

# Shoreham Garden Club Newsletter



May/June 2011

Volume XXV, No. 3

## President's Message

Diana Fuchs

Spring has finally arrived so let's get out there and start gardening! I have built three raised beds and am looking to plant my vegetable garden shortly.



We have a very exciting few months ahead of us with lots of activities going on and we hope everyone will get involved. First, on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be hosting our annual plant sale at my house.

In June, Ronnie and Bill Schiavo have been gracious enough to open up their home to host the Mid-Summer Night Garden Party. This year we are taking a different approach to the Garden Party. We formed a committee to help in the planning and setting up of the party. The Committee members are Gloria Affatato, Denise Mullady, Madeline Windsor, Ronnie, Bill and myself. This is an approach we hope to continue in the future.

Going forward, we will be pulling together committees to support large events like this one so it is not so much work on the people who are willing to host our various activities.

Thank you to Sheila who has been working hard to identify potential community programs that we can start working on in the next couple of months. She has some exciting ideas and we should be communicating them to everyone. Please let us know if there is something in particular you would be interested in doing.

Happy Gardening!!!!

## Plant and Tag Sale

Diana Fuchs

The plant & tag sale will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at my house (25 Circle Drive, Shoreham). This year we will be combining this event with a tag sale to raise more money for the community program projects we want to do. We would appreciate your donations of both plants and items in good condition that you would like to get rid of as you are doing your spring cleaning. Items can be dropped off (with suggested prices marked) the day before or at 8 am on Saturday. *Please no books or clothes as these generally do not sell well.* Also, please pick up your unsold items at the end of the sale. Any remaining items will be discarded or given to charity.

Please label the plants you are donating so people will know what they are. If you adopted seeds at the April meeting and were successful in getting them to grow, please bring a dozen or so plants to the sale

## 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

September 6

## Midsummer Night Garden Party

*Diana Fuchs*

The Mid-Summer Nights Garden Party will be held on Friday, June 24, starting at 5 pm at Ronnie and Bill Schiavo's home, 9 Hunters Trail, Wading River.

We had discussed having this event at a winery or a restaurant, but we are very fortunate that the Schiavo's offered to host it this year in their beautiful garden. In the spirit of making this even more of a special annual event and to simplify the tracking of who is bringing a dish vs. how much each is paying (this becomes quite cumbersome to track yearly), we will be asking for \$20 per person. This will include appetizers, a buffet dinner, dessert and drinks/wine. You don't need to bring anything and just come and have a good time.

Please respond by June 10<sup>th</sup> as we need an accurate person count for the caterer. Mail your check for \$20 per person to Shoreham Garden Club, PO Box 323, Shoreham, NY 11786, so Sheila does not need to worry about collecting money at the party and can enjoy herself. If you have any questions, please contact the Schiavo's at [cptwilly@optonline.net](mailto:cptwilly@optonline.net) or 631-929-3827.

In addition, we will have some surprise activities this year that will be a lot of fun. We will be having our "Best Floral Arrangement Contest" with items from your garden. The arrangements should be small table arrangements that should not be wider or taller than 12 inches by 12 inches. We look forward to see everyone's creativity.

### 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).

If you haven't yet paid your dues, please send a check to Shoreham Garden Club, PO Box 323, Shoreham, NY 11786,

## Garden Tours

*Carol Ryan*

On Sunday, June 12, we will tour the **Hume Japanese Stroll Garden** in Mill Neck in the morning and in the afternoon go on to **Old Westbury Gardens**

At 11:30 we will tour the Japanese Stroll Garden, part of the Garden Conservancy Preservation Project. Admission is \$7. The four-acre Japanese garden features serpentine paths that traverse hillside terrain. The garden features native and Asian plants, including an extensive use of moss and bamboo.

We will move on to Old Westbury Gardens in the afternoon. Admission is \$10.00 (\$8.00 for seniors). You may tour the house and stroll the gardens at your leisure, or join tours of Westbury House on the hour and half hour, and of the gardens at 2:00 pm. Guided tours last approximately 45 minutes. There is also an additional tour at 2:00 pm of the Rose Gardens.

If the weather is good, we may eat at the Cafe in the Woods, nestled outside under the shade of the North Allee, which offers soups, sandwiches, salads and beverages.

Please RSVP to Carol Ryan at:  
([carolreader@yahoo.com](mailto:carolreader@yahoo.com)).

She will get back to you with times and carpool information.



Old Westbury Gardens. Photo taken on Garden Club tour in May, 2003

## Teas & Talks

Eight Shoreham Garden Club members, led by Mimi Oberdorf, attended the **Tea & Talk held on Tuesday, March 29**, to celebrate Women's History Month. The event was sponsored by and held at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead. In addition to Mimi, Jo Alio, Barbara Amoretty, Carole Eibs, Vicki McLane, Carol Ryan, Sheila Sussman, and Pat Thompson enjoyed the talk, *Edith Loring Fullerton: The Oft-Forgotten Equal Partner of Hal B. Fullerton*, which was presented by Dr. Natalie Naylor, Professor Emerita, Hofstra University.

Edith Fullerton (1876-1931) and her husband Hal B. Fullerton (1857-1935), best known today for his photographs of early 20th century Long Island, were partners in the experimental farms they operated in Suffolk County for the LIRR and in many other endeavors. Edith wrote books on gardening and agriculture, and succeeded her husband when he retired as special agent from the LIRR.

The tea was excellent and Shoreham Garden Club continued on its' winning streak. Sheila Sussman won 2 raffle prizes and gave one to Marcy Conway, who is Edith Fullerton's great-granddaughter; Carole Eibs won one.

Five members attended the **Hallockville Museum Farm Spring Tea on Friday, April 29**. We heard a talk on beekeeping by a local beekeeper, and once again raked in the raffle prizes. Pat Thompson won twice, a pillow with a hand-knitted cover and a teapot, and Jo Alio won a teapot.

The **Earth Day Celebration** on Sunday, May 1, sponsored by The Shoreham Village Assoc., featured a shore walk by Shoreham Garden Club member Karen Blumer, followed by a lunch and several afternoon talks. A slew of other members were involved in the planning - Judy Baker, Joe Falco, Barbara Foley, Diana Fuchs, Lorraine Maddalena, Vicki McLane, Mimi Oberdorf and Donna Smith. Jo Alio was seen enjoying the festivities.

## Member News

Welcome new member: **Madeline Windsor**, Shoreham.

**Carol Ryan** had to cancel her trip to the Hallockville Farm Museum Tea due to the birth of her 3<sup>rd</sup> grandson on the morning of the tea. Congratulations, Carol!

**Carol Fish's** husband is back in Vermont after a stay at a rehab facility in Florida. They have finally sold their house in Shoreham. Carol would love to hear from you, so *give her a shout*.

## Community Projects

*Sheila Sussman*

We have selected a Community Project for this year and will be working jointly with residents of the group home on Randall Road, Wading River, putting in a perennial garden, and perhaps some vegetables. A design will be worked out after meeting with the director and going over the property. This is one of many homes in Suffolk County run by ADD (Aid for the Developmentally Disabled) based in Riverhead.

ADD also maintains a sensory garden in Northville. You can see photos of the garden at their web site:

<http://www.addny.com/gardens.html>

If you are interested in working on this project, please get in touch with me:

[sheila.sussman@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.sussman@gmail.com)



Gloria Affatato, Vicki McLane, Sheila Sussman, Pat Thompson and Jo Alio the the Hallockville Tea

## Garden Bits

### Garden planters require adequate drainage ([www.all-about-planters.com](http://www.all-about-planters.com))

When purchasing your garden planters, the very first thing to do is ensure there are holes for drainage. If the container does not already have holes, determine if you can safely drill holes to create adequate drainage.

Avoid ceramic or metal planters without drainage holes as it is extremely difficult to drill the holes yourself without damaging or breaking the planter...and often very costly to have someone drill them for you. Best to purchase garden planters that come with holes already drilled in them.

Adding materials such as clay shards, coarse rocks, packing 'popcorn' (styrofoam) or charcoal will help to prevent water pooling and encourage drainage at the base of your garden planters, but adding these materials does not take the place of proper drainage holes.

### Use Soil Mixes for Container Gardening

In addition to ensuring the planter you use has proper drainage holes, be sure to use a soil or soil mix designed specifically for container gardening. This soil is composed of materials that encourage good drainage and will not harden to 'concrete' in your planter as the growing season progresses.

You will also find special additives designed to keep planter soil aerated. Add coir or moss liners to hanging baskets and wall planters to help discourage soil from running right through the drainage holes during watering.

The only recommended way to use that lovely garden planter on your balcony that doesn't have drainage holes is to use it as a 'cache pot'. Placing a planter with drainage inside one without, works well...as long as you provide some way for air to circulate at the base and you watch closely that excess water does not pool at the base of the cache pot.

*Contributed by Diana Fuchs*

## Invasive Plants

**Correction** to Garlic Mustard write-up: At the Herb Workshop in November, **Carol Willen** brought a sample of Garlic Mustard.

At the Earth Day Celebration in Shoreham, Karen Blumer brought samples of three invasive plants: Garlic Mustard, Japanese knotweed, and Mugwort.

**Japanese Knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) is an upright, shrub-like, herbaceous perennial that can grow to over 10 feet in height. Stems of Japanese knotweed are smooth, stout and swollen at joints where the leaf meets the stem. The leaves are broadly oval to somewhat triangular and pointed at the tip. The minute greenish-white flowers occur in attractive, branched sprays in summer and are followed soon after by small winged fruits. The young stems are edible as a spring vegetable, with a flavor similar to mild rhubarb.

**Mugwort** (*Artemisia vulgaris*) a tall herbaceous perennial growing angular, purple stalks 3 feet or more in height and bearing dark green leaves with a cottony down underneath. It has rather small flowers with many yellow or dark red petals. Mugwort oil contains thujone, which is toxic in large amounts or under prolonged intake.



Mugwort



Knotweed

## Shoreham Garden Club Events Schedule 2011

|               |                   |   |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| May 21, Sat.  | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm | <b>Plant &amp; Tag Sale</b> , Diana Fuchs home, 25 Circle Dr., Shoreham                             |
| Jun. 12, Sun. | 10:00 am          | <b>Tour of Old Westbury Gardens and Hume Japanese Stroll Garden</b>                                 |
| June 24, Fri. | 5:00 pm           | <b>Mid-Summer Night Garden Party</b> , Bill & Ronnie Schiavo's home, 9 Hunters Trail, Wading River. |
| Sep. 17, Sat. |                   | <i>(To be announced)</i>  |
| Oct. 15, Sat. | 10:00 am          | <b>General Meeting/Speaker</b> , George Schwender, <b>Composting</b> , North Shore Public Library.  |
| Nov. 19, Sat. |                   | <b>Member workshop.</b> <i>(Topic &amp; location to be announced)</i>                               |
| Dec. 4, Sun.  |                   | <b>Holiday Party.</b> <i>(Location to be announced)</i>   |

## Homemade Deer Repellent

*Carol Willen*

Spray recipe from the University of Colorado: 20% whole eggs, 80% water, remove the chalaza or white membrane from the yoke before mixing the eggs to prevent clogging of the sprayer.

*My husband Erich uses it and says it really works.*

Erich's hints:

- Add a tablespoon of Dawn dishwasher soap as a surfactant.
- I have had good results with a dozen large eggs, 3 quarts of water and several tbs. of dishwasher detergent, which is weaker than recommended by the U.C. I use a backpack spray to apply the liquid.
- This will repel the deer for 3-4 weeks, in my experience.
- Use a blender to mix the eggs and water.
- If the sprayer has a nozzle with a fine hole, the mixture will clog the sprayer unless the white yoke membrane is removed and care is taken to avoid bits of egg shell in the mixture.

- With a nozzle with a larger hole, it is not necessary to remove the membrane, which requires some time and patience.
- Save left-over spray in the refrigerator and apply to a small area with a hand-held pump sprayer common sold for a few dollars in a hardware store.

### Committees

**Community Projects:** Sheila Sussman

**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

### **Other Events of Interest**

**Gardening: Spring/Summer Planter**, Thurs., May 26, 6:30–8:30 PM at the North Shore Public Library.

**Gardens by the Sea**, June 10-11, Stonington, CT. ([stonington-gardenclub.org](http://stonington-gardenclub.org))

**Garden Conservancy Open Days**, June 11, Remsenburg, Flanders.

[www.gardenconservancy.org/opensdays](http://www.gardenconservancy.org/opensdays)

**The Newport Flower Show**, June 24-26, Rosecliff, Newport, R.I. ([www.NewportFlowerShow.org](http://www.NewportFlowerShow.org))

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