

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

2006 Board Members:

President:

Carol Tvelia

First Vice President:

Mary Ann Tchinnis

Second Vice President:

Guy Vitale

Treasurer:

Paula Murphy

Recording Secretary:

Sandra Franco

Corresponding Secretary:

Diane Voland

Parliamentarian:

Barbara Aragon

Historian:

Josephine Miller

Immediate Past President:

Karen Ferb

February 20067

Greetings from the President

Welcome to the first edition of the Garden Gazette for 2007 and my first President's column. I hope many of you had an opportunity to enjoy the past two days of spring "tease" weather. I couldn't resist and spent two long afternoons in my garden doing an early clean up. I cut down all the perennials left for "winter interest" and raked up 12 large bags of leaves. Where they came from I don't know, since the yard was clean at the end of the season last fall! If you are like me, you are mulling over seed/garden catalogs and spending armchair time planning and dreaming. The garden is never finished—even when we look around and say, "I don't have room for one more thing," we always manage to squeeze in something new. Share those catalogs you don't want by bringing them to the meeting. Someone else may find them interesting.



Don't Forget the Luncheon!

Georgia Dulmovits and her luncheon elves are working very hard to make the luncheon a success. At last count we had over ninety attendees, but more are needed. If you have not purchased your ticket yet, or if you have friends interested in attending, please bring a check (made out to The Patchogue Garden Club) or cash in the amount of \$32 to this month's meeting, or a check can be mailed to Karen Ferb at 270 West Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772. And if anyone still has a basket to deliver, please bring it to the meeting.

Mark the Date

- Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.
February general meeting to be held at the North Patchogue Fire Department.
- Thursday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
"Think Spring" luncheon and basket auction. The speaker is Diane Schwindt. Be sure to arrive early so you have plenty of time to look over all the baskets!
- Sunday, March 25, 2:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day Parade down Main Street in Patchogue. We don't have a float in this parade, but it's still a fun event to watch!
- Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.
March general meeting to be held at the North Patchogue Fire Department.



Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Barbara Aragon

Karen Ferb

Carolyn Savastano

Ruth Shackelford

Richard Waldman

Please email submissions to

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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*.



2007 Dues are Due

This year's dues are due by the March meeting. We have revised the dues schedule to bring them more in line with other clubs and to meet our insurance costs, which are based on the number of members. Single member dues are \$15 and family membership is now \$20. As discussed at the last meeting, our insurance is a comprehensive liability policy that covers members when they are working in the Community Garden as well as anything that might happen to a visitor. Because our insurance premium is based on the number of members, we need to have an accurate accounting of our membership. Help us out by paying your dues promptly. It's easy! Just bring your check to the next meeting.

January Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ Our new president, Carol Tvelia, thanked the outgoing officers for all their hard work during the past year.
- ❖ Carol Tvelia announced that the Club now has an agreement with the Greater Patchogue Foundation and is thus again eligible for a County grant. Members voted to accept the agreement she presented.
- ❖ Diane Voland reported that the benches and urn are in place in the Community Garden. Additional plantings have been postponed until the spring. Members reported damage to one of the lampposts and electrical problems.
- ❖ Members Janet Heyer, Violetta Mulligan and Guy Vitale volunteered to host a meeting in their gardens in June (Heyer) , July (Mulligan) and August (Vitale).
- ❖ Arlene Lamberti reported that the North Patchogue Fire Department has changed its procedures and the Club will no longer have access to the kitchen to fill the coffee makers with water. After discussion, members approved the purchase of water to use to make coffee.
- ❖ Guy Vitale has resurrected the cookbook project and will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for the new cookbook committee. Members are asked to bring their special recipes in for the cookbook.
- ❖ Karen Ferb reported that Susan L. Greco wrote an article about the Garden Club that will appear in the *Long Island Advance*. [Note: The article was published in the February 22, 2007 edition of the newspaper. It's a lovely article that will make you proud that you are a member!]
- ❖ Carol Tvelia announced that she had put together information about the Garden Club to be included in welcome packages that are delivered to new homeowners at Copper Beech Village.

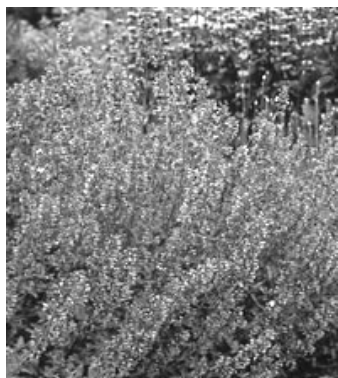


Just Around the Corner

The Philadelphia Flower Show is coming to the Pennsylvania Convention Center on March 4-11, 2007. Journey to a legendary and beautiful land — Tir-Na-nOg — where the leaves are always green and the flowers bloom all year. The 2007 show will take you to a playground of Irish gardens, music, and dance featuring landscapes, floral arrangements, tree and plant displays, Irish singers, dancers and storytellers. For more information visit the Web site at www.theflowershow.com. The Patchogue-Medford Library is sponsoring a bus trip on Saturday, March 10, leaving at 7:30 am. The cost is \$51 for bus and admission.

Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

Perennial Plant of the Year



With the ground frozen and nurseries still waiting for their spring deliveries, now is the perfect time to survey your garden for new locations to plant perennials you never tried before. Each year the Perennial Plant Association selects a "Perennial Plant of the Year" that they deem deserving of extra attention from the buying public. This year's winner is Nepeta "Walker's Low," Walker's Low Catmint. Blue violet flowers bloom on this grey-green foliage perennial that is hardy in zones 3 to 8. This catmint grows to a height of up to three feet and about the same size in width. The blooms remain throughout the growing period when pruned regularly. The plant prefers well drained neutral ph soil and a site located in full sun. Propagation is easy and there are few pests or disease problems that affect this award-winning perennial. With its long flowering period, you might want to introduce it into your container gardens as well as use it as a ground cover or in an herb and rock garden planting. Add this plant to your spring shopping list. To see the previous selections of perennial plants of the year, go to www.perennialplant.org.

Book Review: *Doing Time in the Garden*

Did you know that the country's most successful in-prison horticultural training program is run by the Horticultural Society of New York at Rikers Island? Read all about it in James Jiler's *Doing Time in the Garden* (New Village Press). This is the first comprehensive guide to creating in-prison and post-release horticultural training programs. The author combines an engaging personal account of running a highly successful horticultural vocation program at the largest jail complex in the United States, with a practical guide to starting and managing prison and re-entry gardening programs. Jiler directs the Greenhouse Project and the GreenTeam of ex-offenders who work with community groups and institutions on landscape related projects throughout New York State. His humor and heartfelt stories about prison community and clear explanations of what works broaden this book's appeal to all social activists, especially those involved with at-risk populations and community gardens.

Cool Tool



Push and twist Oxo's Quick Release Bulb Planter into soil then pull it back out, leaving the perfect hole for planting. After the bulb is in place, use the quick release lever to replace the soil back into the hole. Made of heavy gauge, chrome plated carbon steel, it features an extended handle wide enough to fit two hands for added strength when plunging into soil. Its gripping areas are soft and non-slip even when hands are wet, and it features a toothed edge for easily penetrating and twisting through soil. Stamped in, easy-to-read standard and metric measurement markings are on both sides for planting at precise depths. \$12.99. Get it at oxo.com or call 800-545-4411.

Garden Conservancy Open Days

We want to remind you that the Club's membership in the Garden Conservancy is still current. That means members can buy discount tickets to the new series of Open Days that begins in late April. Visit the Web site for more details at <http://gardenconservancy.org/opendays>. All you will find now are dates and areas, but more will be posted soon. See Carol Tvelia for membership and ticket information.



About Those Amaryllis

Ever been puzzled about how long it will take your Amaryllis to flower? Don't want to pot them up every two weeks for continuous bloom? New research has classified many varieties by how long it takes them to come to flower from potting time, so now you can plant the most predictable varieties all at once and have blooms all season. Here are some examples:

5-8 weeks to bloom: 'Lucky Strike', 'Apple Blossom', 'Minerva', 'Roma', 'Vera', 'Mont Blanc', 'Mary Lou', 'Aphrodite', 'Pasadena', 'Donau', 'Amoretta'.

7-10 weeks to bloom: 'Lemon Lime', 'Liberty', 'Royal Velvet', 'Hercules', 'Rilona', 'Wonderland', 'Picotee', 'Unique', 'Blossom Peacock', 'White Peacock', 'Pink Floyd'.

9-12 weeks to bloom: 'Clown', 'Piquant', 'Toronto', 'Vlammenspel', 'Happy Memory', 'Andes', 'Charisma', 'Dancing Queen', 'Flaming Peacock', 'La Paz', 'Chico', 'Misty'.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m., at the North Patchogue Fire Department.



Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn.

—Lewis Grizzard

