

Patchogue Garden Club's

# Garden Gazette

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

November 2007

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Mary Ann Tchinnis

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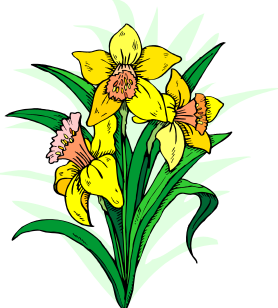
Barbara Aragon

### Historian:

Josephine Miller

### Immediate Past President:

Karen Ferb



## Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Karen Ferb

Mary Ann Tchinnis

Guy Vitale

Richard Waldman

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Garden Gazette

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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

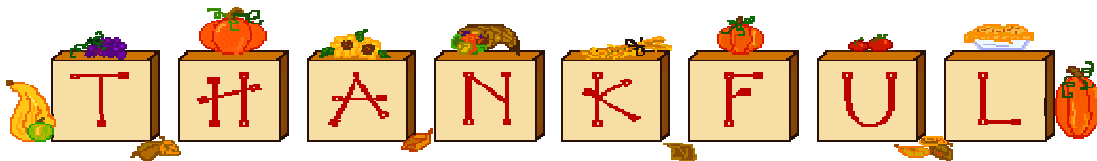
Happy Thanksgiving to All!

The final planning for the house tour is now in full swing. If you took flyers at our last meeting please post them around the town or your work place. Don't forget to purchase your ticket(s). The tour is Sunday, December 9 from 1-6 pm.

We may still need "sitters", so please contact Mary Ann if you can give some time.

Hopefully you have all managed to put your own gardens "to bed". I am still working on mine. I am counting on an accurate forecast for this week and no precipitation on Wednesday as promised. I still have bulbs to plant, perennials to cut back, and windbreaks to put up, as well as decorating for the house tour!

Enjoy your holiday and don't get trampled in the Black Friday shopping crowds. See you in January at our next meeting. Carol



## Mark the Date

- NB: No general meetings are scheduled for November or December.
- Sunday, December 9, 1-6 PM, our Christmas House Tour, "Homes for the Holidays". Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from Mary Ann Tchinnis or Karen Ferb or at Remember Yesteryear or Country Junque.
- Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 7 PM, regular meeting at Swan Lake Civic club house. Please bring your Chinese Auction baskets and other contributions to this meeting. You may also drop them at Georgia Dulmovits' house after the New Year.

## October Meeting in a Flash

The main business was the presentation of the slate of candidates for next year's executive board. All members signed on to serve another year and were enthusiastically and unanimously re-elected.



*W. fragarioides*



*S. koyamae*



*V. hexandra*, flower

## Plants of the Month: Six Spreaders for Shady Spots

In addition to the standard groundcovers for shade (e.g., ivy, ajuga, pachysandra, hosta, some ferns, epimedium, heuchera, tiarella, and lily turf) there are lesser-known ones worthy of being sought out.

Mat-forming *Lysimachia japonica* 'Minutissima' or miniature moneywort, only 1" tall, has tiny curved evergreen (to 15 degrees) jade leaves and yellow flowers in early summer. It is slow growing and hardy to -10, withstanding blazing heat and high winds. It is also suitable for planting where there is moderate to heavy foot traffic. *Salvia koyamae*, woodland sage, about a foot tall, has large downy leaves, 7-8" wide and long, and bright golden flowers in the fall. *Waldsteinia fragarioides*, the barren strawberry, is a 4" charmer forming a dense mat of evergreen leaves and bearing bright gold flowers for many weeks in spring. Our western native *Vancouveria hexandra* (inside-out flower) also performs in the east, making elegant foot-high and wide masses of green leaflets with panicles of small white flowers in summer. *Saxifraga stolonifera* is a prodigious producer of round silver-veined leaves and white flowers in spring. It is best in acid soil and withstands intense summer heat. Finally, a creeping sedum notable for thriving in dry shade is *Sedum ternatum*, the crowsfoot sedum, with succulent blue-green leaves and white star flowers in spring.



*S. stolonifera*

*S. ternatum*

*V. hexandra*, leaf detail



All in November's soaking mist  
 We stand and prune the naked tree,  
 While all our love and interest  
 Seem quenched in the blue-nosed misery.

- Ruth Pitter, 1897-1992, *The Diehards*, 1941

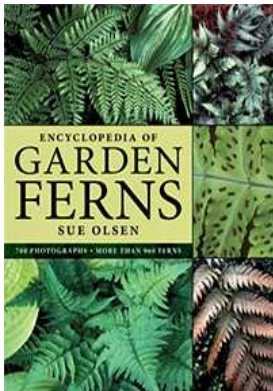
## Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman



In the history of 20th century garden design, one name repeatedly appears more than others: Gertrude Jekyll, 1843-1932. She was the designer for more than 400 gardens throughout the UK, Europe and the US. Many of these gardens were done in association with the English architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. Her approach to garden design was formed through her schooling at South Kensington School of Art, lending her designs a painterly touch influenced by the Impressionists. Many feel that her deteriorating eyesight also contributed to the color schemes found in her work. Her influence on garden design continues through her writing, more than 15 books and numerous magazine articles. The actual gardens created during her lifetime have been either planted over or lost, but some are now being restored. A trip to the British Isles is just a jump across the pond; many intact gardens are open to the public where you can experience her planting schemes yourself. But in the late 1970's the plans she drew up for the Glebe House Museum in the Litchfield Hills area of Connecticut were discovered. The gardens now being completed include a 600 foot long English style mixed border with foundation plantings and a rose allee. Road trip anyone? For more info, see [www.theglebehouse.org](http://www.theglebehouse.org) and [www.museumgardenhistory.org](http://www.museumgardenhistory.org).

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## Book Review



Checking the library for this month's offering, Sue Olsen's "The Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns" (Timber Press, 2007), I got a big surprise. It is available as an EBook at Patchogue Medford, meaning you can access it at home using your library card bar code. It is also available in hard copy from three other branches via ILL.

This comprehensive guide, lavishly illustrated with 700 beautiful color photos, describes nearly 1,000 ferns. It includes instructions on cultivating ferns in woodland and rock gardens, in containers, on walls, in bogs and indoors, giving details regarding colors, pests and companion plants.

Gardeners who seek an up-to-date, authoritative guide to the wealth of garden-worthy ferns available today will find none better than Sue Olsen with her four decades of experience as a fern specialist at her renowned fern nursery Foliage Gardens in Bellevue WA. If you love ferns, see [www.foliagegardens.com/](http://www.foliagegardens.com/).

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There is no season such delight can bring  
As summer, autumn, winter, and the spring.

- William Browne, "Variety", 17th c.

## About Town



Mature American Elm

Thanks to trustee Lori Devlin, efforts are underway to have Patchogue Village designated a Tree City USA. This fall, a survey was done to catalog the types and condition of our street trees. Last week seven new trees, four hawthorn and three Cleveland pears were planted on North Ocean Avenue. A Prairie Fire Crabapple is now the centerpiece of the area where the old railroad tower used to be on South Ocean Avenue. American Liberty Elms, 14-19 feet tall, will be planted in the beds in the Oak Street parking lot. Now 250,000 of six DED (Dutch elm disease resistant) cultivars have been planted in 650 communities. In the 18 years since their introduction, fewer than 100 cases of DED have occurred. For more information, see [www.libertyelm.com/](http://www.libertyelm.com/)



## Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996

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No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member -  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds -  
*November!* - Thomas Hood, *No!*

