

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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Carol Tvelia

Second Vice President:

Mary Ann Tchinnis

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Lynn Kane

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Sandra Franco

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Immediate Past Presidents:

Barbara Gustafson

Kathy Marcus

July 2006

Greetings from the President

Just about everyone knows that the "dog days of summer" occur during the hottest and muggiest part of the season, the period between early July and early September. But where does the term come from? In ancient times, when the night sky was unobscured by artificial lights and smog, different groups of people in different parts of the world drew images in the sky by "connecting the dots" of stars. They saw images of bears (Ursa Major and Ursa Minor), twins (Gemini), a bull, (Taurus), and others, including dogs (Canis Major and Canis Minor). The brightest of the stars in Canis Major (the Big Dog) is Sirius, which also happens to be the brightest star in the night sky. In fact, it is so bright that the ancient Romans thought that its heat added to the heat of the sun, creating a stretch of hot and sultry weather. They named the period of time, from 20 days before the conjunction of Sirius with the sun to 20 days after, "dog days". Today, dog days occur during the period between July 3 and August 11. Stay cool, if you can, and keep your gardens cool, because this kind of heat blasts flowers quickly.



Mark the Date

- Saturday, July 22, 7:00 p.m.
Annual pot-luck dinner at Paula Murphy's house, 125 Smith Street, Patchogue. The fireworks *will* take place, with the show beginning at 9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 25, 6:00 p.m.
July general meeting to be held at the home of Lynn Kane at 3 Quail Court in Medford. To get there from Patchogue, head north on North Ocean Avenue, turn right on Bayside Avenue, turn left on Woodcock Court, then turn left onto Quail Court. If you get lost, her telephone number is 803-2205.
- Thursday, August 10, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Garden clean-up day.
- Saturday August 20, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Garden clean-up day.

Garden Tour a Great Success!

This year's tour was, by all reports, a great success. Everyone loved the houses being open. One report even had us being better than _____ and _____ (not to hurt anyone's feelings, we won't publicize their names). Many, many thanks to Paula, the home and garden owners, and all of the club members who worked to make this another banner year.



Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Josephine Brennan

Dianna M. Popp

Ruth Shackelford

Richard Waldman

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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.

Hostesses for the July Meeting

Diane Volland and Kathy McMahon have volunteered to hostess the July meeting. Two more are needed. If you can volunteer, contact Joanna Drake at 289-6935. Volunteers are reminded to arrive by 6:20 p.m. to begin preparations.



June Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ The meeting began with our speaker, Ann Carpenter, who gave a slide show about plants, shrubs, and flowers suitable for a shade garden.
- ❖ The Treasurer's Report showed a checking account balance of \$6,673.06.
- ❖ Lynn Kane reported that the Club's T-shirts would be ordered during the week.
- ❖ Paula Murphy reported on the status of the Garden Tour.
- ❖ Ruth Szuminskyj suggested another trip to Nancy Gilbert's birds-and-butterflies garden in Jamesport and to Dennis Schrader's garden in Cutchogue. Members expressed interest and Ruth will follow up.
- ❖ Members voted to have the Club join the Garden Conservancy.
- ❖ Members also voted to support the Patchogue Idol event on November 5 by purchasing a \$100 advertisement.
- ❖ After a discussion of how best to support the Village's fireworks display, members agreed to purchase two \$100 tickets to the VIP fireworks viewing event. The tickets were given to Joan and Dave Tifford of Fantastic Gardens in appreciation of their generosity to the Club.
- ❖ President Karen Ferb is continuing to look into securing 501(c)(3) status for the Club.
- ❖ To show our appreciation for all of their help, members agreed with President Karen Ferb's suggestion to invite Joan and Dave Tifford of Fantastic Gardens to our fall Harvest Dinner and to give them complimentary tickets to next year's Spring Luncheon.
- ❖ President Karen Ferb discussed how the Terry Street garden will be impacted by the Workforce Housing project underway across the street. Because of its size, a house that is being relocated will need to be moved through the garden. The contractors agreed to remove all hardscaping and landscaping before the move, to replace everything afterwards, and to replace anything that didn't survive the move.



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!


Carolyn Young sends her heartfelt thanks to all the club members who helped out with the live- and deadheading of her daylilies for the visits from the busloads of attendees of the National Hemerocallis Society held here earlier this month.

Road Trip

A lovely time was had by the members who visited the Schiavo's water garden on July 9. Some continued on to the Peconic River Herb Farm for a picnic and some shopping. It was a trip that bears repeating for anyone who missed it. Ronnie and Bill Schiavo say come any time, as long as you schedule it with them in advance.


Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

Hurricane Preparedness



After Tuesday night's awesome thunderstorm, it seems prudent for us to consider what we should do in case of a hurricane. First, from a gardening standpoint, trees should be made more wind resistant. Diseased and damaged tree limbs need to be removed and branches throughout the canopy need to be cut back to insure that wind can blow through. For many of these jobs, it might be necessary to call in a licensed arborist. Second, if a hurricane did hit, where would we go? The Red Cross will open shelters at the request of the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management, but they will not release the locations of these shelters ahead of time until they know the path of the storm and other important factors. However, for those of us who live south of Montauk Highway, they recommend making arrangements to stay with friends or family north of Montauk Highway. If you do know anyone who lives north of Montauk Highway, they suggest we become aware of the location of schools north of Montauk Highway but not to head directly to these locations before getting word from emergency evacuation officials that the school has been designated as a storm shelter. If you do go to a shelter, they suggest you bring blankets and pillows. For a complete list of how to prepare yourself for an emergency, log on to www.redcross.org and click on "Get Prepared" then on "Home." There you will find a list of emergencies, including hurricanes. Click on the link to "disaster supplies kit" for a comprehensive list of supplies to stock in case of an emergency. To volunteer to help the Red Cross in Suffolk County, contact Rebecca Arthurs at 631-924-6700 (24 hour number: 631-924-6911) or at rarthurs@arcsuffolk.org

Arnold Schwarzenegger, watch out!



As we are out in our gardens working and sweating, it might be helpful to realize that your hobby is helping you live longer and be healthier. Gardening and yard work as part of a regular physical activity regimen helps to build bones and tone bodies. While gardening, you often find yourself raking, mulching, planting and pulling weeds (if you don't have any in your garden, you could come to mine!). Those activities have been found not only to help build better bones, but also to equal a good weight workout. So now, during the planting season, you can suspend your gym membership and do squats, lifts and various other physical activities not on a machine but in your own garden. For a quick list of how to make your gardening into a real workout, go to <http://ritecode.com/aerobicgardening/exerday.html>, or for more detailed information see Jeffrey Restuccio's book, *Fitness the Dynamic Gardening Way*.

Tilling and Toiling in August

- ✚ Weather permitting, mid-August to mid-September is an ideal time for lawn seeding or sodding. Use grasses that are insect, disease and drought tolerant.
- ✚ Water newly seeded lawn or lawn areas 3-4 times per day when rainfall is lacking. Once grass has germinated and is actively growing, water normally.
- ✚ Container plants need plenty of water. Check soil daily and water if needed.
- ✚ Sow leaf lettuce, radishes, spinach and bush beans for fall harvest. Keep seedlings moist.
- ✚ Donate your extra harvest to a soup kitchen or food pantry. It will make you feel good to know you are helping people!
- ✚ Give rose bushes the final feeding of the season.
- ✚ Don't forget to turn your compost pile.



Calling All Dahlia Buffs

Plan ahead for two 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 add these new members to your membership list:

Ellen Brandt, P.O. Box 799, Medford, NY 11763, telephone 758-0491

Violet Mulligan, 899 Sipp Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772, telephone 758-1714



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

“Come grow with us”

Founded 1996

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 25, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Lynn Kane. See inside for details.



You must not know too much or be too precise or scientific about birds and trees and flowers and watercraft; a certain free-margin, and even vagueness—ignorance, credulity—helps your enjoyment of these things.

— Walt Whitman

