



The Garden Club of East Hampton Newsletter

Fall 2015



"Summer's lease hath all too short a date"

... William Shakespeare

CONSERVATION

ALERT

DESTRUCTIVE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE IN EAST HAMPTON

There is an infestation of the destructive Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) on Long Island and was first discovered September 2014 in Suffolk County. The situation has become dire as this tiny pest, smaller than a grain of rice, is considered one of the most destructive in the United States, attacking all species of pines, with an apparent preference for pitch pine, the predominant species in the Long Island Pine Barrens. Here in East Hampton, an infestation of SPB has been found in Bannister Park, necessitating that a few pines be taken down by the Village.

Size Comparison of Southern Pine Beetle w/ Rice Grain and Black Turpentine Beetle



Local and federal agencies are working to save the more than 100,000 acres of pine barrens which are located above Long Island's sole source water aquifer. These trees are environmentally important and protect this water source. Studies show that the use of insecticides to control SPB are ineffective and the chemicals pose too great a threat to the aquifer that supplies drinking water for the 2 million residents of Suffolk County.

Eliminating the infestation of pines on Long Island is paramount in combating the beetle. The most effective method of stopping the spread of SPB is by cutting down infested trees. Cutting these trees during the winter can reduce the population by killing the brood that is wintering within the tree. Trees should be destroyed and not moved to other areas.



Aerial and ground surveys confirm that infested pines die within several months. The tree's needles will turn from green to yellow to reddish brown in as little as 2 weeks after the initial attack. Be on the lookout for the 3 telltale signs of SPB infestation ... pitch tubes, exit holes, and galleries (tunnels) found under the bark.

Pitch Tubes



Exit Holes



Galleries



In New Jersey, more than 50,000 acres of pine barrens have been destroyed. To control the spread of the Southern Pine Beetle on Long Island, immediate action must be taken to report suspect trees. Recently dead pine trees that show the above signs should be reported to the NYS DEC Forest Health Diagnostic Lab at 1-866-640-0652, or you can email photos of suspicious trees, with close ups of damage, to foresthealth@dec.ny.gov.

More information is available at:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/0815southernpinebeetle.pdf

Sources: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and NYS Conservationist

Community Garden Update

Many of our Community Gardens are well worth a visit in the fall, so please try to stop by and enjoy them in the next month.

We have planted 17 large, lush Montauk daisies at the Millstone Garden Park, to create a burst of bloom for the Columbus Day weekend. With the Kousa dogwoods loaded with red berries against mottled leaves, and the *Hydrangea* 'Annabelle' still a lovely shade

of soft green, the garden is a blissful place to stop and enjoy the benches we donated last year to the Village, during our Centennial celebration.



Montauk Daisies at Millstone



Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle.'



Millstone Benches

The Mimi Meehan Native Plant Garden is transitioning to fall boldly and beautifully. A Kousa dogwood's leaves are now mostly red-purple arches over the dark stone bench at the back, with the scene highlighted by the white pebble path that curves in front of the bench. The native grasses (*Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind') are in full airy bloom, a native sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) is lying in sensuous sweeps of light green, and *Amsonia hubrichtii*'s billowy soft, needle-like leaves are slowly changing to fall yellow. All are accented perfectly by a variety of asters in strong shades of purple and blue, and a strong, long border of canary yellow provided by *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Full Moon.'



Dogwood and stone bench



Aesclepius tuberosa at Mimi's



Native grasses at Mimi's

Rachel's is simply radiant and bountiful this time of year. The four beds are full of strong and colorful bursts of asters and nasturtium, with the last of some stunning sunflowers in strong reds and burgundies and various other delights. Gourds thrive on a trellis that resembles those used at Mount Vernon in Colonial times, and grapes are abundant on both the perimeter trellis and the wood bench underneath, creating a poignant scene of fall's bounty.



The beehive-shaped structure at Rachel's is called a "skep" and was used in colonial times to attract honey bees.



The northwest bed at Rachel's in early July. The structure with poles up the center and lines for vines is similar to ones that George Washington used at Mount Vernon.



Filipendula ulmaria, or meadowsweet, and *Gaillardia aristata* 'Arizona Sun' at Rachel's



Angelica archangelica at Rachel's

Meanwhile, the white Knock Out roses at the Brick Courtyard Garden are in full bloom, even prettier now than earlier in the year as they are framed by a strong foreground of fuzzy gray-green lamb's ear, with a border of deep burgundy sedum that reflects the brick wall in the background.



White Knock-Out roses, lamb's ears, and sedum in the Brick Courtyard Garden



Statuary and plants in the Brick Courtyard Garden

Over the winter we will be working on several projects to ensure that our gardens stay beautiful and enticing. In late October, we will be installing irrigation at the Millstone Garden Park. We are also planting up two large containers with roughly 70 white tulips, in 7 cultivars and 3 layers, to place by Millstone's benches in the spring, where we hope they will bloom for 6 to 8 weeks. At the Post Office, we will be updating the bed on the east side of the building with some new viburnum, hellebore, and Christmas fern.

And finally, we will be working with the Village and the LVIS to improve the plantings at the Railroad Station. Many of the trees and shrubs there have outgrown the space and need pruning, and a few have died and should be removed. In addition, we are working on the Dortmund roses along the fence.

Community Garden Photo Credits: Julie Sakellariadis