

# Long Island Master Gardeners



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Member at Large: open position

## Winter's Reliable Delight Amaryllis

I have several Amaryllis some of which are several years old. Yet given this time of year they will consistently fulfill their preordained natural life cycle and grace the porch with their brace of dazzling blooms. They do not require a great deal of gardening care which makes them an easy plant to care for.



GC

## President's Line Feb. 2022

I started to prepare this current addition of your newsletter around Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> while the snow storm was gradually accumulating. Don't know about your garden but I measured an honest 18 to 24 inches average with some 3 foot drifts. And here we are now with almost all resemblance of it gone from the yard.

Don't know if you follow the predictions of those four legged, furry weather forecasters, but Punxsutawney Phil predicted another 6 weeks of winter. Holtsville Hal our own local meteorologist, a resident of the Holtsville Zoo differed with Phil, didn't see his shadow and so predicted an early spring. I suppose Phil may be the pessimist and Hal the optimist for 2022. Whatever the weather all we can do is adjust our every day outdoor activities to suit.

I receive weekly updates from the New York State Department of Conservation regarding a variety of current and informative updates on the state's natural environment. I recommend that you visit it as there is a wealth of information regarding questions about the natural world that surrounds us. One just post recently dealt with outdoor applications of pesticides and their relationship to decline in insect pollinators. If you copy and paste the below to your web browser it should bring you to that page.

**DEC Announces Actions to Protect New York's Pollinators by Restricting Use of 'Neonic' Pesticides - NYS Dept. of Environmental**

**The next Zoom date will be Wednesday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>; the hours are 10:00am to 11:30am.** While we all yearn for the resumption of the once communal meetings of the membership, these Zoom meetings perform the next best alternative to keeping the LIMG a cohesive organization. As I may have in last month's New Letter stated, you don't need to be a computer geek to learn how to zoom. The site is free and easily accessed through a desk top, laptop, I-pad or your phone. Logging in is as easy as tapping your cursor on the highlighted portion of the invitation e-mail and you should be whisked away into once again actual live involvement. Once in you can see familiar faces and contribute as much as, or as little as you wish. Even if it's just to say hello to a fellow member you haven't seen in months, you will be welcomed.  
George Costa  
gclv2fish@msn.com

### Member Gardening Contributions Page

Here is an opportunity for you to contribute a gardening note or picture to the LIMG Newsletter. You're welcomed to email me your entry request and I'll edit it into a future newsletter. A picture or two and a brief description of your entry will do. As we hopefully progress with the newsletter we may be able to add addition entries to it.

My e-mail address is [gclv2fish@msn.com](mailto:gclv2fish@msn.com) and I look forward to your selection.

Those decorative shoes that I placed in last month's newsletter weren't from my garden. They were created by someone whose grounds I will maintain at times. He has a small but densely packed area that is a joy to see.



### Early Gardening Chores

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the first weeks of the New Year are perfect for taking time to organize your gardening itinerary for the year. This is an opportunity to review successes and failures, yes admit it we have those too.

We all are naturally limited by several factors when we each year put on our gloves, gardening shoes and overalls. Just maintaining what already exist may be the extent of our gardening year. Tackling the instillation of a new planting bed may be past our physical capabilities. Yet we find



the resiliency to somehow accomplish the task. But no matter your choice, it's all about the individual enjoyment we fulfill.



Uninvited storm damage will always tax our gardening chores.

GC

### Let's Get Ready to Rumble

Each one of us who is possessed with gardening mania needs to prepare their body and yes their very soul's for the coming battle with our gardening opponents. Don't fool yourselves as you gaze out your window into a yard that's covered with a recent snowfall and 20 degree temperature.

Tomato  
Hornworm



THEY'RE OUT THERE WAITING FOR  
THAT FIRST SEEDLING

GC

## Gardening Time Line

If you recall in last month's newsletter I included a list of several early gardening tips that one can incorporate when preparing for the coming season. These early months of the New Year are perfect for certain gardening tasks. Whether you're a totally immersed garden junkie or the occasional amateur some preparation is required. I'll admit I'm the junkie type. At times I can get to be ridiculous in my seasonal gardening routine. But the gardening gods somehow seemed to take pity on me and keep me feeling grandiose. Anna however just looks at me and says 'Fat Head'. Back to reality, sensibility and reliable garden tips.

This time of year it seems that every merchant store you walk into has a small or huge display of plant seeds. From vegetables to flowers, those individual packets sparkle like diamonds in a jeweler's case. Fortunately they are not sold by the karat but the price has definitely increased and the volume within has decreased. I suggest that if you're a junkie like me to bring along a pair of horse blinders. But it's hard and even though I just went in to pick up a needed item, I also have a hand full of bedazzling seed packets.

You now have a packet of supposedly fresh viable seeds. But low and behold while rummaging through your shoe box of saved seed packets; you discover packets of the same variety. Will the older seeds still be viable? I have seeds that are several years old and every year they will surprise me with their ability to germinate true to form. But here it is several weeks before the recommended time to actually begin germinating. It may be too early to start, but it is the perfect time to check if the saved seed is still viable.



As seen in the photo on the right, all you need is a small container, fill with about three inches of potting soil and drop in about 10 saved vegetable or bean seed. Cover seeds per recommended depth keep moist, not soggy. Place in a warm location, sunlight is not necessary for the majority of seedlings. The plants you see illustrated were fava bean and they were purchased several years ago. I hadn't planted any in several years, but they were almost 100 % in germination last year. that fava bag of seed will be good for several more years. GC



## What's on Line

One simply can't refute that there is a plethora, love that word, of information available to us over the internet on flora topics. Whether it's your current back yard or you're moving to timbuk2, just punch in your location and at the very least (native plants). Up pop the perfect list for assured gardening success. So here you are, you've copied that list and somehow a plethora, there's that word again, of incidental plants you adore magically appeared below the listing you copied. Well all you need do is go on line type the words "How do I grow Solanum lycopersicum" and up pops a kazillion sites for the tomato! Yes everything you ever wanted to know about that proverbial gardening staple is displayed before you.

I try to stay involved with various outdoor issues that allow me to remain abreast of topics and events reflective of Long Island environment. This involvement gives me timely information on a variety of subjects that you and I may have in common. To that end, I will attempt to keep you updated on several other topics that I am confident will interest a good number of you.

## Great American Backyard Bird Count

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

I am confident that a good majority of you never pass up the opportunity to delight in observing our feathered friends. The Island has a multitude of sites for observation, check out [Audubon New York](#) on line for locations. But I already know that you have that feeder so fill it, pull up a chair and record that count.



## Upcoming Friends of Connetquot Lectures

Visit: [Friends of Connetquot River State Park](#) web page to register

Saturday, February 26, 2022 - 2:00 pm

[Grow More with Less: Sustainable Garden Methods: Less Water - Less Work - Less Money](#)

[Presented by Vincent Simeone - Director, Planting Fields Arboretum](#)

Lectures are free for members of Friends of Connetquot. Non-members pay \$5/person at the door. Please consider becoming a member and enjoy our programming all year long. GC

# Long Island Master Gardeners 2021-2022 Membership Application

## Membership effective through December 31, 2022

Please check appropriate box: Renewal New

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Master Gardener Graduate, Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Or Associate Member

If this is for dual membership (2 people in same household), complete below for the second member.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Master Gardener Graduate, Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Or Associate Member

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd person \_\_\_\_\_

LIMG would like to know what other organizations members are affiliated with. Many members are active in community and volunteer organizations, and have interesting hobbies. This information will help determine award recipients and who might serve as a group presenter.

**Please list all community and volunteer organizations to which you are a member and any hobbies and skills you may have.** \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues: **\$25.00** per member or **\$35.00** for a couple (significant other relationship) living at the same address. Make check payable to **Long Island Master Gardeners**.

Send this completed membership form and check to:

**Ms. Lorraine Leacock**

**76 Division Avenue**

**Blue Point, NY 11715**

Check number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that prompt return of this membership application with your check saves LIMG considerable labor and mailing costs.

Thank you!

Nancy Lynch

LIMG Membership Director