

Patchogue Garden Club's

# Garden Gazette

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

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**Second Vice President:**  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
Joanna Drake  
**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Lynn Kane  
**Parliamentarian:**  
Sandra Franco  
**Historian:**  
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**Immediate Past Presidents:**  
Barbara Gustafson  
Kathy Marcus



**Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:**  
Barbara Aragon  
Josephine Brennan  
Carolyn Savastano  
Ruth Shackelford  
Richard Waldman

Please email submissions to  
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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*.

October 2006

## Greetings from the President

For all of you who couldn't make it to the dedication of the community garden extension and the reception in honor of the garden and the Club's 10th anniversary, my sympathy. It was a fine afternoon, in spite of weather prognostications to the contrary; blue sky, warm sun, and light breezes prevailed. Our speakers were brief and entertaining. The shed was left open for all to admire the urn and benches soon to be installed in the new garden. The hardscaping was otherwise complete, and the garden is ready for planting. We came away with FOUR proclamations citing our good works, one from Assemblywoman Patricia Eddington (who attended along with husband Legislator Jack Eddington), one from Senator Cesar Trunzo, one from Brookhaven Town Supervisor Brian X. Foley, and, last but not least, a very impressive gold and white one from the Village of Patchogue. You can see these at the next meeting. Be sure to watch our Web site for photos of the event ([patchoguegardenclub.com](http://patchoguegardenclub.com)), and look for Irene Virag's story, coming soon to *Newsday*.



## Mark the Date

- Sunday, October 22, 4:00-10:00 p.m.  
Annual Harvest Dinner at the Domino Yacht Club, 484 Roe Avenue, East Patchogue.
- Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.  
October general meeting to be held at the North Patchogue Fire Department.
- Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. until ?  
Put the Community Garden to bed; rain date, Sunday, November 5
- Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 p.m.  
November general meeting
- Thursday, March 8, 2007  
"Think Spring" luncheon. It's not too early to start thinking of baskets to make or items to donate to be made into a basket.

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## 2007 Slate of Candidates

Mary Ann Tchinnis, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, will be presenting the 2007 slate of candidates for officers of the Club at the October meeting. This is an important event for the Club, so please make an effort to be there and have your voice heard. If anyone wishes to run for any office, please contact Mary Ann before the meeting at 289-8122. Nominations also may be made from the floor at the meeting.



## Hostesses for the October Meeting

MJ Merrifield, Paula Murphy and Guy Vitale have volunteered to hostess the October meeting. Three are sufficient this month because there will be a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake. Volunteers are reminded to arrive by 6:20 p.m. to begin preparations.

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## A Special Thanks

Joanna Drake sends out a special thanks to the members of the Refreshments Committee for a job well done: Ellen Brandt, Joan Delaney, Georgia Dulmovits, Joan Kattau, Arlene Lamberti, Ann Rubbo, Carolyn Savastano and Ruth Szuminskyj.

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## September Meeting in a Flash

- ❖ Our speaker was Ann Carpenter, who discussed spring and summer flowering bulbs. Thanks, Ann!
- ❖ Members voted to raffle off a gift certificate for a month's membership at Ultimate Fitness Patchogue at the Harvest Dinner on October 22.
- ❖ Diane Voland from the Design Committee reported that the bricks have been placed in the new garden and that the lampposts have been ordered and are expected to arrive soon. The Club has purchased benches and an urn and the hardscaping is expected to be completed by the time of the dedication of the new garden extension.
- ❖ Paula Murphy, chair of the Garden Club Committee, reported that the Committee has looked at several gardens and homes for next year's tour.
- ❖ Joanna Drake reported on new procedures for hostesses to follow, including a new electronic key that has to be obtained from the Fire Department office in order to access the kitchen.
- ❖ Sandra Franco is working on getting a discount for Club members at Great Gardens in Yaphank, a wholesale garden supply center.

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## Pond Madness

Reliable Gardens and Fence in Middle Island, a garden store that specializes in pond equipment and fish (and also sells the usual garden store products), held a two-day, all-pond tour in September. Don't miss it next year! They did an extraordinary job of creating an interesting itinerary not only of the ponds, but of the various kinds of gardens and total environments in which those ponds were placed. There were about ten ponds and gardens on each day of the tour, and they were as different as the personalities of the people who created them. Plus, Reliable Gardens provided a fifty-passenger bus, and breakfast and lunch, all at no charge. However, because of the huge response (the bus was filled both days), Reliable Gardens will probably be charging a fee next year – but it will be well worth your time and money. Whether you are thinking of building a pond, already have a pond, or just enjoy taking garden tours, you will get many ideas for your own garden and will marvel at the variety, beauty and creativity of the many ponds that you will see. (Thanks to Bill Schiavo of the Shoreham Garden Club for the information in this item.)



## Serious Dirt from Richard Waldman

### Pumpkin Lore



Did you know that the use of pumpkins as Jack O'Lanterns at Halloween comes from an ancient Celtic custom brought to America by Irish immigrants? October 31 (All Hallows Eve) marked the end of the Celtic calendar year. Back then, turnips, beets and rutabagas were hollowed out, a candle was inserted into them and they were placed on windowsills and porches to welcome the spirits of deceased ancestors to the home and to ward off evil spirits, including a particularly restless soul named "Stingy Jack."

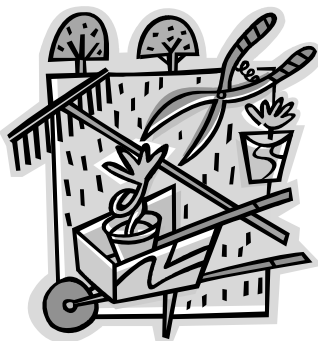
Pumpkins were first cultivated by native peoples in Central America, long before the first European explorers arrived in the Americas in the 1500s. Although we don't know for sure, it is very likely that some form of pumpkin was served at the first Thanksgiving celebrated in 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. American Indians introduced the English settlers to pumpkins and taught them how to cook them. From diaries and letters, we know that these settlers baked a custard made of milk, honey or maple syrup and spices in hollowed-out pumpkin shells. Pumpkin pie as we know it owes its heritage to this early version

Pumpkins belong to the genus *Cucurbita Cucurbitaceae* and are technically fruits, not vegetables. The largest pumpkin ever grown showed up at the Rhode Island Weigh-off on October 7 this year. Weighing in at 1,502 pounds, this pumpkin was the first official one to break the 1500-pound barrier. The average-sized pumpkin takes about 120 days to mature on the vine. The pumpkin's orange coloring comes from a high concentration of carotene pigments, including lutein, alpha-carotene, and beta-carotene, making it a healthy food. Pumpkins are not just for decoration!

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### Another Garden Gadget!

Club member Heather Georgiou alerted us to a new garden tool. Here is what she says about it: It's called the Weed Claw 2 Piece Bulb Drill and it only costs \$5.11. The box contains two attachments that you connect to a drill in the same way you would connect a drill bit to a drill. One is for weeding, but I haven't tried that one yet. The other one digs a hole perfect for bulbs in seconds. The attachment is long enough so that you don't have to bend down to dig the holes. I was so happy with this I had to share it with you. If anyone is thinking of buying this tool, I got it at Home Depot on Route 112 in Patchogue.

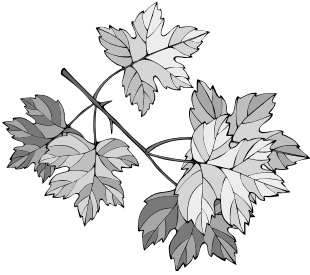



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### Tilling and Toiling in November

- Continue mowing the lawn as long as the grass is growing.
- Cut bearded iris foliage down to 5 inches and clean up debris that may harbor borers.
- Keep watering, especially newly planted perennials and shrubs. Keep weeding, too.
- Wait until the ground freezes to lay down mulch.
- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Protect semi-hardy evergreens and evergreens in windy areas with a burlap barrier that is open at the top. This will help protect the plants from wind damage.
- Inventory your gardening tools and take advantage of end-of-the-season sales to replace damaged tools or to add something you don't already have.

## A Little Garden Poetry



The morns are meeker than they were,  
The nuts are getting brown;  
The berry's cheek is plumper,  
The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,  
The field a scarlet gown.  
Lest I should be old-fashioned,  
I'll put a trinket on.

— Emily Dickinson, *Nature 27 - Autumn*



## Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

“Come grow with us”

Founded 1996

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m., at the North Patchogue Fire Department.

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Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter.

~Carol Bishop Hipps

