

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

2006 Board Members:

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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

August 2006

Greetings from the President

I've been hearing the most astounding news in the general and horticultural press. Gardening, if not dead, is moribund—sales of lawn and garden products having been declining miserably for five years now. What accounts for this? Some, like the *New York Times*, blame the boomers (January 5, 2006, "Baby Boomers Digging Ben-Gay") whose joints are beginning to give out. But wait! These self-same boomers haven't stopped participating in other activities that are also strenuous, like golf, tennis, fishing, scuba diving, and biking! As it turns out, gardening is no longer considered hip by many people. Why? As it turns out, it is the fault of the industry itself, which has adopted slogans like "We make gardening easy," "Foolproof," and "Garden in a Box" and promotes items like plastic rock and stone, "So realistic they duplicate the look and feel of real stone". In many minds, gardening has been dumbed down to the level of a paint-by-number kit. We mustn't let industry blather diminish the great and lasting benefits of this magnificent pastime. To fall in love with gardening, to become a gardener, can be much more than a hobby; it can be a life-changing experience. Spread the word!



Mark the Date

- Sunday, August 20, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Garden clean-up day.
- Tuesday, August 22, 6:00 p.m.
August general meeting to be held at the home of Carol Tvelia at 25 Stephani Avenue in East Patchogue. To get there from Patchogue, turn right off East Main Street onto South Country Road. Stephani Avenue is about a mile and a half down the road on the left. Carol's telephone number is 475-3445. Don't forget to bring a chair!
- Saturday, September 9, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Garden clean-up day.
- Monday, September 19, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Garden clean-up day.

Help Needed for the Newsletter

Dianna Popp has resigned from the newsletter because she is relocating out of the area. This seems like a good time to recruit some new committee members. The newsletter needs two or three people to collect information for the newsletter—garden-related poetry and quotes, information about events, noteworthy places to visit, etc.—and to help edit, email and mail our monthly newsletter. If you are interested in joining our team, call Ruth Shackelford at home at 289-1267 or on her cell at 631-745-5971.



Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Josephine Brennan
Ruth Shackelford
Richard Waldman

Please email submissions to
Ruth Shackelford at:
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.

Hostesses for the August Meeting

Karen Ferb, Arlene Lamberti, Sue Menin and Ruth Szuminskyj have volunteered to hostess the August meeting. One more is needed. If you can volunteer, contact Joanna Drake at 289-6935. Volunteers are reminded to arrive by 6:20 p.m. to begin preparations.



July Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ The minutes and Treasurer's Report were read.
 - ❖ Lynn Kane reported on the status of the orders for T-shirts and sweatshirts.
 - ❖ Kelleen Guyer invited members to visit the Garden Club website to view photographs of our annual Garden Tour as well as the famous house moving. Go to www.patchoguegardenclub.com. Thanks, Kelleen, for all your work!
 - ❖ Ruth Szuminskyj announced that the trip to Nancy Gilbert's birds-and-butterflies garden in Jamesport had been arranged for July 30 at 1:00 p.m. All members were invited to join her.
 - ❖ President Karen Ferb read a letter of appreciation from Dave Tifford of Fantastic Gardens thanking the Club for acknowledging his business in the *Garden Gazette*.
 - ❖ Georgia Dulmovits asked if Pulte Homes will be helping us with the bricks in the community garden extension. Karen said they were going to help but no date had been set.
 - ❖ Arlene Lamberti announced that Garden Club member Barbara Aragon had left to do missionary work in South Africa. Lavender sachets she had made were on sale to benefit her work with Kid's Explosion in South Africa.
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It's Not Too Late!

On Tuesday, August 22, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County is sponsoring a Fall Gardening Symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Suffolk County Community College Eastern Campus in Riverhead. Topics to be covered include "Fall Planting of Woody Ornamentals," "The Fall Garden," "Garden Color Review" and "Shrubaganza." The symposium ends with a visit to the garden of Bill Smith and Dennis Schrader at Landcraft Environments in Mattituck. For information, call CCE at 631-727-7850 or email them at suffolk@cornell.edu. The brochure can be printed out from the CCE Web site at counties.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk



Light Up Your Shade

Some gardeners think of a shaded garden as a problem area, since it is a poor location for popular plants such as roses, peonies, and many annuals. There are, however, many flowers that will grow quite beautifully in shady areas. Some of these include astilbe (purple, rose, or white blooms), columbine (pink, purple, blue, white), common bleeding heart (pink, red, white), forget-me-not (blue, pink, white), foxglove (purple, pink, white), Impatiens (orange, pink, red, purple, white), pansy (wide variety of solid colors and bicolors), periwinkle (vinca minor) (blue, burgundy, white), plantain lily (hosta) (lavender), polyanthus primrose (pink, red, purple, yellow, white), serbian bellflower (campanula) (blue, violet, white), sweet violet (purple, white), trillium (white, maroon) and waxleaf begonia (pink, red, white).

Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

Bayport Flower Houses

We here in Patchogue can count ourselves lucky gardeners with an abundance of garden centers to fulfill our planting needs. Whereas in some localities gardeners have to depend on the slim assortment at the large home improvement stores, right in our backyard along Montauk Highway is Bayport Flower Houses. Established over 70 years ago, Bayport Flower Houses is still operated by the Auwaerter family. Today Gisbert Auwaerter—who has given generously of his time to our Club over the years—his son Karl and his daughter, Christine, head up a talented and dedicated team of horticulturists and floral designers. At different times of the year you will find just about everything you will need here to transform your garden into a green oasis with trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. Not to be overlooked is the FTD flower shop and garden store with gift items for each season. So now when there is snow on the ground and the holidays are around the corner you can head off to Bayport Flower Houses to gift shop—and don't forget to buy something for yourself, too!



One of Dale Chihuly's sculptures on exhibit at New York Botanical

Chihuly Exhibit at New York Botanical Gardens

Gardening for some begins and ends with determining what plant material is to be bought at the local nursery and where it is to be placed in the garden. You might want to consider incorporating art or other garden structures to add interest and transform a green oasis into a multilayered outdoor room. To help jump-start your creative juices, consider a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens, where they are currently having an exhibit of Dale Chihuly glass sculptures and art works strategically placed throughout the 250-acre landscape. This exhibit is on until October 29 and should not be missed. A walk through the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory is worth the admission alone. Check out the website at www.nybg.org for additional information on the times, dates, ticket purchasing and to see more photographs of Chihuly's works.

Tilling and Toiling in September

- ✚ Fertilize your lawn with a slow-release fertilizer in early September. If needed, aerate or de-thatch an established lawn once the weather cools down.
- ✚ Now is the time to divide established perennials, to plant perennial flowering plants and to order spring flowering bulbs.
- ✚ In the vegetable garden, remove plants that are no longer producing.
- ✚ Plant trees and shrubs that will provide a sequence of bloom and provide multi-season appeal.
- ✚ It's hurricane season. Have shade trees evaluated to make sure they are structurally sound. Don't wait!
- ✚ In early September bring in houseplants that have been outdoors during the summer. Check for insects and put in a sunny window.
- ✚ Another reminder: don't forget to turn your compost pile.



Female lone star tick

Beware the Lone Star Tick

Now we have something else to worry about besides the deer tick. The Lone Star tick is migrating north from the Southeastern states and has been on Long Island for the past couple of years. It is active during the summer months and is different from the deer tick as it can detect a "host" (i.e., humans) at a distance rather than waiting for direct contact to attach itself. Be careful and be sure to wear long-sleeved shirts and to tuck your pant legs into your socks while you are out in the garden.



A Reminder About Upcoming Dahlia Events

- ❖ Bayard Cutting Arboretum's Long Island Dahlia Society Exhibit on two weekends, September 2 and 3, and September 30 and October 1.
- ❖ Planting Fields Arboretum's National Dahlia Society Flower Show on Saturday, September 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Nuts and Bolts

Please welcome and add these new members to your membership list:

Heather Georgiou
Carolyn and Tom Savastano



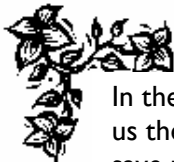
Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030
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"Come grow with us"
Founded 1996

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 22, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Carol Tvelia. See inside for details.



In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in daffodil time, do we get such superb color effects as from August to November.

—Rose G. Kingsley, *The Autumn Garden* (1905)

