

Patchogue Garden Club's

# Garden Gazette

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

May 2007

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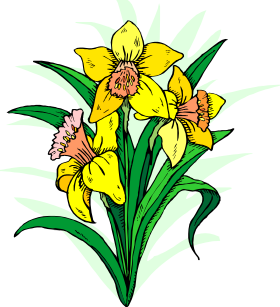
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Or mail to:

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.

## Greetings from the President

Thank you to all the members who came to our Garden Clean Up on Saturday, May 5. Thanks, too, to the four girls from Patchogue-Medford Youth Services, Melissa McGrath, Amanda Sanford, Kayla, and Adriana. The Garden is really starting to come into its own after the winter hibernation. Remember that the Plant and Yard Sale is next Saturday. We need donations of plants and "stuff" that are priced as well as volunteers to help, even if you can only give an hour or so. Items should be dropped off by 8am. Please be prepared to display your priced donations on tables (provided) or on the ground.

Thank you to Ruth and Arlene for attending the Patchogue Medford Community Summit. The turnout from the public was very good and everyone was appreciative of the free seed packets that the ladies distributed.

This month's meeting will be a business meeting without a speaker. We will be discussing the Winona Cottage/Village/Garden Club Partnership, the House Tour and the Street Garden Program as well as our usual committee reports.

See you at the Garden, at the sale, or at the meeting! Carol

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## Mark the Date

- Tuesday, May 22, general meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse, 86 Lake Drive, East Patchogue
  - Saturday, May 19, annual Plant and Yard Sale in the garden. Contact chairperson Carol Tvelia for more information.
  - Saturday, June 9, 9:00 a.m., Breakfast in the Garden—bring a dish to share, your beverage of choice, and a chair if you want to sit down.
  - Monday, May 28, Patchogue Village Memorial Day Parade
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## Garden Festival 2007

The Ornamental Horticulture Teaching Gardens, Farmingdale State College Route 110, Farmingdale, NY, is offering a guided tour of the four-acre teaching gardens, gardening workshops on container gardening, growing roses, landscaping, pruning and composting; crafts and plants for sale Saturday and Sunday, Jun. 9 & Jun. 10, 10 AM to 5 PM. Free. For more information, call 420-2075



## April Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ Mary Ann Tchinnis reported that the Christmas House Tour would be on or about December 9th. Volunteers were requested for the committee. We already have some homes lined up and are looking for more homes that will be nicely decorated in the Patchogue area.
- ❖ Paula Murphy reported that the Village approached her about the new Patchogue Village band shell at Shorefront Park. They have a budget; garden club members are needed for design and planting.



'Angel Cheeks'  
Herbaceous Peony



'Zephyrus', Tree Peony

## Plant of the Month

The number of herbaceous and tree peonies is expanding rapidly, with more variety in flower form and color and plant sizes. Peonies are long lived perennials, many plants of 50 or even 100 years old that still produce beautiful flowers. They require a well drained fertile soil and like a soil ph of 6 to 7.2. Full sunlight is preferred by peonies but they will tolerate shade part of the day. Plant spacing is dependant on variety with herbaceous types needing from 18" for dwarf varieties to 5' for large growing types. Tree peonies are generally spaced from 4 to 6 feet. Sizes range from 12" ('Elfin Beauty'); 'Thumbelina') to the 5-6' 'White Innocence', so peonies can be found for any purpose from rock garden specimens to hedges. Hardy to Zone 3, a selection of varieties can provide seven weeks of bloom. The usual planting time is fall, but container grown plants can be set out in spring. The growing eye of herbaceous peonies must be no more than 2" below the surface, tree peonies with the graft union 4-6" deep. Plan ahead for fall planting!



'Elfin Beauty'



## Did You Know George Washington Shopped Here, 1789?

The first commercial nursery in the country was established at Flushing, Long Island, by Robert Prince in 1737. The nursery was carried on by four generations of Princes until after the Civil War. Eight acres expanded eventually to 113 acres. The nursery gathered trees and plants from around the world for resale, and became renowned throughout the American colony for its exotic wares. When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored the Northwest during the Jefferson Administration, many of the botanical treasures they found were sent back to the Prince Nursery.

## Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

### Lucky Long Islanders

Long Island residents should consider themselves extremely fortunate in the numerous nurseries and historic gardens (Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Old Westbury Gardens, Planting Fields Arboretum, Longwood Estate, to name a few) to wander through to stir their horticultural imagination. Peconic River Herb Farm in Calverton has scheduled garden walks through their nursery (Saturday June 9th, Sunday July 15th, Sat. Aug. 18th, Sun. Sept. 16th and Sat. Oct. 13th) at 10 to 12 each day. They are planning organized walks through their display gardens (shade, riverfront, full sun, i.e.). There is no fee or registration required and only a heavy downpour will cancel these walks. Need more time or a different date? Schedule a free one-on-one garden consultation or a garden walk for your group [www.prherbfarm.com](http://www.prherbfarm.com), 369-0058



Planting Fields Arboretum, located in Oyster Bay is 409 acres of horticultural delight. On June 1st, they will be holding a plant auction with proceeds going to their wide ranging educational programs. They are currently contacting local businesses and organizations for donations of unusual, hard to find and rare plants for their auction. The auction list will be viewable on line. If you have never been to, or it has been a few years since your last visit, I highly recommend a day's excursion to see the many changes that have been made to this State Historic Park. [www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org), 516-922-9210

Hostesses for the  
March Meeting:

Anne Marie Coakley  
Arlene Lamberti  
Joan Monko  
Paula Murphy

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



As always, thanks to  
all of our hostesses,  
past, present, future.

### NO EXCUSES!

What does 7A mean to you? An exit on the Long Island Expressway? It is really an important classification for Long Island gardeners on the USDA hardiness zone map that tells you what plants will survive in specific climates, showing the lowest annual minimum winter temperature groupings with a 10 degree difference. Since Long Island is surrounded by water, we are also influenced by microclimates because water holds heat and also exposes those close to the water to cold winds from the East. Nurseries, gardening books and magazines include the zone information in their plant descriptions so you'll know if the specific plant will thrive in your location. The USDA is working on a new and improved digital map that will be interactive. Users will be able to click on a town and get specific information for their exact location. A study is being done to see if this map should be updated due to the weather changes with a possibility of increasing the number of zones throughout the U.S. Until the new revised zonal map appears, you can't use this excuse if your new perennial you bought down south doesn't survive. [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov)

## TILLING AND TOILING IN MAY



- Treat yourself to at least one great new plant before the best selection is gone.
- Water regularly, if it doesn't rain; water new plants even if rain is predicted.
- Deadhead spring blooming bulbs, but let the foliage grow until it yellows.
- Give everything a good feeding to get things growing.
- Plant or transplant trees and shrubs before the heat of summer.
- Start digging that pond you've been talking about.
- Clean bird feeders.
- Turn the compost.
- Keep a watch out for asparagus beetles, aphids, cabbage worms, cutworms, scale, slugs and snails and any signs of fungal diseases such as leaf or fruit spot, mildew, and rust.
- Rip out invasives while the soil is damp, before they spread even further.



## Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m., at the Swan Lake Civic Association Clubhouse.



On every stem, on every leaf ... and at the root of everything that grew, was a professional specialist in the shape of grub, caterpillar, aphid, or other expert, whose business it was to devour that particular part.  
– Oliver Wendell Holmes

