

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

2007 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



Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Barbara Aragon
Karen Ferb
Carolyn Savastano
Ruth Shackelford
Richard Waldman

Please email submissions to
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.

March 2007

Greetings from the President

If you are like me, you can't wait for the weather to get warm enough to go out and "play in the dirt." Last weekend's snowstorm certainly was a surprise, but it wouldn't be March if we didn't have surprises! By now most of you probably have daffodil shoots peeping up—I even have a few die-hard pansies showing some green. Things to do this month in the garden: Plant some peas once the soil is friable. You can also put in early lettuce and radishes. Indoors sow seeds of peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, and cauliflower. Now is a good time to take pictures of your winter garden and start planning where to put that new special something. With an early Easter, the garden shops will be full of forced plants. These can be put into the garden once they have finished flowering and may return next year, especially daffodils and Easter lilies. It will soon be time to wake up our community garden. We will have a sign up list at the meeting..



Members Please Take Note: A New Meeting Place!

Due to a change of policy at the North Patchogue Fire Department, we will no longer be able to meet there. Our next meeting will be held at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse on Lake Drive in East Patchogue. See inside for a map. The building has been refurbished and we are hoping it will work out as a future meeting place.

Mark the Date

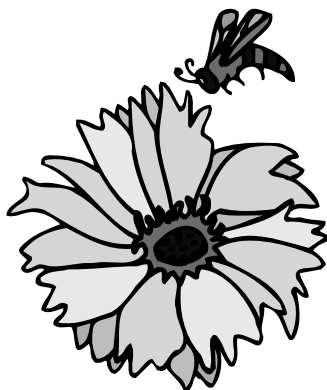
- Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.
March general meeting to be held at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse on Lake Drive in East Patchogue. See map inside.
- Saturday, April 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cornell University Cooperative Extension's Spring Gardening School at Bellport High School in Bellport. \$50 per person, \$45 for early registration prior to April 5, \$55 for registration at the door. The Gardening School also will be held on Saturday April 21 at Riverhead High School in Riverhead and on Saturday, April 28, at Ward Melville High School in Setauket. Call 731.727.7850 for more information.
- Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. until ?
Spring clean-up in the garden. Bring your favorite garden tools and help out.

The Arrow is Pointing to Our March Meeting Place at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse on Lake Drive



February Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ President Carol Tvelia led a discussion regarding the new policy at the North Patchogue Fire Department and the need to find a new meeting place. Several places were suggested, including the Patchogue-Medford Library (which is undergoing renovation) and the Patchogue Ambulance Company on West Main Street. The Executive Board decided on the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse for the March meeting, with the discussion to be taken up again at the meeting.
- ❖ Betty Baran announced that the Cornell University Cooperative Extension has started a gardening program with the inmates at the Suffolk County Jail and asked members to bring in gardening magazines to contribute to the program.
- ❖ Diane Voland reported that the Club had sent a letter to Jack Eddington in January requesting his help in obtaining a grant. He recommended a \$2,000 grant for the Club, and all necessary paperwork has now been submitted.
- ❖ Karen Ferb presented a certificate of appreciation the Club received from the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce for our participation in their Extreme Office Makeover.
- ❖ Members were again reminded that annual dues are now payable. If you have not yet paid, please bring a check to the March meeting made payable to Patchogue Garden Club in the amount of \$15 for a single membership or \$20 for a family membership. A new membership list will be prepared after the meeting, so please pay your dues to ensure that your name stays on the list.



Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

The Birds and the Bees

We can see by the calendar that spring is coming (March 21). We are seeing the bulbs we planted in the fall sending up their green shoots, helping us to forget the cold weather and snow. But while our gardens offer a spiritual and physical oasis for many of us, please remember that they also are habitats for our feathered friends. Since not all birds fly south for the winter, our gardens can provide food and shelter for many types of birds. So when you are deciding what new trees, shrubs and perennials you will be adding to your garden this coming spring, think of how birds will use your green oasis too. Some birds need flat surfaces or a space on the ground to feed, while others require a high perch. While your rudbeckia seed heads or sunflowers are a natural way to feed birds, you could incorporate different types of feeders throughout your garden to attract a wide variety of birds. To learn more, check out the Audubon Society Web site at www.audubon.org.

Now on to the subject of bees. Do you know how important honeybees are to your garden and the rest of the horticultural world? How would your vegetable garden prosper without the pollination done by bees? On a larger scale, a Cornell University study has found that honeybees pollinate more than \$14 billion worth of crops annually in the U.S. alone. Unfortunately, scientists are now finding a big decrease in the bee population and they are not exactly sure of the cause. Researchers have named this phenomenon "CCD", Colony Collapse Disorder. Some bee keepers have lost up to 80% of their colonies. Possible causes for this disappearance include a fungus, a virus or pesticides. Mites also have been found to have damaged some bee colonies, and pesticides used to eliminate the mites then harmed the queen bees, cutting their life span in half. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope the scientists find a way to resolve this problem soon.

Tilling and Toiling in March

- Sit down and make a plan for what you will do in your flower and vegetable gardens.
- Start vegetable, annual and perennial flower seeds indoors. Don't plant too much!
- Keep seedlings in a sunny but cool location
- Fertilize spring flowering bulb beds
- Check vegetable garden soil pH; if needed, add limestone.
- Prune roses and remove soil mounds from rose bushes.
- Remove winter protection from semi-hardy plants.
- Check trees and shrubs for damage from windy weather.
- Make sure your lawn mower is in good working order. Get blades sharpened.
- Start putting your horticultural waste materials in a compost pile, but don't add any thing that came from a diseased plant.

Book Review

A Garden Gallery: The Plants, Art and Hardscape of Little and Lewis, by George Little and David Lewis, Timber Press, 2005. This book presents in text, practical advice and stunning photography their Puget Sound Garden. Little and Lewis are internationally renowned artists and gardeners, and their book has won the Garden Writers Association Silver Media Award. Get it at the library, or order it from amazon.com.

Hostesses for the
March Meeting:

Joanna Drake
Karen Ferb
Millie Zimmerman

Please call Arlene
Lamberti at 289-3667
to coordinate when
and where to meet at
the new space.

Plant of the Month



The magic of embryo culture has produced a wide range of Orienpet lilies. First introduced 50 years ago, the very fragrant darkest red 'Black Beauty' was bred from the fabulous flowers of the Oriental lily and the rugged, disease-resistant Trumpet lily. Stem height ranges from 3' to 8'; all have moderately to strongly recurved petals. They can be planted in spring or fall with the bottom 6"-8" below the soil surface. Divide every five years or so. Deep red strongly recurved Scheherazade flowers (pictured at right) are edged in gold, shading into ivory margins; the throat shows the same dramatic color pattern. Silk Road (pictured at left) sports huge white blooms with deep splashed crimson throat (more crimson than white). Exotic fragrance! A good source is The Bulb Crate in Illinois. Check out their Web site at www.thebulbcrate.com.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse. Map inside.



I always think of my sins when I weed. They grow apace in the same way and are harder still to get rid of.

—Helena Rutherford Ely, 1903



Think Spring Luncheon and Basket Auction

President Carol Tvelia welcomed our 144 guests and introduced Joanna Drake, our resident chorister, who gave a spirited reading of the text for the spring movement, "Come, Lovely Spring," of Haydn's "The Seasons."



Barbara Aragon and Committee Co-Chair Georgia Dulmovits

Saying "Thank You" doesn't convey our appreciation for all of the hard work done by the Committee Members – but we'll say it anyway!

Georgia Dulmovits, Co-Chair	Kathy McMahon
Arlene Lamberti, Co-Chair	Jo Miller
Barbara Aragon	Paula Murphy
Barbara Bestafka	Ann Rubbo
Ellen Brandt	Carolyn Savastano
Pauline Carleton	Ruth Szuminskyj
Joan Delaney	Mary Ann Tchinnis
Karen Ferb	Mildred Zimmerman
Lynn Kane	

So many members contributed to the success of the luncheon in so many ways. A huge "Thank You" to:

Fred & Bonnie Bossert	Gladys Heimburger	Ellen & Mike Scammon
Barbara Bruce	Janet & Jack Heyer	Ruth Shackelford
Rosalie Coleman	Joan Kattau	Susan Toplitz
Elizabeth Caruso	Joan & Rich Monko	Carol Tvelia
Joanna Drake	Marita Morello	Guy Vitale
Donna Ferraiuolo	Violet Mulligan	Diane & Bert Volland
Sandra Franco	Nancy Rinehart	Carolyn Young
Laurie Frey	Emmy & Warren Rothstein	Judy Zuck
Kelleen Guyer	Sue Scala	



Ruth Szuminskyj and Committee Co-Chair Arlene Lamberti

And let's not forget to thank our photographers:

Barbara Aragon
Karen Ferb
Arlene Lamberti
Paula Murphy



Mildred Zimmerman and Barbara Bestafka



**Lynn Kane, Kathy McMahon
and Rosalie Coleman**

And we don't want to forget to thank the local business
who contributed to our luncheon. Thank you all!

Gallo Tropical Restaurant
Peter's Luncheonette
112 Sewing Supplies
BrickHouse Brewery
Salon 635
LI Statuary
Tricia's Hair Galleria
New York New Wave
Panera Bread, Bohemia
Panera Bread, Hauppauge
Bayport Flower Houses
Sun Wave Liquors
Hot Bagel
Gino's Pizza



**Mary Ann Tchinnis and
Paula Murphy**

Trendsetters Hair and Skin Care
Friends of the Patchogue-Medford Library
Doherty Enterprises, Inc.
Medford Music House
Home Depot, Shirley
Lawan Authentic Thai Restaurant
Three Village Music Shoppe



John Dulmovits and Artie Coleman



Carolyn Savastano and Guest



**And here we are doing what we do best – eating
and drinking and socializing**



When we're not gardening, that is!