

Garden Gazette

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

January 2012

2012 Board Members

President:

June Petruccelli

First Vice President:

Carolyn Savastano

Second Vice President:

Position vacant

Treasurer:

Carol Tvelia

Recording Secretary:

Babette Bishop

Corresponding Secretary:

Arlene Lamberti

Parliamentarian:

Carla Buchanan-Steward

Historian:

Josephine Miller

Immediate Past President:

Diane Riviello-Voland

Greetings from the President

Happy New Year to all our garden club members! I trust that you all had joyous holidays and are looking forward to 2012 with as much enthusiasm as I am.

The new Executive Board is planning on making 2012 a fun year to be a member of the Patchogue Garden Club. I am hoping we can add some new members to "grow with us."

How about the weather this month? Can you believe that Christmas was just a couple of weeks ago? Up until Christmas, my knockout roses were still blooming. My Snow Drops are peeking through, and I had to push back one of my Hyacinths!

Our Luncheon Committee is already working hard to make our luncheon the same success that it's been in the past.

Now that the holidays are over, the spring catalogues are starting to roll in, along with e-mails from the various nurseries. I don't know about you, but I want to purchase all of it. But alas, I have mostly a shady garden and have to stick with shade plants. Oh well, one can dream!

See you all at the meeting on January 24th at the American Legion.

June

Visit our website:
Patchoguedgardenclub.com

Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Margaret Atkinson

Karen Ferb

Paula Murphy

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.

January Birthdays

Barbara Aragon

Ann Marie Coakley

John Dulmovits

Marie Magnano

Annie Rubbo

Ruth Szuminskyj

Susan Topliz

February Birthdays

Peg Densing

Jack Heyer



Mark the Date

Tuesday, January 24th—General meeting, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall in Patchogue

February 9th—Valentine's Day Get Together

March 29th—Think Spring Luncheon

April 14—Open the Gardens

June 9th—Breakfast in the Garden

July 7th—Garden Tour

October 6th—Harvest Dinner

November 10th—Close the Garden

November (to be announced)—Decorate the Garden for Christmas

December 8th—Christmas House Tour

Dues are due (\$15 for single \$20 for family) BEFORE March 31st so a membership list can be compiled and distributed. Please submit to Carolyn Savastano, First Vice President, who will record the membership and forward to Carol Tvelia, our Treasurer.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send check to:

Patchogue Garden Club

PO Box 3030, Patchogue, NY 11772

Two committees need chairpersons: the "Breakfast in the Garden" committee and the "Decorate the Garden for Christmas" committee.

Please contact June Petruccelli (730-1091) if you are interested.

**Patchogue Garden Club
2012 Committee List**

Committee	Chairperson
Newsletter	Margaret Atkinson
Garden Tour Program House Tour	Paula Murphy Paula Murphy Mary Ann Tchinnis Karen Ferb
Plant & Yard Sale	Carol Tvelia
Garden Maintenance Design	Georgia Dulmovits Diane Voland
Membership	Carolyn Savastano Lynn Kane
Think Spring Luncheon	Georgia Dulmovits Arlene Lamberti
Refreshments	Ronnie Manfridi
Educational Trips	Josephine Miller
Community Education	Josephine Miller Bonnie Bossert
Breakfast in the Garden	Open
Harvest Dinner	Arlene Lamberti
Scholarship	Carolyn Savastano Arlene Lamberti Carla Steward
Social Committee	Carla Steward
Christmas Decorating (Garden)	Open

Patchogue-Medford Library is offering a Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show:

Hawaii: Islands of Aloha

Saturday March 11, 2012.
Tickets go on sale Wednesday Jan 18 at the YA Desk to district residents and Jan 23 to nonresidents. (\$54.00 each and limited to 4)
Contact the Library at 654-4700 for further details.

Carla, our Social Committee Chairperson has arranged for a **Valentine's Day Celebration.** We will meet at La Tavola in Sayville on Thursday, February 9th between 4:30 and 9 p.m. RSVP to Carla at 527-0700. Please note that this is strictly "Dutch Treat" affair!



Members of the Garden Club Luncheon Committee are already hard at work organizing the program and preparing the displays and baskets for the March luncheon. The theme revolves around aprons and herbs.



At the October meeting, Nick DeNezzo gave a lecture on "Attracting Hummingbirds on Long Island."

Important Announcement!

We are considering making changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Copies of both will be handed out at the January meeting. Please read them over and send any suggestions to PO Box 3030. Only written suggestions will be taken into consideration. If you would like to remain anonymous please refrain from signing your suggestions. If you are not able to attend the January meeting copies of the both the By-Laws and Constitution are on our web site. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact June Petrucci at 730-1091 or by e-mail—keb377@optonline.net.



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What's In the News?

♥ Karen Ferb sends the following article which makes a case for gardening as a means of curbing climate change. Here is an excerpt:

The real carbon savings of gardens, however, comes from the compost, and this is the reason I am issuing a universal recommendation for gardening. Together, food waste and yard trimmings make up 26 percent of the municipal solid waste stream in the United States. And, when buried in landfills, they become fuel for the production of methane, a long-lived gas that is 23 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, methane is now fully 10 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions -- and its slice of the emissions pie is growing. Furthermore, of the 13 major sources of methane, the largest single one is landfills. (At 184.3 million metric tons per year, landfills add more methane to the atmosphere than "enteric fermentation," which refers to, well, how the nation's 100 million cattle add methane to the atmosphere.)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/life/archive/2011/10/the-case-for-gardening-as-a-means-to-curb-climate-change/247213/#.TqbOFghpgXA.mailto>

♥ Lara Ewen in *Newsday* (Dec 30, 2011) lists some digital apps that might be helpful tools for gardeners.

A. Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder—Michael Dirr's books "are the bibles of horticulture for landscape architects, nursery people and gardeners. This app brings his work to your fingertips."

B. Leafsnap "allows users to photograph a leaf, flower or fruit, and identify it."

C. Botany Buddy—"offers a database of more than 2000 native and ornamental plant species."

D. Audubon Field Guides "cover everything from trees and insects to butterflies and wildflowers."

♥ Another news item from Karen who says "This story about the nine-spotted ladybug is the best so far. It really captures the story."

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2011/10/lost-ladybug-spotted-on-long-island-farm.html>

♥ Richard Waldman recommends this article which answers the question, "I've heard of burning ornamental grass as a way to rejuvenate it. Is that a good idea?"

The dead foliage of warm-season ornamental grasses can be burned to remove it and make way for new growth. It's the same reason why you would cut off the dead foliage, just a different means to the end. Wait until late winter or early spring to burn the foliage. Burning it in fall would destroy the winter interest the grass contributes and open the plant up to winter injury.

Do not burn cool-season grasses, such as fescues and heliotrichons, which are semi-evergreen. Remove their dead or damaged foliage by cutting it or gently raking it out.

Careful attention should be paid to fire hazards, personal safety and local laws before any ornamental grasses (or other yard debris) is burned. Do not leave any fire unattended, and have means of

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Get to Know a Fellow Gardener Jo Miller

Where were you born?

I was born and raised in Brooklyn. My grandparents lived next door and they had a postage sized garden where they grew tomatoes and hollyhocks. I've lived in several places on Long Island north and south shore. Patchogue is best. With luck, I'll spend the rest of my life there.



Tell us about your family

Tony Wenderoth and I have been married for almost 23 years. He has two children and I have four. I have seven grandchildren.

Why do you garden?

I'm usually not at a loss for words, but it is difficult for me to put into words the pleasure and satisfaction which I derive from gardening. Even the grunt work is satisfying, although I complain loudly about it. I took the Master Gardening training at Cornell in 2000, and that was an interesting experience.

What is your gardening style?

Shape, structure and texture, more than color influence my style. As I get older, I aim for low maintenance.

Outside of gardening what are your hobbies?

I am a big reader of fiction and non fiction. I'm a fan of British detective fiction, e.g., P. D. James. I've belonged to a book club for many years and enjoy the desserts served as much as the books which we read.

A television show you like

I enjoy the cooking shows, but am not overly fond of cooking. I like "Meet the Press" on Sunday mornings..

Your favorite food or dessert

Anything chocolate

An interesting job you've had

I was the social worker on the Children's Psychiatric Unit at Stony Brook Hospital for 15 years.



Jo Miller, one of the founders of the Patchogue Garden Club, speaks at the dedication of the community garden.

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extinguishing it close at hand. In many cases it is just as easy, and less risky, to cut the grasses back by hand with pruners or loppers. Electric hedge clippers or a string trimmer can make quicker work of a larger grouping.

http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/cultivation/burning-ornamental-grass?et_mid=524415&rid=2171563

♥ Which houseplants are poisonous? Richard Waldman sent us this link:

http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/qa/poisonous-houseplants?et_mid=532387&rid=2171563

Generally large quantities of poisonous plants need to be consumed to create a severe reaction, but...it's a good idea to teach pets and children to stay away from all houseplants, and certainly never to eat them.

Here are a few of the most common houseplants that are poisonous in some or all of their parts: Amaryllis, Chinese evergreens, Dumb cane, English ivy, Philodendrons, Schefflaras, and Peace lilies

♥ Also from Richard concerning how plant seeds survive the digestion of birds and animals that eat them.

Wow! Seeds are tough!

How can plant seeds—tomatoes, for example—survive the digestive process of birds and other animals, and thus be spread in their droppings?

A. "Many seeds, including tomatoes, have an impermeable outer layer that protects the seed and allows the delicate embryo to survive the trip through an animal's digestive system," said Kerry Barringer, curator of the herbarium at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Here's the address: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/27/science/how-can-plant-seeds-survive-the-digestive-process.html?_r=1&ref=science

♥ Richard sends another article answering the question, "How do seeds know which direction to grow?"

A. The phenomenon is gravitropism, the ability of plants to sense and alter their growth in response to gravity, said Susan K. Pell, director of science at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. How it works is not fully understood, she said, but the leading theory is that gravity causes structures containing starch, called amyloplasts, to move inside cells and interact with the cells' internal scaffolding, the cytoskeleton.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/22/science/how-do-seeds-know-which-direction-to-send-up-shoots.html?ref=todayspaper>

♥ Another—Trouble with the Beech trees in Newport, RI.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/science/25beeches.html>

♥ And last, U.S. forests are not adapting to climate change. <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/greenhouse/post/2011/11/us-forests-climate-change-not-adapting/1>



Timely Tips for the Garden in January

- Avoid heavy traffic on the dormant lawn. Dry grass is easily broken, and the crown of the plant may be severely damaged or killed.
- Brush snow from evergreens as soon as possible after a storm. Use a broom in an upward, sweeping motion.
- Review your vegetable garden plans. Perhaps a smaller garden with fewer weeds and insects will give you more produce.
- Check house plants closely for insect infestations. Quarantine gift plants until you determine they aren't harboring any pests.
- Do not wait until late winter to order seeds. Many varieties sell out early.

Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

Gardeners live longer, awaiting another Spring.