kerria: Thin stems that remain green in the winter with bright yellow flowers in late April/early May. Does best in partial shade.: Fragrant flowers that prefer full sun. Some varieties are compact.

Spirea: Many varieties; white or pink flowers late spring. Full sun/part shade.

Weigela: Rosy pink flowers bloom for a long time in late spring and throughout the summer. Does best in full sun and attracts hummingbirds.

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, How Does Your Garden Grow?

Are you green? Not with envy, but organic. If you are organic and green, exclude synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Use native plants that need a small amount of watering to supplement rainfall. When watering, avoid sprinklers that evaporate water into the air before it reaches the ground. Use soaker hoses or a drip irrigation system. See www.xeriscape.org for ideas. Instead of buying fertilizers at the store, make your own compost to add to the soil. Mulch your beds to conserve moisture, protect plants from extreme temperature variations, and control weeds. Steer clear of herbicides and use your muscles for weeding. See www.extremelygreen.com for more information.

Tilling and Toiling in April

- Transplant seedlings when they develop a second set of leaves. Keep moist. If they are leggy, give them more sunlight or artificial light.
- Reseed bare spots in the lawn with the same type and variety of grass as the rest of the lawn. Keep seeded areas moist, but do not water an established lawn in April unless it is dry.
- Attract butterflies with flowering plants such as butterfly bush, hollyhock, yarrow, and lavender.
- Propagate your favorite houseplants.
- Divide or transplant overgrown perennials.

Book Review

“Rodale’s Vegetable Garden Problem Solver”, by Fern Marshall Bradley, 464 pages (Rodale, \$26.95 hardcover; a paperback version can be had at www.amazon.com for \$14.96), is as detailed and current as you’d want in a reference book. It offers everything from seed to harvest for more than 60 vegetables and deals with every possible soil, weather, and pest problem you can imagine with safe, natural solutions. Available in the Suffolk County Library System, of course.

Many Thanks...

to the members who volunteered to take an area of the Community Garden and work it for the 2007 gardening season: Babette Bishop, Joanna Drake, John Dulmovits, Georgia Dulmovits, Karen Ferb, Sandra Franco, Joan Kattau, Arlene Lamberti, Violet Mulligan, Jo Miller, Paula Murphy, June Petrucelli, Mary Ann Tchinnis, Carol Tvelia, and Bert Voland. More volunteers are welcome. Contact Georgia Dulmovits.



Help Our Hosts

The Swan Lake Park Civic Association spring cleaning is on Sunday, April 22, at 11:00 am at the clubhouse. To show our appreciation for their generosity in allowing us to use their clubhouse for our meetings, let's lend a hand. Bring gloves, rakes, and your favorite gardening tools. . Bagels and beverages will be served.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m., at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse.
(See map in last month's newsletter.)



In the spring, at the end of the day, you
should smell like dirt. – Margaret Atwood

