

Patchogue Garden Club's

Garden Gazette

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

October 2008

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Mary Ann Tchinnis

Second Vice President:

Guy Vitale

Treasurer:

Paula Murphy

Recording Secretary:

Sandra Franco

Corresponding Secretary:

Diane Voland

Parliamentarian:

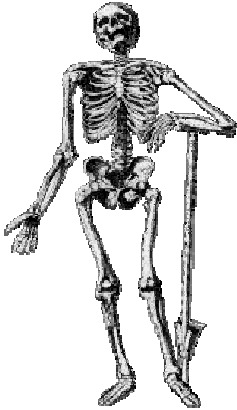
Barbara Aragon

Historian:

Josephine Miller

Immediate Past President:

Karen Ferb



Garden Gazette Editorial Staff:

Karen Ferb

Mary Ann Tchinnis

Guy Vitale

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*.

Greetings from the President

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Harvest Dinner such a success. We had over 30 attendees and lots of wonderful entrees, desserts, and libations. It was certainly one of our most successful dinners. The Patchogue Beach Club was a perfect location; as we ate we were treated to a beautiful fall sunset.

We will be voting for a new executive board at this month's meeting. Thank you to Georgia and Jo Miller for organizing the nominating and election committee.

We have received a request from the Patchogue Historical Society to take over the maintenance of the grounds of the Swan River Schoolhouse on Roe Avenue in East Patchogue. We will discuss this at this month's meeting.

The warm temperatures have delayed the turning of the leaves and the falling of the leaves, which means many of us will be raking well into December again this year. As long as the layer is not too deep, and if you run them over first with the lawn mower, leaves make a terrific mulch. Just don't pile on the large maple leaves, as they form a heavy layer when wet, slowing decomposition and in extreme cases causing root rot of perennials. *Carol*



Mark the Date

- ☑ Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 7 PM, membership meeting at the Hagerman Fire Department on the corner of Dunton Avenue and Oakdale Avenue in East Patchogue. The speaker will be Dick Richardson on purple martins.
- ☑ Saturday, November 1, 2008 (rain date November 2), 9 AM-?, putting the community garden at South Ocean Ave. and Terry St to bed. Workers needed! Bring gloves, tools, plastic bags and energy! Any amount of time you can give will help. Many hands make light work, so bring friends too! The club will provide bagels and coffee.
- ☑ Drop off evergreen and berry cuttings for centerpieces for the Christmas House Tour on Nov. 29 and 30 at Karen's, 270 West Ave.
- ☑ Wednesday, December 3, 10:00 AM, the tour centerpieces will be made at Karen's. All who wish to participate are welcome. Let Mary Ann know.
- ☑ Sunday, December 7, 2008, our 2nd Annual Christmas House Tour from 2:00 PM to 6 PM. Please sign up to house sit at this meeting and sell tickets to your friends. Details are in the enclosed flyer.



O. arboreum in autumn



O. arboreum in bloom

October

Happy Hostesses,
appreciated, as always:

Countess Dracula
Frau Frankenstein
The Witches of Eastwick:
Alex, Sukie & Jane with
devilish Darryl van Horne
Annemarie Cookley
Joanna Drakula
Coven Ferb



Plant of the Month: An Unsung Jewel, *O. arboreum*

Oxydendron arboreum, sourwood, is one of our most unappreciated native trees, a deciduous, medium tall tree that grows to heights of 30-60'. It has a slender pyramid form, often with a curved or leaning trunk. The bark is rusty-brown and smooth when young, later becoming rough and furrowed. The leaves are simple oblong, up to 10" long that are rich green and glossy on top and held alternately on the stems and, like the sap, have an acid taste. Sourwood is brilliant in fall when the leaves turn red and scarlet and some-times almost purple. In spring and early summer white blossoms are born on long drooping racemes that are 8-10" in length. The small white flowers are about 1/3" long and shaped like urns held upside down along the length of the raceme. The blossoms are fragrant and resemble those of its cousin, the blueberry, another member of the family Ericaceae. At the tip of each branch, several racemes are held in groups called panicles that droop toward the ground and impart a graceful aspect to this fine little tree. Due to the similarity of the flowers and its fragrance, this tree is also commonly called the lily-of-the-valley tree.

Sourwood likes fertile, acidic woodland soils but is adaptable; moist, well drained soil is best. It will grow in part shade, but the best fall color requires more sun. It is hardy in USDA Zones 5-9. Seeds are sown in autumn. Root semi-ripe cuttings in summer, treat with rooting hormone powder for best results.

Book Review: "In Defense of Food"

By Michael Pollan, this book is a brilliant and thorough expose of the food processing industry which attempts to add "nutrition" to its denatured products and shows how a return to the organic-local-slow food diet of our ancestors can restore real pleasure to eating as well as counter the current rise in obesity, diabetes and heart disease. At the library, so get growing!

Bayshore Garden Club Luncheon

Thursday, December 11, at Southward Ho. Boutique at 10:00 AM, program at 11:00 AM, luncheon to follow talk. The speaker is Jeffrey Miklos (Floral designer from New Jersey). The cost is \$42. Choice of Chicken, Beef, Salmon or Veggie. Send reservations to Betty DeNinno, 81 Adelaide Lane, East Islip 11730-2203.

First Patchogue Christmas House Tour in *Newsday*

Look for photos from our last year's Christmas House Tour in *Newsday* the day after Thanksgiving.

Members, Please Take Note!

There will be a meeting on November 25 **ONLY** if officers are not elected in October because Thanksgiving is on November 28. There will be no newsletters in November or December. The first meeting of 2009 will be January 27 at Hagerman Fire Department. Please pay your dues early, \$15 individual, \$20 family, to save time for our treasurer. Thanks!

NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS By Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor and Dr. Vern Grubinger, Extension Associate Professor, University of Vermont

You don't need to watch the nightly weather forecast on your local television station to know that there is a chill in the air. Plants feel it, too, and like people, need to bundle up for the winter.

Mulching is one of the best lines of defense for perennial plants against chilling temperatures. Mulching also can prevent the repeated freezing and thawing of soil that causes plants to "heave" out of the ground.

But the trick is not to mulch too soon. Mulching needs to be done after the ground starts to freeze but before the first significant snowfall of the year. If you mulch sooner, mice and other rodents may nest in the mulch, and plants may not be completely dormant. In general, the end of November is a good time to apply mulch in Vermont although if an early snowstorm is predicted, you may want to apply mulch before it hits.

You can use pine needles, straw, leaves, or shredded bark. Straw is the best mulch because it is hollow and that provides good insulation. If you use leaves, make sure they are finely chopped to prevent them from matting down.

Apply a layer at least three to four inches thick around each plant. After you've laid it down, gently pull it away from the trunks and stems to give plants room to breathe. This helps prevent disease problems. Deeper mulching may be necessary in especially cold or windy sites.

To protect evergreens from cold, biting winter winds, build a windbreak. Place posts in the ground on the sides most prone to seasonal winds (usually north and west), and wrap with old feed sacks or burlap. Avoid plastic as this will heat up, causing the plants to burn on sunny days.

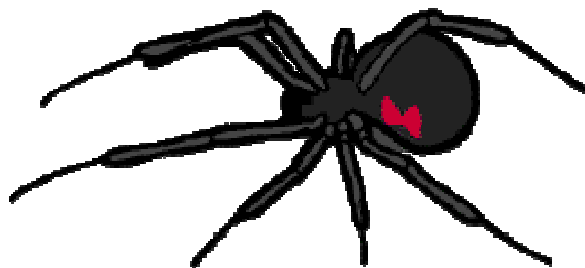
Winter sun can scald newly planted trees. Protect them by wrapping the trunks with special tree wrapping tape, which you can buy at most garden centers. Add four to six inches of shredded bark, wood chips, or leaves around the base of the tree. After applying, gently pull mulch away from the base. Wrapping also provides some protection against hungry mice.

In the garden, there's still time to finish fall clean up, removing stakes, string, and plastic as well as fibrous vines and stems and rotting vegetables. This is also a good time to have your soil tested, so you'll be all set to go next spring.

Soil test kits, with complete instructions for sampling soil, are available from the [Cornell Cooperative Extension] The basic test costs \$15 for 1-4 samples. See <http://64.233.169.104/search?q=cache:cauxFdNi7yqJ:www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk/grownet/diagnostic-forms/soiltest.pdf+cornell+cooperative+extension+bayard+cutting&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=4&gl=us> for details.

Late fall is not a good time to add fertilizer to the garden. That's because nutrients would be lost through leaching or erosion before plants can use them next spring. However, you could get your composted manure delivered for next season. Be sure to cover it with plastic to keep nutrients from leaching out over the winter.

Like ornamental plants, strawberries benefit from mulch protection, especially when snow cover is shallow or non-existent during winter. Clean straw is superior to hay as mulch because it doesn't add weed seeds to the garden. Apply three to five inches after a hard frost and the strawberry leaves are lying flat on the ground, usually mid to late November, to protect crowns and roots against cold injury and drying out.



PATCHOGUE GARDEN CLUB'S
CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR
"HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS"



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008, FROM 2:00 – 6:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 2 THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2008, AT
COUNTRY JUNQUE, FANTASTIC GARDENS, REMEMBER YESTERYEAR
AND THE PATCHOGUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
\$20.00 PER PERSON

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 289-8122 OR 758-2671

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT FRIENDS OF THE WINONA

Please note: Only 250 tickets will be sold. The tour is limited to guests 12 years and over.

Slate of Candidates for Officers of the Patchogue Garden Club 2009

President:	Guy Vitale	Unopposed
First Vice President:	Diane Volland	Unopposed
Second Vice President:	Sandra Franco or June Petruccelli	
Recording Secretary:	Babette Bishop	Unopposed
Corresponding Secretary:	Carolyn Savastano	Unopposed
Treasurer:	Carol Tvelia	Unopposed
Parliamentarian:	Mary Ann Tchinnis	Unopposed

Anyone who cannot attend the meeting may designate a proxy. Please notify Jo Miller of your proxy before the meeting.



Patchogue Garden Club

P.O. Box 3030

Patchogue, NY 11772-0887

"Come grow with us"

Founded 1996



An' little Orphant Annie says, when the blaze is blue
An' the lamp-wick sputters, an' the wind goes woo-oo!
An' you hear the crickets quit, an' the moon is gray,
An' the lightnin' bugs in dew is all squenched away,--
You better mind yer parents, and yer teachers fond an' dear,
An' churish them 'at loves you, an' dry the orphant's tear,
An' he'p the pore an' needy ones 'at clusters all about,
Er the Gobble-uns 'll git you ef you don't watch out!
-- From "The Little Orphant Annie" by James Whitcomb Riley,
Hoosier poet, 1849-1916