

Garden Gazette

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

March 2011

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Greetings from the President

Hello members and welcome to March,

I think it's safe to say that we all have our outdoors back at this point. The snow-drops are blooming; the daffodils and tulips are starting to poke their heads through the matted winter soil; and the "swallows" are coming back from Capistrano. Much to my surprise, the pumps and filters in the ponds faired well through this oh-so-cold winter, and the fish seem to be happy to see some sunlight that isn't being filtered through ice.

I recently returned from a short excursion this past weekend to the Philadelphia Convention Center for the annual flower show. This year's theme was "Paris In Spring-time," and it certainly was! So majestically beautiful....everything in bloom!! That's when I realized what was wrong with this picture. We don't ever get to see everything in bloom at the same time in our own backyards, so it did look a bit unnatural, but gorgeous just the same. My favorite part of the show? If it's possible to choose, I'd have to say the orchids were spectacular!!! If anyone got the chance to visit the exhibit, I'm sure you thoroughly enjoyed yourself, as did I.

See you at this months general meeting,

Diane

Visit our website:
Patchoguedenclub.com

Mark the Date

Tuesday, March 22— Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall

Sunday, March 27—St. Patrick's Day Parade
Check with Arlene Lamberti if you'd like to participate.

Thursday, March 31, 2011—Eighth Annual "Think Spring" Luncheon at the Mediterranean Manor, 303 East Main Street, Patchogue. Tickets are \$35. You can make a reservation with a check at the meeting. (All checks are due by March 28th.)

The Luncheon Committee has been off and running since late August, putting together a Vintage Hat Exhibit and small scented straw hat magnets for each person attending. Our guest speaker, Marianne Annunziato Fulfaro, will present us with her Vintage Hat Collection, topic, "Hats Through the Ages." So, catch our spirit and join us with a friend. We encourage you to come and wear your favorite hat.

Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:
Margaret Atkinson
Karen Ferb
Paula Murphy
Mary Ann Tchinnis

Please email submissions to
margaretatkinson@gmail.com
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 Birthdays

Janet Heyer
Don Rubbo
Frank Lerantini



On page five you'll find a new feature, "Get to Know a Fellow Gardener." I'm placing all members' names in a hat (really...I'm going to use a hat!) and choosing one each month. If you don't want to participate, feel free to decline. Thanks to Diane who starts us off in this issue. mma

Despite the gardener's best intentions, Nature will improvise.
~Michael P. Garafalo, gardendigest.com

February Meeting in a Flash

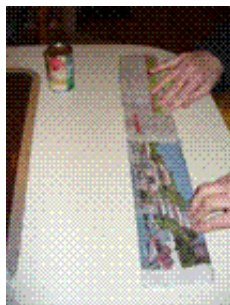
- Mary Ann Tchinnis stepped down as Parliamentarian, and Carla Buchan accepted the position.
- In a general consensus, club members agreed that community service should be a part of the club scholarship. This service should take place at local gardens in the community and schools.
- Rolling Rock will continue doing maintenance on the garden.
- It was decided, with majority vote, that \$2000 would be donated to a project for a memorial park for the veterans.
- The Garden Club will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Patchogue.

Make Your Own Peat Pots

You can save money by recycling newspapers into seed-starting pots. It's easy, it's free, and planting the entire bio-degradable pot will virtually eliminate chances of transplant shock. (Newsprint ink is generally nontoxic.) Here's how:



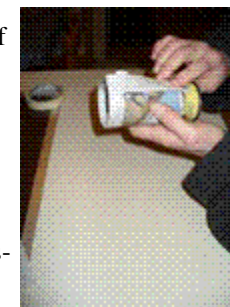
1. Fold a newspaper sheet in half lengthwise. Fold it again.



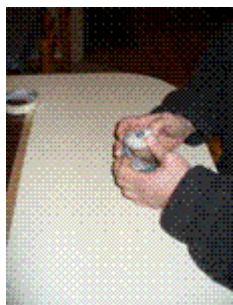
2. Place a tomato paste can along one edge of the newspaper, a couple of inches from the bottom. Roll the newspaper tightly around the can. I put a piece of tape here and take it off before planting.



3. Fold the excess newspaper at the bottom of the can to the center. Turn can onto newspaper, and push down, shaping the bottom.



4. Put a piece of tape across the bottom, and carefully remove can.



Next to this article, you'll see a photo of my "peat pots." You can make about one every two minutes—thirty during an hour-long TV program.

The 29th Annual Spring Gardening School of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County will be held at The Academy of St. Joseph in Brentwood on April 2, 2011, Bellport High School on April 19, 2011, and Riverhead Middle School on April 16, 2011, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. This day includes your choice of classes from four different sessions, with information for every level of gardener from beginner to advanced. Topics include:

- Fundamentals of gardening
- Pruning
- Floral design
- Home Composting
- Water-wise gardening
- Rain Gardens
- Growing your own food
- Houseplants, roses, hydrangeas, bulbs, figs, and many more!

All classes are taught by Master Gardeners and Extension Educators. Included in your fee are free soil pH testing, plant diagnostic clinic, plant sale from some of the finest nurseries, continental breakfast, delicious boxed lunch, and door prizes. The fee is \$55 per person, early bird registration is \$50 before March 4, 2011. The registration form with a full schedule of classes and their descriptions is available for download at www.ccesuffolk.org or contact Caroline Kiang at 631-727-7850, ext. 337 or 345.

Check out the Bayport Flower House online news to see if you are interested in taking any of their classes.

<http://www.bayportflower.com/newsletterhol04.pdf>

Here are some of my newspaper "peat pots" catching some sun.

A week before transplanting into the garden, begin to "harden off" plants by placing them outdoors each day. Pick a shady spot, protected from wind, and start with a half-hour, adding an hour of exposure each day until they're getting eight hours of outdoor exposure daily. Continue watering.

Margaret



Think Spring

Work on the Spring Luncheon is going very well. The Luncheon Committee is working hard under the direction of Georgia Dulmovits and Arlene Lamberti.

Reservations can still be made by bringing your check to the March 22nd meeting or by sending it to:

Patchogue Garden Club
270 West Ave.

Patchogue, NY 11772

The cut-off date for making a Reservation is March 28. Thank you all for your support.



Joan Tifford, Anne Rubbo, Millie Zimmerman, Janet Heyer, and Ruth Szuminskyj wrap baskets for the auction.



Georgia Dulmovits checks the numbers for the baskets. Millie Zimmerman and Marie Magnano help wrap items.



Janet Heyer arranges a bow on the basket for the Bridal Corner.



Above, Arlene clowns around. She's "Number One!"

Marie puts the finishing touches on a basket.

Hanging above the table below is Georgia's motto, "Nothing Great Was Ever Achieved without Enthusiasm."



Pauline Carleton, Babette Bishop, Janet Heyer, Marie Magnano, Georgia Dulmovits, Arlene Lamberti, Anne Rubbo, June Petruccielli and Joan Tifford work out the details of the upcoming luncheon.



Anne Rubbo, June Petruccielli and Ruth Szuminskyj maneuver around the many baskets.

What's in the News?

1. Here's an article on winter gardening with Dutch landscape artist, Piet Oudolf

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/10/garden/10garden.html?scp=2&sq=gardening&st=cse>

Mr. Oudolf' believes that a garden should be designed to have a life throughout the year, not just in the spring and summer. "The garden in winter is an emotional experience," he said. "You think in terms of decay and disappearing and coming back. You feel the life cycle of nature. A lot of gardening is focused on flowers. People don't realize plants can be beautiful after flowering, and they cut them down before they can even see it. I look outside now and see the clematis that flowered in the summer but is



more interesting now that it is showing seed heads. If you make a four-season garden you have to learn to accept decay and see the beauty of it. It's about the texture and shape, the seed heads and the skeletons. So instead of using the scissors you use your eyes."



2. Do you have a hankering for one of those tasty apples you had as a kid and can't find any more? Well, here's a fellow who's keeping them alive.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/03/garden/03garden.html?ref=inthegarden>

3. Have you ever wondered what you could grow from your own kitchen cabinets? Here's an interesting article from someone who has experimented.

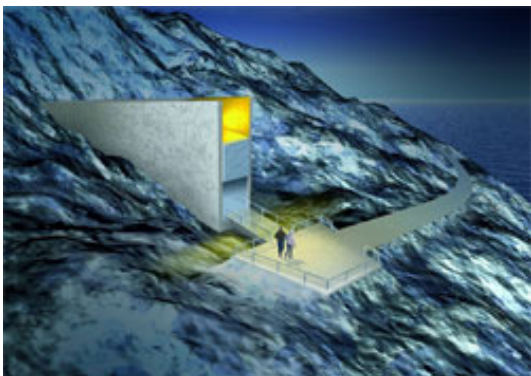
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/24/garden/24seed.html?>

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4. Have you heard about the Svalbard Global Seed Vault?

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/lmd/campaign/svalbard-global-seed-vault.html> The Svalbard Global Seed



Vault, which is established in the permafrost in the mountains of Svalbard, is designed to store duplicates of seeds from seed collections around the globe. Many of these collections are in developing countries. If seeds are lost, e.g. as a result of natural disasters, war or simply a lack of resources, the seed collections may be reestablished using seeds from Svalbard. *(For an article about the Svalbard Vault from Seed Savers in Iowa, see page five.)*

Get to Know a Fellow Gardener

Where were you born, and where have you lived?

Brooklyn, New York, and lived for 10 years in Pa., west of Pittsburgh.....lots of dairy farms and corn fields....very peaceful, and for me, just a little too small (the town)



Diane Voland

Have you had a job you really enjoyed?

About 35 years ago, I worked as a title examiner at the county center in Riverhead. That had to be, by far the most interesting and fun job I ever had. It was like being a detective and I got to look at county record books that dated back to when the pilgrims came over, examine peoples last will and testaments, and check in the courthouse records for tax liens and judgments or law suits against the purchasers and sellers, and create a chain of title to suit the individual township's needs.

What is your family like?

I have one sister 7 1/2yrs my junior...but, one look, and a stranger can tell we're sisters...other than that a very small family that is scattered across the US.

What gave you your first interest in gardening?

I've always loved flowers and plants and knew from a young age that I wanted to live someplace where I could have a little piece of my own great outdoors.

Outside of gardening, what are some of your interests?

At about 36 years old, I got my degree in interior decorating, something I always had a passion for. I enjoy crafting, anything, sewing or any activity that is creative in any way.

A television show you like—

You'll usually find me watching *Criminal Minds* after 8 p.m., and a personal favorite has always been, and will always be, *I Love Lucy*.

An accomplishment you are proud of—

I would have to say that my greatest accomplishment—the one I am most proud of is my son. there is now equal.

An interesting place you've traveled to or visited—

Of all the places I've traveled to by plane car or boat, I would have to say that Washington DC was the most interesting and inspiring. What a beautiful city, filled with history and fabulous museums.

Favorite sport (to play or watch)

A sport??? I am guilty of not being an avid participant in any sports-like activity, but I love to watch ice dancing.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

If I won the lottery big time?? I guess, like everyone else I would pay all that I owe to anyone, then move someplace warm and tropical—and I don't mean Florida.

Here's more information about the Svalbard Vault, from Seed Savers in Iowa:

<http://www.seedsavers.org/Content.aspx?src=w hatsnew.htm#svalbard3>

“Even though Seed Savers' share represents only a small portion of the total deposits at Svalbard, the organization's contribution is unique because the heirloom varieties are mostly seeds conserved by home gardeners.



Here is a small sampling of the varieties in the most recent deposit: Bean-Blue Boy, Cucumber-Spring of Water, Cowpea-Tight Red, Ground Cherry-New Hanover, Melon-Plum Granny, Pepper-Jimmy's Little White Hots, Pumpkin-Algonquian, Tomato-German Pink, and Watermelon-Arikara.”



Svalbard boxes ready for shipment. Each shipment/storage box contains the list of accessions with minimum germplasm data (Institute code, Accessions number, Scientific and common name, Number of seeds per pack, Year of regeneration, Country of origin).



All-America Selections 2011

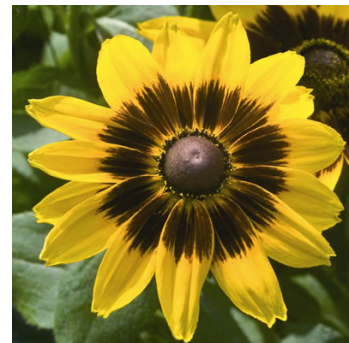
submitted by Karen Ferb

First prize went to Rudbeckia 'Denver Daisy', with 4-6" gold flowers sporting maroon and chocolate centers. The second prize went to Echinacea 'Prairie Splendor' with amethyst flowers. Coming in third was the 12" ornamental pepper 'Purple Flash', with purple leaves and black fruits.

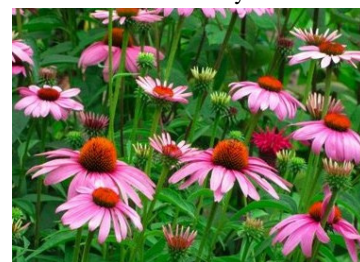
Noteworthy introductions among perennials included Shasta daisy 'Amelia', a single white 5" flower with gold center. Anemone 'Margarete' produces abundant, large, glowing rose flowers with orange centers on 24" stems. I personally hope to find the 'Red Racer' hellebore from the 'Winter Thriller' series, said to produce up to 75 3 1/2" deep velvet red flowers on one plant! Also look for Bergenia 'Lunar Glow' with its deep pink flowers and creamy yellow foliage in spring, finishing brilliant scarlet in the fall.

New Baptisias of the 'Prairieblues' series are 3-5' tall with yellow-orange ('Solar Flare'), soft blue ('Starlite'), and deep purple ('Twilite') flowers.

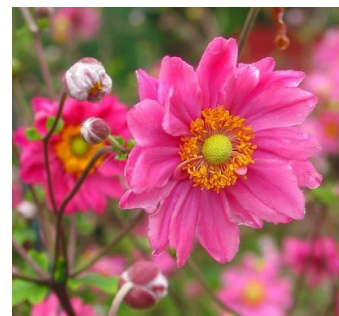
Praiseworthy annual introductions: Celosia 'Cramer's Burgundy' and 'Ruby Parfait' are drama queens with huge, elegant flowers and unusual forms. Look at the size! These plants are grown for the cut flower trade with stems up to 30" tall and long-lasting flowers cut flowers also suitable for drying.



Denver Daisy



Prairie Splendor



Margarete



Red Racer



Cramer's Burgundy

Patchogue Garden Club Calendar of Events—2011

February 22—Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall, corner of Baker Street and South Ocean Avenue, Patchogue.

March 22—Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall

March 27—**St. Patrick's Day Parade**

March 31—**Spring Luncheon**, 10:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Mediterranean Manor, 303 E. Main Street, Patchogue

April 9—**Opening of the Garden** (Rain date, April 10)

April 26—Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall

May 14—**Plant and Yard Sale** (Rain date, May 15)

May 24—Monthly Meeting, 7:00

American Legion Hall

June 11—**Breakfast in the Garden**, 9 a.m. (Rain date, June 12)

Bring a breakfast item for several people

June 28—Monthly Meeting

July 9th—**Garden Tour**

July 26—Monthly Meeting

August 23—Monthly Meeting

September 27—Monthly Meeting

October 25—Monthly Meeting

Harvest Dinner (still undecided)

November 12—**Closing of the Garden** (Rain date, Nov 13)

November 22—Monthly Meeting

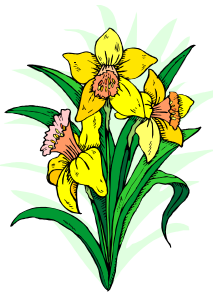
Decoration of the gazebo—still under discussion

Holiday party—still under discussion

Timely Tips for April



- Prepare the soil in the vegetable garden and annual beds
- Sow seeds of garden peas, sweet peas and radishes.
- Fertilize fruit trees
- Examine houseplants-trim to reshape and repot as necessary.
- Prune early-flowering shrubs immediately after flowering.
- Control lawn weeds now through late May before temperatures get too high.
- Continue planting herbaceous perennials until May and divide established ones before growth is too far advanced
- Sow hardy annual seeds outdoors—cornflowers, larkspur, annual poppies, etc.
- Plant new roses. Remove what is remaining of earth mounds and prune established roses.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

“Come grow with us”

Founded 1996

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. ~Charles Dickens