

Patchogue Green

News of the Patchogue Garden Club

September 2026

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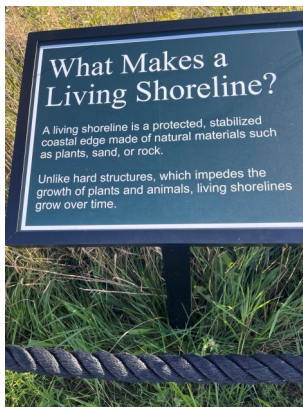
Art

Shorefront Park

Our August meeting began at Shorefront Park where we were met by Kaetlyn Jackson, from the National Park Service who explained the restoration project and showed us around the site. "This new living shoreline is the largest in NY State—1300 linear feet."

After the tour, we retired to Paula Murphy's for our regular meeting. Photos on pages three and six.

<https://www.patchoguevillage.gov/263/Shorefront-Park-Living-Shoreline-and-Lit>



Calendar of Future Events

September 22—

Back to the Recreation Center, 2 p.m.

October 27—Fall Tea, 2 p.m.—Thirtieth Anniversary of the Garden celebration. We need volunteers for this event. Check with Carol—sciencecat@optonline.net



Birthdays

Daniel Fusco—
September 20

Danielle Weinberger—
September 24

President's Message

Happy Astronomical Fall! After this hot dry summer, today's rain is very welcomed. Last week the US Drought Monitor up graded Nassau and Suffolk as "abnormally dry" from the "drought warning" that had been declared by the DEC and the Governor earlier in the year. The heavy rains the past few weeks have started to mitigate some of the drought, but as always, it is still very area dependent. Remember to water on odd/even days according to your house number. Your lawn needs one inch of water a week; use a rain gauge or empty tuna cans placed strategically around the yard.

Many people think that fall is the time to do "clean ups", put out pumpkins, and put the gardening tools away for the year, but it is actually a good time to plant a fall vegetable crop along with the mums and other fall annuals or perennials.

Beets, Broccoli, Carrots, Kale, Lettuces, Peas, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard and Turnips are all good candidates for fall planting. Some will overwinter if given some protection with row covers or heavy mulching. Everything except broccoli can be started from seed.

You can plant your seeds starting now. If you are reusing a planting site, be sure to refresh the soil with organic matter, i.e. compost or some new raised bed planting soil. To determine the best time to plant look at your seed packages for length of time each variety will take to mature and count back 8 weeks from the first frost date. In Patchogue, light frost, 29-32 degrees will occur between Oct 21-31 and freeze or hard frost 25-28 degrees will occur between Nov 6-15. Most of the cold weather plants will survive the light frost with some protection; all plants will die in the freeze. Root crops may survive over winter if heavily mulched.

Beets: Direct sow, grow roots and the shoots can be sautéed, thin the plants and pick young.

Broccoli: Start with transplants that you can start now in cell pots, water and feed plants and watch for cabbage worms on mature plants.

Cabbage: Direct sow, space generously, and they will store for a long time after harvest if kept in a cool spot.

Carrots: Make sure soil is loose and loamy, so you don't get crooked carrots. Direct sow and thin. Carrots are sweeter after the first light frost.

Kale: Direct sow, harvest after first light frost, harvest from bottom up—leaves not the whole plant.

Lettuces: Direct sow, thin and eat. Plant looseleaf varieties, can succession sow.

Peas: Plant now, provide support, pick often for greater harvest, more flowers more peas.

Radish: Direct sow, thin, first crop should be ready in 3-5 weeks, don't leave in the ground.

Spinach and Swiss Chard: Direct sow, full/part sun, succession sow, harvest by pulling outside leaves not whole plant, protect with row covers to extend into early winter.

Turnips: Direct sow, harvest young, greens are edible, sweeter after light frost. For success, as with all plants keep watered, watch for pests, thin seedlings, watch for frost, and don't overcrowd.

Cold frames and row covers will extend your harvest into the early winter. There are many DIY cold frame examples on the Internet. It's basically a box and some glass or heavy clear plastic.

Enjoy,

Carol

Request for Plant Donations

St. Francis Church, located just south of the PGC garden on South Ocean Ave., is looking for donations of perennials that you might be digging up or dividing at this time. They are beautifying the church grounds.

If you would like to donate, you can drop off your healthy plants in pots at the designated spot in the church parking lot. Donations will be accepted.

The Bicycle Baedeker by StephenPaul



尺の滝も音して夕涼

A one foot waterfall... it too makes noise, and is cool at night.
(Kobayashi Issa 18-19 c)

Nothing quite beats bike riding in summer. Warm sun, verdant gardens, open pools, fabulous beaches. By now in mid-August, I'm almost exhausted; but to misquote Robert Frost, I have miles to ride before I sleep; and miles to ride before I sleep through the cold hibernating months of winter. Through June, July and August, I've been riding around town admiring gardens in full growth and have made a couple of forays much further afield.



Heading down to the Patchogue Village pool by the Great South Bay I've passed some wonderful local gardens, as varied as they are many. One of my favorite is a crazy, intricate garden in front of and next to an old mill factory converted into a small living space on Mulford St. off Cedar Avenue. The small building features potted plants along the sidewalk, various hanging flowers on the wall, and various colorful garden niches planted among found objects. When I stopped to admire and photoshoot the garden a woman came running over to question what I was doing and why. When I told her how much I've loved this set up for years, she thanked me for the compliment acknowledging her hard, successful work. She even allowed me to peak into the living space she carved out of an open loft space. Hippie living in Patchogue Village!

What I liked are all the micro gardens planted on the property and her integrated, artful use of wall hangings, do-dads, groovy pots and copious tchotchkes. And do I LUV tchotchkes. (My apartment is full of them.)



A really nice feature of so many gardens in Patchogue Village is the planting of one varietal as the dominant element. I always stop to admire my favorite garden plantings when I see them. Vibrant Marigolds, Elegant Periwinkles (my personal favorite), Color-burst Zinnia and Bold too-tall Sunflowers. Not often the case, some houses feature these real beauties exclusively. They make for a dramatic, eye-catching element to enhance the house's front face or walkway.

Lastly, I ventured far afield and took the bike into New York City for my annual ride through Central Park with visits to museums on 5th Avenue. Getting off at Penn Station and exiting in the beauti-

fully restored Daniel Patrick Moynihan Train Hall is always dramatic, and riding up to the Park along Sixth Avenue bike lane is always an adventure looking at those cool mid-century glass and steel skyscrapers. Riding through the park is an exercise in pure reverse-futility. Vaux & Olmstead sure did themselves proud in their landscape design in what is arguably the most famous Park in the world. The traverse around the Park is closed to traffic, effecting a 5-mile bike path circumnavigating the Upper East & West Sides. I always stop in my favorite part of the Park, the Harlem Meer where the lake, forests, and natural outcroppings of Manhattan Schist effect a super tranquil, naturalist setting far from the maddening crowds of New York. The trip's highlight was a visit to the Jewish Museum on 92nd St. to see a mind-blowing, comprehensive retrospective of the life-work of artist Paul Klee. They had it all,



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including his forays into German Expressionism, the Bauhaus, and Surrealism. And as crazy as it may sound following this exhibit, I bike-zoomed down 5th Avenue in the bus lane all the way to Chelsea. Crazy to ride pass the Plaza Hotel, Tiffany's, Trump Tower, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, the 42nd St Library, the Flatiron Building & Madison Square Park along the way, heading downtown to the Gagosian Gallery in the Chelsea Art Gallery District just west of The High Line. Yes, I took my life into my hands to see a large-scale exhibit of a little known, but increasingly acknowledged, important artist of the Abstract Expressionist movement in New

York in the 1950s -- Helen Frankenthaler. Seems she got short-shrift along with other female art innovators of the Mucho-Macho NYC downtown art-scene such as Motherwell, Pollock, & deKooning. Yes, my friends, her art which I had never seen before was worth the risk-filled five mile ride. Fabulous. Simply fabulous! Enormous color drenched abstract paintings. If you dig colorful gardening, you'd dig her work (excuse the 50s hipster lingo).



And a last word on the success of the rejuvenation of the road and bike path south of Patchogue Lake. I am pleased to say that the re-landscaping of the boring lawns into Pollinator Gardens funded by the Suffolk County Citizens Campaign for the Environment has taken root. The efforts of all the volunteers who helped plant the variegated butterfly, bee and bird plantings to fill the original water-runoff trough along the roadway has had measured results with plantings growing to impressive heights. The native planting has done its job in attracting pollinators along the lake shore. I can attest to seeing this when often bike riding along the pathway from my Patchogue Village apartment to the wine store on Waverly Ave.

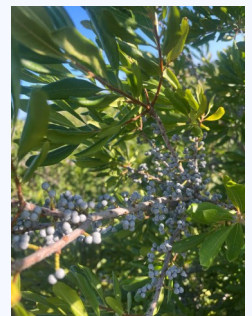


Stephan Paul, Veronica Gretton, and Eileen Brenner

Meeting at Shorefront Park I



Cattails (left) and Bayberry (right)



A juvenile swan swims in Little Creek, the stream which was rerouted to improve tidal flow and incorporate stormwater management features.



Khem Fatimi, Veronica Gretton and Kaetlyn Jackson, our guide.

Suggestion from Christopher Copobianco

Planting Fields Foundation's Spectacular perennial garden to open October 17

The new year-round garden is the most important enhancement since the 1930s when the Olmsted Brothers completed their work on site. Internationally acclaimed landscape designer Piet Oudolf's scheme for the one-acre garden creates a stunning public place for reflection, learning, and community engagement, the project also marks Oudolf's first public garden in New York in over a decade, expanding his portfolio of must-see destinations that includes The High Line and The Battery.

Dr. Gina J. Wouters, President and CEO of Planting Fields Foundation, said, "Watching the Oudolf Garden take shape has been incredible. With thousands of plants already in the ground, the landscape is beginning to reveal itself as both a work of art and a living ecosystem. This garden is designed for our community – to be explored, learned from, and returned to throughout the seasons. It reflects the Foundation's commitment to stewarding this historic landscape while creating new spaces that deepen connection to nature. The Oudolf Garden is poised to be Long Island's most beautiful acre, and that is already evident on site." Preparing the quadrants surrounding the historic and iconic Rose Arbor began in fall of 2025. Plant beds, pathways, and undulating berms were established in early spring and planting began in June. Oudolf has described his process as "a complicated layering of seasonality, energy, endurance, and reward – both before, during, and after flowering."

Nearly 90% of the garden is now planted, with the team completing the meadow matrices anchored by prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*).

Visitors can already enjoy seasonal highlights including threadleaf bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), pale purple coneflower 'Hula Dancer' (*Echinacea pallida* 'Hula Dancer'), and purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*). Throughout the block plantings, yarrow 'Moonshine' (*Achillea* 'Moonshine'), calamint (*Calamintha nepeta* ssp. *nepeta*), and ornamental onion 'Summer Beauty' (*Allium lusitanicum* 'Summer Beauty') are putting on a spectacular display among more than 100 carefully selected plant species that will continue to evolve and flourish throughout the seasons.

Visitor Information

Planting Fields is located at 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY, on Long Island's North Shore. The park is open every day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed December 25). The Main House is open Friday – Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Both the Main Greenhouse and Camellia Greenhouse are open Wednesday – Monday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Parking fees are collected on weekends and holidays April 4 through April 27; daily from May 3 to Labor Day; on weekends and holidays from Labor Day to November 16.

Parking fees are payable through self-serve pay stations in the parking lot. Pay stations accept credit or debit cards as well as cash in the exact amount. The parking fee is \$8 per car, \$35 per bus. Free parking for Seniors (62+) on weekdays only. Pay stations allow seniors to swipe their driver's license to confirm senior status, at which point a receipt is printed for dashboard placement. 516-922-9210 | plantingfields.org

Summarized from <https://www.iloveny.com/thebeat/post/planting-fields-foundations-new-piet-oudolf-designed-garden-takes-shape/>

Piet Oudolf is a Dutch garden designer, nurseryman and author. He is a leading figure of the "New Perennial" movement – his designs and plant compositions using bold drifts of herbaceous perennials and grasses which are chosen at least as much for their structure as for their flower color.



Veronica Gretton shared a link for the Piet Oudolf movie:

You can watch the movie for free here; it really is great! - https://watch.plex.tv/movie/five-seasons-the-gardens-of-piet-oudolf?utm_content=5d77704423d5a3001f538905&utm_medium=deeplink&utm_source=google-catalog

Veronica

Get to Know a Gardener Veronica Gretton

Where were you born, and where have you lived?

Hello fellow Gardeners! I was born and raised on a farm in rural Wales. I moved to London when I was 16 to work in the music industry and moved to the US about 30 years ago. I first lived in Los Angeles and then moved to New York where I lived in the East Village, then Williamsburg followed by Bushwick; none of these places had gardens. I moved to Patchogue during the pandemic and chose to stay because I love it here.

I own and run my own music company, 401K Music Inc, and work with some well-known bands, I'm mostly a music publisher but we also release records and are releasing two vinyl albums later this year. Vinyl! Old School! After that first wave of the pandemic and having lived here for 6 months, I took also a part time job with the auction house in Bellport—Cornell Auctions. Six years later I still work with them. I absolutely love the combination of what I do—Gardening and Antiques are the new rock 'n' roll!

What gave you your first interest in gardening?

My grandparents grew their own vegetables, and we raised livestock on the farm. My "jobs" were collecting eggs daily, milking the goat, feeding the orphan lambs, then when I was older I had to help pick and sort potatoes, help with shearing sheep, hay making—it was relentless, I was never allowed a "lie in", there are no "lie in's" or vacations in farming, it's very hard work. I have the greatest respect for Farmers, nature and the food chain.

Favorite gardening tool—my rootslayer shovel and a really great pair of rose colored safety glasses meant for nurses which I wear when using the strimmer (weed whacker). They're so comfortable I sometimes forget I'm wearing them!

Why did you join the garden club and are you enjoying it?

I went on one of the Patchogue Garden Tours and got talking to Paula who told me all about the Garden club, and I immediately wanted to join. I've met some fabulous like-minded people and formed genuine treasured friendships with some. It has been a wonderful experience.

An interesting place you've traveled to or visited—

I have been fortunate to travel a lot because of my work, whenever I was in a city I would try to take in a museum, art gallery and/or a garden—particularly a sculpture garden! I love India and have been fortunate enough to visit twice and am keen to go back. I would also love to visit Bhutan one day and maybe New Zealand to see my friend's Dad's sculpture park, Gibbs Farm. He has commissioned some incredible sculptors such as Andy Goldsworthy, Anish Kapoor, Sol LeWitt, and Richard Serra to create site specific pieces.

Your favorite dessert or food

Indian! My fellow Garden Club member friend Khem has been kind enough to cook authentic Indian food for me at least twice, beyond delicious!

A television show you like

I love TV! I particularly like a gentle murder mystery. *The Wire* was probably my favorite TV show of all time and my favorite movie is "Rush Hour." I'm not that complicated ha ha.



Veronica and her not AI garden

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A book you'd recommend

A big shout out to Patchogue Library! It really is a fantastic place staffed by amazing people. I've always got a couple of books on the go. I'm really into biographies and memoirs at the moment as I've had a bad run of fiction books. Of course, when someone asks for a book recommendation my mind goes immediately blank, and I can only think of books which I didn't like—most recently I enjoyed *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.

Favorite internet site

Facebook marketplace! I'm forever buying and selling nonsense on it.



Veronica and Willy

What would you do if you won the lottery?

It makes me anxious just thinking about it! I would have to set up a Foundation and give it all away, but there would be signs, as I would treat myself to an Alitex greenhouse...and maybe put an Orangery on the side of the house ;-)

Something you keep postponing—

Tidying my house and the garage which *others* keep messing up!

Thank you for reading and don't be a stranger my house and garden is always open to those who want to give me some gentle, solid advice!

Veronica x



Meeting on Paula's porch



Stephen Paul's trusty steed

Meeting at Shorefront Park II



Pat Sweeney, Margaret Atkinson, Betsy Smith and Christopher Capobianco

Chris Pashoukos and Teresa Ryther and the pirate ship