

Shoreham Garden Club Newsletter

November/December 2007, Volume XXI, No. 4

President's Message (Vicki McLane)

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season. I am looking forward to another great year for the Garden Club. I hope you will all try to come to the Holiday Party at Karen's house. It is also our Annual Meeting and we will be installing the newly elected Executive Board Members and plan to vote on the revised Constitution & By-Laws.

I want to thank the outgoing Newsletter Editor Michael Madigan for taking on the job for a year. Please remember that the Club can't run itself. **We need you** to make things work.

Shoreham Garden Club
P.O. Box 323
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<http://shorehamgardenclub.org>

SCG Board Members:

Vicky McLane - President
Karen Blumer- Vice President
Carol Ryan- Secretary
Mimi Oberdorf- Treasurer
Michael Madigan- Newsletter
Diana Fuchs- Programs
Sandy Romano- Programs
Kathy DiPierro- Past President



HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 2, 2007

3-6 p.m.

Karen Burnson's home.

Holiday Party

We will be holding our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 2, at 3 p.m. in **Karen Burnson's** home 9 Wardencliff Road, Shoreham. Please bring festive finger food.

Instead of our usual grab-bag, we will be collecting donations of food to be distributed to a local food pantry. Suggested items are pasta sauce, pasta, rice and rice mixtures, canned stews and soups, jelly, tuna fish, cereal, school snacks. Anything non-perishable is gratefully accepted.

Directions: Go to the end of Woodville Road. At the Stop Sign before the Shoreham Country Club Entrance make a left on Gridley Road. Karen's house is two houses down on the right at the corner of Gridley and Wardencliff. (Overflow parking is at the Tennis Courts on the corner of Briarcliff and Woodville).

Member News

Ronnie Schiavo is at home recovering from a heart attack. She is feeling good and slowly adjusting to the medications. She had three occlusions...95%, 90% and 75% and now has 3 stents in place. We hope you're soon feeling 100%, Ronnie and that we will be seeing you soon.

Peter Kahn is well on the road to recovery after his operation in July.

Garden Tour (Sandy Romano)

Although our group was small for the Garden Conservancy's Open Days tour on July 14th, we were enthusiastic! As soon as Judy Baker, Barbara Foley and I arrived at the first site (garden designer Conni Cross' gardens and home in Cutchogue), we knew we were in for an amazing day. We learned that Conni is selling her home and gardens, so this might be the last time it is on display.

Not only did we get to tour the Cross Gardens, 5 acres of perennials, annuals, ponds, water features, evergreens (you name it, it was there!), we also were allowed to tour her home which was one of the most quaint and unusual homes I've ever been in....brick, stone, and tiled floors; an endless array of collections; and varied levels, alcoves, and terraces that overlooked the gardens. And what a garden is was! We wandered pathways through shaded perennial gardens and then would come upon a waterfall cascading over an 8 foot rock feature with hydrangeas in full bloom all around us.

A child-sized, and completely decorated play house, an outdoor shower room, mounds of flowering perennials and annuals bordering the walls of her home....it was endless. And, as Judy and I soon discovered,

Barbara could identify every plant we came upon! What a tour guide she turned out to be!

We spent over two hours there before moving on to lunch at Legends Restaurant in New Suffolk, which was a lovely place and a nice respite from our wanderings.



In the afternoon, we viewed the Coster-Isaac gardens in Mattituck. The borders were amazingly colorful, but the highlight was the beautiful arbors covered so thickly with clematis, trumpet vine, and wisteria. The temperature dropped 15 degrees when we sat down in the room made by these beautiful old vines and decorated so elegantly by our host.

To wind up the day, we decided to fit in one more garden, that of Dennis Shrader and Bill Smith in Cutchogue. This was where we actually were able to stump Barbara in identifying the gorgeous tropical plants that were in abundance. Because of the large greenhouse operation they run, they are able to bring these plants indoors for the cold months. We wandered from one outdoor room to another, each with different themes and colors.

By the end of the day (and we did stretch it to 4:00), we were a hot and exhausted group of happy gardeners! What a wonderful day!

A Fine Welcome For A New Member

(Judy Baker)

Sandy called me early Saturday morning to offer me a ride with her and Barbara to the Garden Tour on the North Fork. The day was spectacular and I am truly happy I decided to join the Shoreham Garden Club.

All three gardens were visually spectacular. We saw so many interesting features. What I loved the most was hearing and learning to speak the language of flowers. It's very romantic. My favorite was the delicate *Love in a Mist*. The name denotes the perplexity of this beautiful plant. Barbara knew most common and many Latin names. Our stroll was incredibly interesting.



Mizuma Gardens (Renee Oberdorf)

I run a small, but intensive, market salad garden called Mizuma Gardens in Warren, Oregon, thirty minutes northwest of Portland, and have been supplying some of the finest restaurants in Portland with salad greens over the past 13 years. I grow many unusual and heirloom varieties to use in my salad mixes. My signature "Wild Salad Mix" contains 30-40 greens and herbs chosen after years of experimenting and listening to chefs.

Everything at Mizuma Gardens is grown organically in raised beds. I use a lot of compost plus blood meal (for quick nitrogen), fish meal (for slow release nitrogen), kelp meal (for minerals), rock phosphate and dolomite lime (since western Oregon soils are acid). Testing your soil is very important before you start adding amendments. The

amendments also need to be tailored to the type of plants you are growing.

I try to work *with* the insects rather than against them. For example, flea beetles are a problem once the weather gets warm. Since they only attack brassica plants, I cut back or even eliminate those plants (arugula and mustards) in the summer. I grow the varieties of salad greens that do best in each season. This is key to my success. I've also found that by keeping a good soil pH and the plants healthy, many insect problems are eliminated. Insects generally go after weak plants. In addition, by having a chemical-free garden, wildlife is encouraged to make a home. I have a large population of frogs and garter snakes that eat many, many insects, a tremendous help!



As far as weeds go, it just comes down to hard work. It's a matter of doing some each day, never allowing them to get out of hand. I don't own a tractor. I do everything using small rototillers and hand tools, such as a Japanese weeder for the beds and a wheel hoe for weeding the pathways. Planting the greens close together, on six inch centers, helps to eliminate weeds by shading the soil in between. If you have bare soil, weeds will definitely grow so cover it instead with something of your choosing.



Amish Speckled Lettuce



Bull's Blood Beet



Kildeer eggs in mache bed

We are playing catch-up with the Newsletter and will have articles on the fall events in the next issue.

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