

Shoreham Garden Club Newsletter

January/February 2008, Volume XXII, No. 1

President's Message

(Vicki McLane)



Happy New Year to all!

The **Holiday Party** at Karen Brunson's home was a great success with about 24 members attending. Karen's home is beautiful and she conducted guided tours for everyone who wanted to see it all. The food was great as usual and those of us who were unable to resist tasting everything probably put on a few extra pounds – a holiday tradition.

We collected a huge amount of food and Pat and Ed Thomson had the backbreaking job of delivering it to St. John's the Baptist Food Pantry. Thank you both!

The President's Reception will be at my home on Saturday, February 2nd. It's a good way to start off the year, meet the new officers, and find out about the programs for the coming year. See you there!

We would like to again collect food for a local food pantry, so bring a donation – any non-perishable items are gratefully accepted

President's Reception

Saturday, February 2, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

15 Circle Drive, Shoreham

Call Vicki McLane 744-8765
for more information



HOLIDAY PARTY 2007



2008 Executive Board

President – Vicki McLane
Vice-President – Barbara Foley
Secretary – Carol Ryan
Treasurer – Mimi Oberdorf
Newsletter Editor – Diana Fuchs
Program Chairs – Carol Fish & Sandy Romano
Past President – Kathy DiPierro

Committee Chairs

Hospitality – Peter Kahn, Michael Madigan &
Charles Thompson
Publicity – Pat Thompson
Scholarship – Carol Willen
Sunshine – Gloria Affatato, Ann Kilroy
Ways & Means – Karen Burnson
Halama Fund – Barbara Foley
Historian – Mimi Oberdorf

Shoreham Garden Club Schedule 2008

February 2 nd	Saturday	President's Reception , 2 – 4 pm, Vicki McLane's home
March 15 th	Saturday	10:30 a.m., Meeting with speaker, Shoreham Village Bldg.
April 19 th	Saturday	10:30 Meeting with speaker, Shoreham Village Bldg.
April 21 st	Monday	10 a.m., District II Spring Luncheon , Crest Hollow Country Club
May 17 th	Saturday	Member's Workshop , Karen Burnson's home, Shoreham
May 31 st	Saturday	Plant/Tag sale , Pat Thompson's home, Wading River
June 20 th	Friday	Mid-Summer Night Garden Party
September 20 th	Saturday	10:30 Meeting with speaker, Shoreham Village Bldg.
October 18 th	Saturday	10:30 Meeting with speaker, Shoreham Village Bldg.
October (TBD)	Monday	District II Fall Luncheon
November (TBD)	Tuesday	Three-Village Garden Club joint meeting
December 7 th	Sunday	Holiday Party & Annual Meeting , Pat Ryan's home, Wading River

Fall Events

September Nursery Tour (Sandy Romano)

Our last tour of the year, held on September 24, was a triple header: The Plantage in the morning, Legend's for lunch, and Trimble's Nursery in the afternoon. Our group (Barbara Foley, Carol Ryan, Ann Kilroy, Marie Chung, Sheila Sussman, Pat Thompson, Carol Willen, Vicki McLane, and myself) carpooled out to the East End to start the day at The Plantage, a perennial nursery covering 23 acres with 8 of those acres in production. We were welcomed by owner June Croon, and then given a tour of the greenhouse operations, where (to quote) "sanitation is HUGE!". At The Plantage, over 1,800 varieties of plants are raised, 50% of which are propagated by seed or cuttings in their greenhouses, and every plant seemed to be receiving much TLC during those first fragile weeks of life. Our tour continued into the soil-making operation, a huge



hopper-type piece of machinery that could handle 2,000 pots an hour! We then walked out into the open greenhouses to view the adult plant varieties waiting to be shipped off to all corners of the country. We left with trunks filled with our purchases. My favorite among the nine I purchased was polemonium, or "Stairway to Heaven", a hardy variegated perennial with pretty blue flowers. Other ones which have thrived for me were a

September Nursery Tour continued.....

white-flowered variety of echinacea, and two gorgeous ferns, shaggy shield and Japanese holly. Pat's favorite was her fiberoptic plant (sciryis?) which although not hardy, was very interesting! We hope it survives the winter for you, Pat!

After lunch at Legend's, we finished our day at Trimble's of Corchaug, a nursery dedicated to green education and safe gardening practices using organic growing methods. Cookies and the most delicious iced tea was waiting for us as we arrived. As we wandered the paths through the beautiful Idea Garden, we found that every corner we turned really did contain another idea for our own gardens. We were impressed at the use of unusual objects placed among the plantings....doors, gates, imbedded golf balls, colorful bottles, shutters, birdcages, a bathtub and an outhouse! Their newest building is topped by a rooftop garden, which only the brave dared to climb up and view....and there were several of us who did! We gladly made use of our 10% discount on everything we bought, causing our already packed car trunks to barely close. Our purchases included houseplants, outdoor plants, books, and a new natural product to repel deer called Deervik. We'll let you know in the spring if it succeeds!

All in all, I feel everyone will agree we had a wonderful day....lots of new ideas, new additions to add to our gardens, and good friends with whom to share it all.

Three Village Garden Club Visit (Carol Willen)

On November 13, four Shoreham Garden Club members made the trek to the Neighborhood House in Setauket

for the annual visit to the Three Village Garden Club. We were greeted most warmly by our hostesses and enjoyed their business meeting. It is always amazing how many activities such a large club has underway at once. They also have a mini-flower show each month, this time showing plants still blooming in mid-November and displays for the holidays. After a delicious light luncheon, we settled in for the guest speaker.

The speaker was Carolyn Kunz Zebrowski, daughter of the owner of Kunz Nursery in Port Jeff Station. She has a degree in horticulture. Her topic was the "Ten Steps to House Plants". The ten steps she enumerated upon were: light, water, fertilization, temperature, drafts, soil, pot size, pruning, grooming and vacations.

A few of her hints seemed to strike a special chord with the attendees. One was a method of removing salt stains from clay pots by soaking the pot in water and white vinegar, then scrubbing off the salt residue. If you have ever thrown out an unsightly pot like I have, you are sure to try this. She also recommended pruning large plants twice a year so you do not take off too much at once and trimming roots no more than 2 inches when repotting a plant. She recommended using a feather duster on plants too big to spray off dust in the sink. And a trick for those of you needing to repot a cactus, wrap the plant top in thick newspaper to handle it with ease. Finally if you use leaf shine, mix it half with water and don't use if you are showing your plants.

The meeting closed with a drawing for some of her plants. Pat Thompson was the lucky winner of a large ginger plant. If you missed this meeting, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year. It's a winner!

**Shoreham Garden Club
Scholarship**
(Carol Willen)

The Shoreham Garden Club Scholarship is given each year to a graduating senior at the Shoreham-Wading River High School who has excelled in environmental science, ecology, botany or horticulture and who plans to pursue his/her education or personal outreach efforts in one these areas. Special consideration is given to students who not only have excelled in the classroom but may have participated in research, community projects or internships of environmental significance.

This award was established in 1978 at the suggestion of then Club President Agnes Allen and was renamed in her memory in 1999.

The Agnes Allen Award was presented in June 2007 to Raj Kochhar. Raj has taken every rigorous science course available at the High School. In addition, he has participated in science research since tenth grade and has been working on a hydroponics project. He has built hydroponics systems and has developed solutions to grow strong plants. He hopes to continue this research in the future.

The Garden Club has also donated \$100 to the 2007-2008 Scholarship Campaign of the Second District Federated Garden Club of New York State

Shoreham Garden Club
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