

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

August 2008

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Garden Gazette

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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

August has been relatively nice to us this year. Not too hot, very few hazy, hot, humid days, and lots of sun and rain when we needed it.

If you were diligent in cutting back your mums during June and July, you should just be seeing bushes full of buds and maybe even a few peeking open.

If you have a vegetable garden, don't forget to put in a fall crop of lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, and other winter vegetables.

If your lawn is looking a little scraggly, now is the time to re-seed, patch bare spots, or start all over if it's really bad. Hold off on the fertilizer until the end of September. If you haven't put lime down in a while, consider adding some to sweeten your soil. Check out the nursery catalogs for spring bulbs to brighten up your home next April. Don't overlook the garden centers for bargains on out of bloom perennials which will look terrific next year.

Paula will be presenting a comprehensive budget at this month's meeting at Guy's house. This will be our last meeting at a member's garden. Next month we will return to the Hagerman Fire House at 7:00 PM. We will also be asking for volunteers to serve as a nominating committee for next year's slate of officers. Nominations will be taken at September's meeting, and voting will take place in October.

Enjoy the fine weather and the waning days of summer, Carol

Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting *dirty* without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity. ~Lindley Karstens

But remember: Only your real friends will tell you when your face is *dirty*.
~Sicilian Proverb

Mark the Date

☑ Tuesday, June 26, 2008, 6 PM, in the wonderful garden of Guy Vitale and Mark Jeffers, 36 Grove Avenue, E. Patchogue, just off Main St., the first house south of the LIRR tracks on the west side of the street.



Flowerpot's Spontaneous Combustion Blamed For Fire!

AP: Fire Chief John Maczko said a fire that destroyed a Mendota Heights home last week was caused by a flowerpot on the home's deck that spontaneously combusted. While rare, spontaneous combustion can happen with the right mixture of soil, moisture, and heat. Investigators said the soil was in a plastic pot that had become hot after several days of high temperatures and humidity. [Thanks, Guy—*Beware! Ed.*]

Like most gardeners, I am always in search of more effective ways to control weeds in my garden. I've relied on basic gardening practices such as not disturbing the soil and keeping the soil covered with 2-4 inches of mulch (usually free from a local tree service). I've also used seaweed very effectively as a mulch. When weeds do emerge, I hand pull and now suffer from painful thumb joints, a condition which I have named "weeder's thumb".

There are several products now available that claim to control weeds. The two types are pre-emergent (prevents seeds from germinating), and post-emergent (kills actively growing plants). Preen, a pre-emergent synthetic, is familiar to most of us; my use of it has been minimally successful, but I have heard other gardeners swear by it. It *did* prevent my hollyhock seeds from germinating. Corn gluten is a pre-emergent control that has been touted by organic gardeners. I used it once, found that it attracted flies, and removed most of it.

Recently some post-emergent products have been attracting the attention of gardeners, e.g., vinegar, but household vinegar is only 5-6% acetic acid, and mixed results have been reported. Mixing dish soap with the vinegar, clipping the leaves from the weeds, and directing the spray directly into the soil and to the roots may be more effective. Sounds like more work than hand pulling!

There are vinegar products on the market which contain 20% acetic acid plus clove oil. However, this concentration of acetic acid may be dangerous to use, causing, for example, skin irritation, burns, and respiratory problems.

The Safer brand is marketing a weed and grass killer with the active ingredient fatty acid salts. I have used this product with mixed results. It seems to be effective on crab grass and some smaller weeds. Whether it kills down to the root or just top growth remains to be seen. I have been able to find it in a ready-to-use spray, but not in concentrated form; thus, it is expensive to use.

On line, I have come across a product, "Nature's Avenger Organic Herbicide", a ready-to-use spray or a concentrate with active ingredient natural citrus oil (17.55 d-limonene) that strips the waxy coating from leaves causing dehydration and death. It is not clear whether it kills root or only top growth.

Most of us are familiar Roundup or other glyphosate-based herbicides absorbed through leaves that gum up enzyme (EPSP synthase) production so that plants cannot produce the proteins necessary for growth. Plants die between 7 and 14 days after application, depending on weather. I have found when it is hot and dry weeds disappear more quickly. Monsanto, the manufacturer, claims it remains active in the soil for only a short time and has minimal negative impact on the environment, but several environmental groups are challenging this. [Thanks to Jo Miller for her contribution—*Ed.*]

August



Our Happy Hostesses,
Appreciated, as always:

Margaret Atkinson
Sandra Franco
Violetta Mulligan
Mary Ann Tchinnis

Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

Did You Know? Tobacco Can Now Save Lives!



For centuries now, medicines have been found within the plant world. Now through modern science, a genetically modified tobacco plant can help save lives. Surely not by smoking it but by detecting the location of land mines. The tobacco plant will have its leaves turn red when it is in contact with nitrogen oxide that leaks from the land mine (in a 10 week period of time). The United Nations and other organizations engaged in clearing the fields where land mines have been buried are looking into the scientific findings with much interest. They estimate that there are close to 80 million (yes, million) mines buried in locations that cover about 120,000 square miles. Engineers right now are still needed to physically remove the land mines but now the much maligned tobacco plant has a good use for mankind. Listen to the NPR story at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93555918>.



Upon hearing the name, Bette Midler, you might think of the performer known for her singing, acting, or even her outrageous stage act. But now you might wonder, what does this have to do with gardening? The New York Restoration Project (NYRP) was founded in 1995 by none other than Bette Midler when she made New York her home base and started to notice many parks and open spaces that were neglected, trash strewn about, and clearly forgotten. The NY Restoration Project teams up with other private community-based groups and public agencies to bring parks back to use and to make community gardens green once again. Education is also a key element to this organization's goals, with over 10,000 children given the recreational opportunities that were not there prior to its involvement. In 2002 Bette Midler was given the Governors Award for Parks and Preservation along with many other honors bestowed upon her since the inception of the NY Restoration Project. Besides having a wonderful singing voice, she has also lent her voice to gardening that we too hold dear. www.nyrp.org.

By Al Hirschfeld



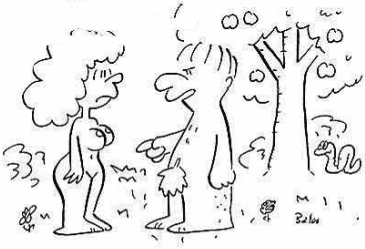
On my usual drive to work I recently noticed a bare maple tree branch hanging low over the road without any leaves and looking quite heavy. As I kept driving my thoughts went from being glad the branch had not snapped off with dire consequences and then to thoughts of whom I should contact before an accident does occur. And then a few days later by chance, there in the local free weekly paper is an article by Maria Cinque with the headline, 'Reporting Dangerous Trees'. She mentions that it is a homeowner's responsibility if the tree is on your property but otherwise it is under the jurisdiction of the state or county for the pruning or necessary removal. But it is our responsibility as concerned citizens to report a potential dangerous tree. Keep these phone numbers handy: For State roads: NYS Dept. of Transportation Maintenance: 631-952-6702. For County Roads in Suffolk County: Division of Highway Maintenance: 631-852-4075. If there are trees caught in electric lines, you should contact the Long Island Power Authority at 800-490-0075. In Patchogue Village, call Village Hall directly at 475-4847 and use the new "phone tree" to be connected to the Building & Housing Dept.; hazard trees are under their jurisdiction.

PATCHOGUE GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP LIST – 2008

Atkinson, Margaret	65 N. Pine Lake Dr, Patchogue 11772	475-1137
Aragon, Barbara & Tooher, Jim	41 Oregon Ave, Medford 11763	447-7133
Baran, Betty	204 Illinois Ave, Medford 11763	730-8914
Barthman, Kathy	217 April Lane, Bayport 11705	
Bestafka, Barbara & Dick	33 Harvey Lane, Lake Ronkonkoma 11779	588-5013
Bishop, Babette	648 Old Medford Ave, Patchogue 11772	475-5165
Bossert, Bonnie & Fred	122 Sharp St, Patchogue 11772	475-5415
Brandt, Ellen	P.O. Box799, Medford 11763	758-0491
Bruce, Barbara	208 Holland Ave, Medford 11763	758-4761
Buchanan-Steward, Carla	1555 Parkview Ave, Seaford 11778	(516) 785-3481
Carlton, Pauline & William	51 Shore Road, Patchogue 11772	475-3528
Chiu, Corinna	10 Landings Lane, Patchogue 11772	(917) 287-7469
Coakley, Ann Marie & Michael	156 Roseland Lane, E. Patchogue 11772	286-5651
Coleman, Rosalie	7 Spruce St, E. Patchogue 11772	289-6519
Delaney, Joan	161 Oak St, Patchogue 11772	447-9537
Densing, Peg & Frank	59 Liberty St, Patchogue 11772	
Drake, Joanna	134 Norwalk Ave, Medford 11763	289-6935
Dulmovits, Georgia & John	168 E. Lakewood St, Patchogue 11772	289-0867
Ferb, Karen & Tom	270 West Ave, Patchogue 11772	758-2671
Ferraiuolo-Mujic, Donna	173 Conklin Ave, Patchogue 11772	475-1252
Franco, Sandra	42 Bailey Ave, Patchogue 11772	289-2084
Georgiou, Heather	3 Hulse Ct, Patchogue 11772	654-4098
Gustafson, Barbara & John	4 Marina Lane, E. Patchogue 11772	286-7344
Guyer, Kelleen & Karl	25 Potter St, Patchogue 11772	475-2761
Heimbürger, Gladys	17 Rolan Ct, Lake Ronkonkoma 11779	585-7861
Herold, Gary	131 Conklin Ave, Patchogue 11772	
Heyer, Jack & Janet	104 Locust Dr, Mastic Beach 11951	772-7576
Kane, Lynn	3 Quail Ct, Medford 11763	803-2205
Kattau, Joan	47 Center St, Patchogue 11772	475-5443
Lamberti, Arlene	53 Center St, Patchogue 11772	289-3667
Magnano, Marie	15 4th St, Farmingville 11738	698-7622

McCormick, Christine	21 Barker Dr, Stony Brook 11790	751-2372
McMahon, Kathy	212 Schoenfeld Blvd, Patchogue 11772	475-6498
Meehan, Dorothy	90 Matsunaye Dr, Medford 11763	289-9644
Mendelson, Phyllis	137 Fairview Ave, Bayport 11705	472-3987
Miller, Josephine	276 West Ave, Patchogue 11772	289-5305
Morello, Marita	59 Wiggins Ave, Patchogue 11772	654-3855
Mulligan, Violetta	899 Sipp Ave, Patchogue 11772	758-1714
Murphy, Paula	125 Smith St, Patchogue 11772	289-0234
Petrucelli, Angelo & June	111 Monroe Ave, Patchogue 11772	730-1091
Reitz, Carol & Butler, Charles	97 S. Country Rd., E. Patchogue 11772	475-1724
Rubbo, Ann & Don	37 Harvey Lane, Lake Ronkonkoma 11779	585-6049
Savastano, Carolyn & Tom	93 Gillette Ave, Patchogue 11772	730-1177
Scala, Sue	275 West Ave, Patchogue 11772	475-5045
Scammon, Ellen & Mike	43 Gillette Ave, Patchogue 11772	447-9027
Szuminskyj, Ruth	438A Arlington Dr, Ridge 11961	902-1262
Tchinnis, Mary Ann	97 Roe Blvd, Patchogue 11772	289-8122
Toplitz, Susan	67 Pine Neck Ave, Patchogue 11772	475-5675
Tvelia, Carol	25 Stephani Ave, Patchogue 11772	475-3445
Unger, Carl & Pat	460 Bay Ave, Patchogue 11772	289-1444
Vitale, Guy	36 Grove Ave, Patchogue 11772	730-7224
Vlachos, Donna & Mockler, Tim	226 Conklin Ave, Patchogue	289-7783
Voland, Bert & Diane	34 James St, Patchogue 11772	758-7350
Waldman, Richard	16 Glenwood St, E. Patchogue 11772	475-9288
Young, Carolyn	P.O. Box 873, Medford 11763	345-6194
Zimmerman, Mildred	P.O. Box 273, Coram 11727	732-6125
Zuck, Judy	38 W. Roe Blvd, Patchogue 11772	475-1154

Timely Tips for September



"I don't care *how* hot it is today!
— I don't want you running around
without your leaf on!"

☀ Plants and trees that provide color in the month of September include beautyberry, crape myrtles, cotoneaster, viburnums, hypericum, hydrangeas, potentilla, pyracantha, and burning bush are a few. Look for them at local sales.

☀ Do not prune azaleas, rhododendrons, or other spring flowering shrubs because they have already set their buds for next year's blooms. If you feel these shrubs do need to be pruned, you can prune them now, but be aware you will sacrifice next spring's flowers.

☀ Time to continue with fall crops. You can still seed beets, radishes, turnips, and leaf lettuce.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

When the blackberries hang
swollen in the woods, in the brambles
nobody owns, I spend

all day among the high
branches, reaching
my ripped arms, thinking

of nothing, cramming
the black honey of summer
into my mouth; all day my body

accepts what it is. In the dark
creeks that run by there is
this thick paw of my life darting among

the black bells, the leaves; there is
this happy tongue.



--Mary Oliver