

Shoreham Garden Club Newsletter

January/ February 2007, Volume XX, No. 1

An Early sign of spring Jan 28 2007



Photo by Steve Walker

Daffodils in bloom since
Jan 20 on Woodville Rd

President's Message

by-Vicki McLane

Many thanks to Diana Fuchs for hosting our annual Holiday Party at her beautiful home. There was a good crowd in attendance including our 2 newest member and lots of good food and drink. The newly elected Board Members were installed by Advisory Committee Member Barbara Foley. The Executive Board Members for 2007 are:

President: Vicki McLane

Vice-President: Karen Blumer

Secretary: Carol Ryan

Treasurer: Mimi Oberdorf

Program Chairs: Diana Fuchs and Sandy Romano

Newsletter Editor: Michael Madigan

Past President: Kathy DiPierro

Thank you to the retiring Board Members Gloria Affatato and Bill Schiavo for their efforts in the past two years, and to the newly elected members for volunteering their time to provide us with another year of programs and events.

The Board had their first meeting on January 16th and a tentative schedule of programs and events has been set (see box). Everyone is invited to the 2nd Annual President's Reception to kick off our new year. It will be held at my house (15 Circle Drive, Shoreham) on Saturday, February 17 from 3 – 6 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to invite prospective members to come to this event. It's a chance to socialize and get to know each other better. I hope to see most of you there!

Member News

Welcome new members Lorraine Maddalena and Linda Winter, and Associate Member, Bob Kavanaugh.

President Vicki McLane and Sandy Romano attended the Second District 2006 Fall Luncheon on October 23 at the Crest Hill Country Club. District Director Joan Prior presented Vicki with a certificate of recognition "for service to the Second District above and beyond the call of duty" for her efforts in revitalizing the Shoreham Garden Club.



The new board members are sworn in at the holiday gathering
From left to right

MICHAEL MADIGAN

SANDY ROMANO

DIANA FUCHS

MIMI OBERDORF

CAROL RYAN

BARBRA FOLEY

BURGEONINGS

BY KAREN BLUMER

We are so lucky to live in the temperate zone where change is the norm, at least in the plant world. So why not celebrate it. This is a column dedicated to phenology, the study of periodicity, recording a seasonal kaleidoscope of change - bursts of color, buds, and blooms as they appear around us. Sightings are garnered from observation, members and friends.

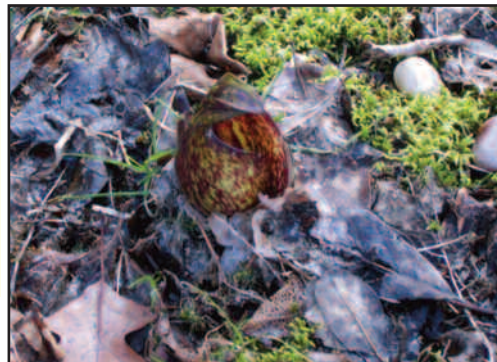
It seems that the world is asleep right now, frozen, immobile. Not so. Under the clutch of winter, tendons are loosening and muscles are on the move.

In the wild....

In the wild, skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is in full bloom. The pointed maroon-and-green-mottled

Skunk cabbage flowering in Wading River marsh, Jan 28, 2007

Photo by
Karen Blumer



fleshy spathes have emerged all over the wetlands. The little caps, at one to six inches high and perfectly camouflaged, are so barely visible that only the most observant walker will keep from squashing them. Inside the curved hood lies a

SHOREHAM GARDEN CLUB TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2007

SAT., FEB. 17	PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, VICKI McLANE'S HOME, 15 CIRCLE DRIVE, SHOREHAM, 3 - 6 PM.
SAT., MAR. 24	MEETING AT SHOREHAM VILLAGE BLDG., 10:30 A.M., SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED.
FRI., MAR. 9	PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW BUS TRIP WITH THREE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB
MAR. 27-29	FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NY STATE ANNUAL MEETING, MARRIOT HOTEL, MELVILLE.
SAT., APR. 21	MEETING AT SHOREHAM VILLAGE BLDG., 10:30 A.M., SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED.
MON., APR. 23	DISTRICT II SPRING LUNCHEON, 10 A.M., CREST HOLLOW COUNTRY CLUB
SAT., MAY	GARDEN TOUR FOR MEMBERS
SAT., JUN. 2	SGC PLANT/TAG SALE
FRI., JUN. 22	MID-SUMMER NIGHT GARDEN PARTY, SANDY ROMANO'S HOME.
SAT., JUL.	GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAY TOUR
SAT., AUG. 15	MEMBER'S WORKSHOP
SAT., SEP. 15	FALL PLANTINGS, CHRISTINE DOCTOR, THE PLANT DOCTOR, INC., SHOREHAM VILLAGE BLDG., 10:30 A.M.,
SEP. 29-30	DISTRICT II STANDARD FLOWER SHOW, HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
SAT., OCT. 20	MEETING, SHOREHAM VILLAGE BLDG., 10:30 A.M., SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED
MON., OCT. 22	DISTRICT II FALL LUNCHEON, 10 A.M., CREST HOLLOW COUNTRY CLUB
NOV.	THREE-VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB JOINT MEETING.
SUN., DEC. 2	HOLIDAY PARTY & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, 3-6 P.M., DIANA FUCHS' HOME.

FGCNYS ANNUAL MEETING

THE 83RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NEW YORK STATE WILL BE HELD AT THE MELVILLE MARRIOT, MARCH 27-29, 2007. THIS IS A CHANCE FOR US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STATE ORGANIZATION. YOU MAY REGISTER FOR ALL OR PART OF THE PROGRAM. SEE THE NEWS FROM FGCNYS FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION. YOU MAY PRE-REGISTER THROUGH FEBRUARY 23. CONTACT VICKI McLANE (744-8765 OR VMCLANE@OPTONLINE.NET) FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A CARPOOL.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

SEVEN SHOREHAM GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS WILL BE JOINING THE THREE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB ON THEIR BUS TRIP TO THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW ON FRIDAY, MARCH 9. IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP, BUT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, THERE MAY STILL BE SOME SEATS LEFT. PLEASE CONTACT VICKI McLANE.

fleshy globe, the spadix, which holds the tiny flowers. Bright red seeds appear later in the summer.

In the light snow we had recently, it was exciting to observe small pocks of bareness throughout the marsh. When one looked more closely, within each bare patch lay a skunk cabbage spathe where the heat of bloom had actually melted the snow around it. You can observe the blooms for the next few months in the Wading River marsh edge next to the power plant on North Country Road; at the Nature Conservancy's Kempf preserve on Shore Road in Wading River; or, if you are reluctant to hike, in Middle Island next to Cathedral Pines County Park where the Carmans river runs beneath Bartlett Road.

In many moist places where skunk cabbage lives, so does swamp, or red, maple (*Acer rubrum*.) The flowers are about to emerge and will be blooming from February through April, casting a deep, refreshing red haze on the otherwise gray landscape. Similarly the buds and stems of the blueberries, low and highbush, flame the landscape waiting for an early spring.

If one looks under the leaves of trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), a beautiful evergreen one-inch groundcover which populates our woods, notice the flower buds are already preparing to erupt, much too early right now for their usual April appearance.

In the garden and landscape...

This year a spate of unseasonal warmth has encouraged a premature burst of garden growth. For some plants, such as bulbs, this may promise disaster since, the word is, once bloomed, never to reappear until the next annual cycle. It will be fun to see if and when this is so.

Yellow primrose (*Primula* hybrid), forsythia and

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Garden Club Events

- Feb. 17 President's Reception,**
15 Circle Dr., Shoreham, 3-6 pm.
- Mar. 9 Philadelphia Flower Show,**
Bus trip with Three-Village Garden Club.
- Mar. 24 Program, Shoreham Village Bldg.**
10:30 am
- Apr. 21 Program, Shoreham Village Bldg.**
10:30 am

SHOREHAM GARDEN CLUB

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SHOREHAM, NY 11786

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a few sprays of quince bloomed in Barbara Foley's landscape at Christmas. On January 28 we saw white droops of snowdrops ready to unfurl in her garden.

Myriad reports of blooming daffodils have come in, and some even captured, such as that on page one by Steve Walker, a resident of Shoreham. He reports that this daffodil, located in the sump along Woodville at Overhill Road, has been in semi-bloom since January 20. Tulip leaves are up four to six inches. Sandy Romano reports that hyacinths are starting to grow in her yard, some in flower. Iris leaves are up about 6 inches and day lilies about three, although she's seen that frequently over the years.

Besides bulbs, the heathers are covered with buds and some already have flowers in Sandy's garden. The vinca vines in many places have about four inches of new growth and, she reports, look pretty happy in spite of the recent cold bout. Coral bells are covered with leaves, many of which the deer have already discovered. Pelargonium is starting to sprout and beds of evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) are pushing up.

In terms of shrubs, some buds are noticeably swelling — the hydrangeas, seem to be ahead of schedule. Sandy reports that, particularly in the lace caps, the leaves at the tips are about an inch long and starting to unfold. Butterfly bushes are covered with small leaves, but Sandy sees that frequently every year about this time.

In the vegetable garden, inspired by Robert Weschler's mention last fall of planting **garlic** on

Labor Day and harvesting it at Memorial Day, I decided to try some. I was a wee bit late and didn't get to planting until late December, but I tried cloves pulled from old garlic bulbs that had been sitting around for months, some fresh bulbs from the grocery store, and some already peeled garlic from the grocery just to see if there will be any difference in end productivity. Lo and behold, by January 10th, the little devils were already up one to four inches. One plant must have been ice-heaved or cat-turned, because, turned on its side, its green shoot lay over and the base of the bulb had already sprouted a full network of roots. I replanted



Garlic leaves up 2" in Karen Blumer's veggie garden.

it six inches below the ground, as Bob suggested. As you can see from the photo, the rest are doing just great, without even mulching.

Others in the veggie garden providing life are the strawberries with their semi-evergreen leaves, and those herbs and flowers that one can depend on for color in the winter garden—the deep green basal rosettes of foxglove and poppies; the soft gray-greens of sage and lavender;

and the silver of the **dusty millers**. Of course there are those that we don't want, the invasives, which freely twine around much of my garden — Japanese honeysuckle with its green opposite leaves and the basal green fan-shaped leaves of **garlic mustard**.



Dusty miller

One can see why they are so successful as invasives — all ready, just waiting.

And for further color in some of our larger evergreens, the red berries of the low skimmia and the tall hollies brighten the landscape.

Some of the **burgeonings** reported here are progressing normally, such as the skunk cabbage and red maple. Others, however, are abnormal and we can thank global warming for this



Skimmia's winter color.

effect. We should be warned that it may be disastrous in the end for

such early blooms. It reminds us that the earth will welcome what-



Soft green sage.

ever we can personally do to contribute to lessening the use of fossil fuels, such as buying hybrid cars; using LEDs and energy saving light bulbs; installing alternative energy on our homes, be it solar panels, wind turbines, or geothermal technology. Join RELI (Renewable Energy Long Island (www.renewableenergylongisland.org), 631-537-8282;



Garlic mustard, a rampant invasive.

recycle (for giving and getting "stuff", try www.freecycle.org); and join Bill McKibben and a growing movement of people who will be telling Congress on April 14th to reduce carbon 80% by 2025 in his "Step-It-Up" program www.stepitup2007.org, — just for a beginning.

Please send me your own "Burgeoning" observations from around your environment or anywhere on LI as the season progresses.

Karen Blumer, .
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