

# Shoreham Garden Club Newsletter



March/April 2011, Volume XXV, No. 2

## President's Message

Diana Fuchs

I am keeping my fingers crossed that spring is right around the corner. Enough is enough with the snow!!!

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Board hosted its first **New Members Tea** at Sheila Sussman's house to welcome our new members, to tell them about the Shoreham Garden Club, to hear about their interests, and to encourage their active participation in the activities of the Club. I walked away from the tea very excited about the great new people we have in our club. Some of their interests included vegetable gardening, container planting and perennials. We will include information in the newsletter on some of these topics and we hope you find it helpful. In addition, we will see what else we can incorporate in our future activities. Thank you Sheila for your hospitality, the wonderful tea and goodies you prepared and your creative floral favors.



Our next meeting will be on **March 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Shoreham Village Hall. We will be having a formal business meeting before the speaker. I would appreciate if everyone could try to make this meeting. I want to take time to discuss with all of you the current status of the SGC, and to share some thoughts that members have brought to me on changes they would like to see in the SGC etc. In addition, we will be passing out a questionnaire to gauge your interest on some new ideas that we have been tossing around. I look forward to seeing you there.

## Upcoming Events

### March Meeting

On Saturday, March 19 Mark Cappellino, a marine educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County., will give a presentation on ***Rain Gardens: Landscaping to Protect Long Island's Water Quality***. Cornell Cooperative Extension is currently working with Suffolk County to implement a stormwater management program. The Environmental Protection Agency considers stormwater pollution the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

A rain garden is a planted depression that allows rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas like roofs, driveways, walkways and parking lots to be absorbed for ground water recharge.

We plan to open with a business meeting followed by the speaker at 11:00.

### April Meeting

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Ryan Santelli, a certified arborist and landscape designer, will present ***Landscape/Tree Mistakes***. We will look at mistakes made, even by professionals, and learn from them to better our gardens.

Both meetings will be held at the **Shoreham Village Hall**. Donations of Finger foods are gratefully accepted. We will gather for refreshments at 10:00 a.m.

## New Member Tea

On Sunday afternoon, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Board hosted a tea at Sheila Sussman's home to welcome the club's newest members: **Kathleen Schnoor, Judy and Carlos de Salgado, Denise Mullady, Yvette Nathaniel, Jean Ozol and Jean Simendinger**. Regrettably, new members **Elizabeth Clarke** and daughter **Elisha May** were unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

Kathleen Schnoor is a Shoreham Village resident and happily expecting her first child. Also from Shoreham Village are Judy and Carlos de Salgado. Judy's mother, Mary Oliver, was club president in 1947. We are so happy to have Judy and Carlos join us to continue a family legacy. Denise Mullady is from Rocky Point, Yvette Nathaniel is from Calverton, and Jean Ozol and Jean Simendinger are both from Wading River.

The board members there to welcome them were **Diana Fuchs, Pat Thompson, Gloria Affatato**, and **Sheila Sussman**, along with Committee Chairs **Jo Alio** (Ways and Means) and **Barbara Foley** (Horticulture and also a member of the Advisory Committee).

With the snow almost all melted, the sunshine pouring in through the windows, and much animated friendly conversation, one might have believed spring was smiling on us. **Vicki McLane**, was unable to attend but sent over her famous scones and a pot of Devonshire clotted cream for everyone to enjoy, and many gifts of food and flowers were shared and exchanged. A perfect way for gardeners to spend a winter's afternoon!

Party Favor



## Rain Gardens

- Rain Gardens reduce stormwater pollution from entering our local bodies of water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that stormwater pollution is the number one source of water pollution in the U.S.
- Rain Gardens increase the amount of water that recharges local aquifers. Here in Suffolk County, we all rely on groundwater as a water source in our homes and businesses
- Rain Gardens enhance the beauty and value of your property. Plants can provide habitat for birds and food sources for butterflies.

*Mark Cappellino*



### 2011 Executive Board

President – Diana Fuchs  
Vice-President – Pat Thompson  
Secretary – Gloria Affatato  
Treasurer – Sheila Sussman  
Newsletter Editor – Vicki McLane  
Program Chair – Carol Ryan  
Past President – Vicki McLane

**Next Board Meeting**  
**25 Circle Drive, Shoreham**

March 10

## Spring Plant Sale

On Saturday, May 21, we will be holding our annual spring Plant Sale. This year to provide more variety we plan to grow some plants to sell. We need volunteers to help with this. The Club will provide seeds or you may select your own.

The seeds we have include 11 different herbs, including Chamomile and St. John's Wort, plus yarrow, Calendula, Echinacea (Bravado Purple Coneflowers), Tithinia (Mexican Sunflower), Helichrysum (Strawflower), and Amaranth (Love Lies Bleeding). If you are willing to pot up 12 to 24 plants to sell, the remaining are yours to keep. We also have small pots and growing medium available.

If you are willing to help, you may pick up the seeds from Vicki McLane, 15 Circle Drive, Shoreham (please call first: 744-8765). The seeds will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. The seeds will also be available at the March meeting.

Also, as you clean up your garden this spring, remember to pot up anything from your garden that you are willing to donate. There will be

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

*Audrey Hepburn*

## Community Projects

We are still looking for a **Community Projects Chair**. If you would like to see the Club get involved in projects for the benefit of the community at large, please consider volunteering. Past projects have included landscaping for Habitat for Humanity and planting a perennial garden at the John J. Foley Nursing Facility.

The Community Projects Chair would select projects in consultation with the Executive Board and appoint and work with committees to oversee them.

## Invasive Plants

At the Herb Workshop in November, Ronnie Schiavo brought a sample of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), an invasive, non-native biennial herb that is becoming a major problem on Long Island. It propagates by seed, and can cross-pollinate or self-pollinate.

In the first year of growth, the plants form attractive clumps of round shaped, slightly wrinkled leaves, that when crushed smell like garlic.



The next year plants flower in spring, producing cross shaped white flowers in dense clusters, as the flowering stems bloom they elongate into a spike-like shape.

## From the Editor

Please send me any interesting gardening tidbits or photos to include in future newsletters.

Also, please email me to let me know what you would like to see in the newsletter.



Some of the Habitat for Humanity Planting Crew, 2006

## Shoreham Garden Club Events Schedule 2011

March 19	10:00 am	<b>Rain Gardens</b> , Mark Cappellino, Cornell Marine Laboratory. Shoreham Village Hall
April 11	10:00 am	<b>Second District Spring Luncheon</b> . Crest Hollow Country Club.
April 16	10:00 am	<b>Learning from Other People's Mistakes</b> , Ryan Santelli. Shoreham Village Hall
May 21		<b>Plant Sale</b> . <i>(Location to be announced)</i>
June		<b>Mid-Summer Night Garden Party</b> . <i>(Location and date to be announced)</i>
July		<b>Garden Tour</b> . <i>(Location and date to be announced)</i>
September 17	10:00 am	<b>General Meeting/Speaker</b> . Shoreham Village Hall.
October 15	10:00 am	<b>General Meeting/Speaker</b> . Shoreham Village Hall.
October		<b>Second District Fall Luncheon</b> . Crest Hollow Country Club.
November 19		<b>Member workshop</b> . <i>(Location to be announced)</i>
December 4		<b>Holiday Party</b> . <i>(Location to be announced)</i>

### Member News

**Yvette Nathaniel** has agreed to take the position of **Plant Resources Chair**. It was largely due to Yvette's efforts we set a new record in the amount we raised in the 2010 bulb sale. Thank you, Yvette!

**2011 Membership dues** are now due. Dues are \$30 for a Full Member or \$50 for a Dual Membership. Add an additional \$10 for an Associate Member. (Associate Members must be members of your household).

#### Welcome new member:

Denise Mullady, Rocky Point

### Committees

**Community Projects:** *(volunteer needed)*

**Horticulture:** Barbara Foley

**Hospitality:** Bill Schiavo, Peter Kahn & Charlie Thompson

**Membership:** Pat Thompson, Elaine Squires, Carol Ryan & Vicki McLane

**Plant Resources:** Yvette Nathaniel

**Publicity:** Ronnie Schiavo

**Scholarship:** Carol Willen

**Sunshine:** Elaine Squires

**Ways and Means:** Jo Alio

**Webmaster & Historian:** Mimi Oberdorf

**Advisory Committee:** Vicki McLane, Kathy DiPierro, Barbara Foley, Cathy Silverstein

## Garden Bits

### Growing Tomato Plants from Seed

*(Backyardgardener.com)*

#### Manage Plant Growth:

Your seedlings will grow best around 65F with gentle air circulation and lots of light. Research has proven that lowering seedlings' night-time temperature (55-60 degrees) and occasionally brushing your hands gently across the tops of the seedlings a couple minutes a day will contribute to stronger plants.

When your seedlings develop their first true leaves, they can be transplanted into larger containers. This re-potting will be good for the seedlings since this will help them develop a strong root system. When re-potting, seedlings may be set deep into their new containers to shorten the height of the seedling. The extra length under the soil will produce additional roots.

#### Harden Off Your Tomato Plants before Transplanting:

To reduce the risk of shock from transplanting, your seedlings should be gradually conditioned to the outdoors for about 2 weeks before planting them in the garden. Begin with 1 to 2 hours of exposure to the outside elements each day, then increase the time slowly until you can leave them out day and night.

Introducing plants slowly to outdoor conditions is called "hardening off". The longer the plants remain indoors, the harder it will be to acclimate them to the outdoors. Be sure to avoid full sun and wind when you first move your plants outside. If the temperature drops below 40F (4C), bring the plants back inside till it warms a bit.

After the transplants are "hardened off", they can be re-planted in their final outdoor growing locations, either in the garden or in large pots.

*Contributed by Diana Fuchs*

### Lasagna Gardening (for a raised garden bed)

*(Birds & Blooms)*

For anyone who can't kneel or bend to reach the soil, or just likes raised garden beds. You keep building this, layer upon layer as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - a single layer of newspapers (not glossy)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - a thick layer of dried leaves
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - a layer of newspaper
- 4<sup>th</sup> - layer of rich soil or compost
- 5<sup>th</sup> - layer of pine needles or leaves
- 6<sup>th</sup> - layer of newspapers
- 7<sup>th</sup> - layer of rich soil
- 8<sup>th</sup> - layer of newspaper
- 9<sup>th</sup> - layer of dried leaves
- 10<sup>th</sup> - layer of newspaper
- 11<sup>th</sup> - layer of manure or soil Humus is good, too.

Continue building until the bed reaches two to three feet high. You will notice the bed will "cook" as the leaves, newspaper and soil heat up. Wet the pile to speed up the process. It is a very successful way to garden. No kneeling- simply put your plants into the rich composted soil-and because of the five layers of newspaper, no weeds, which is an added bonus.

TIP from another gardener/bird lover: She Add copper pennies to her birdbath to keep the water clear and cleaner longer. She added 40 copper pennies to the birdbath and now only needs to clean it only twice a week instead of every day. She said it really does seem to help keep the water fresh longer.and it looks nice too. One blue jay took some of the coins and put them in his nest, when she looked up at the nest she could see the copper pennies flashing in the sunlight. They don't eat them they just use the coins to dress up their nests.

Third Tip: Another gardener collects driftwood from the local beaches. She adds the driftwood pieces to potted plants on her deck. After years of doing this, she noticed that every plant with a large driftwood stick in the pot did considerably better than the plants without. She tested this last summer with geraniums and impatiens. She didn't know why, but it worked! (maybe the salt water in the stick)

*Contributed by Carol Ryan*

### **Other Events of Interest**

The North Shore Public Library has 2 programs of interest coming up in March.

**Organic Maintenance for Your Landscape:** Tues., Mar. 8, 7:00–8:30 PM

**Introduction to Vegetable Gardening:** Sat., Mar. 12, 2:00 PM.

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