



HAHappenings



September 2015



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org

P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

at the Bridgehampton Community House

HAH MONTHLY LECTURE - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 - 2 PM

The High Line: Lessons for our Gardens

Manhattan's High Line presents a brilliant transformation of a defunct elevated rail line. The mile and a half long greenway traverses woodlands, grasslands, thicket, meadow and park. Handsome, hardy, and rugged plants only make their home in this urban public space 30 feet above street level. Which of these lesser-known plant combinations could enhance your garden? How might your landscape be enriched by the aesthetics of High Line design? Join Master Gardener Roxanne Zimmer for an exploration of this jewel in the NYC Parks Department crown.

Roxanne lectures on soil biodiversity, organic lawns and pollinator gardens. As a speaker at the regional Small Farm Summits and Long Island Food Conference, she advocated for planting food everywhere. Dr. Zimmer has been a regular contributor to *Long Island Gardening Quarterly*, a publication of Cornell Cooperative Extension. With Caroline Kiang, a former president of the Perennial Plant Association, she is launching *Environmental Gardening Initiative*, a teaching workshop resource for gardeners on the East End of Long Island.



HAH BOOK AND PLANT SALE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - 9 AM - 1 PM





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rhododendron asterochnoum

HAH 2015

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Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please include HAH in the subject line.

MAILING

John Benson

PHOTOS

Bettina Benson, George Biercuk, Elaine Peterson

A group of HAH plant lovers traveled to Seattle in August on a wonderful tour led by Cole Burrell. Visiting 22 public and private gardens, we were introduced to many plants like the one at left from Sichuan, China, that are rarely seen in the Northeast. This was a plant trip of a lifetime for many of us and the height to which HAH educational opportunities can go!

Please take advantage of the many opportunities this fall to join in at HAH Roundtables, Book groups and Lectures and learn more about plants and gardening with them in our own area. But first, **don't miss our Fall Book and Plant Sale where you will find surprises and bargains galore!** ➤LOOK TO THE RIGHT ➤

And please think about how you can get more involved with us this year by volunteering your time and expertise. We always welcome and need more help on our committees. I am sure that there is just the right spot for you!

Elaine

FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN

How do you know you are a fanatical gardener?

There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.

You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.

You prefer gardening to watching television.

You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.

Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.

Please join other like-minded people this month in the HAH garden on Tuesday, September 22 at 10 am. You'll be delighted you did.

Cathie Gottschalk

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - 9 AM TO 1 PM

HAH SALE OF GARDEN BOOKS AND PLANTS

- Half-price or greater reductions on encyclopedias, biographies, directories and other hard- and soft-cover **book donations from the libraries of renowned local gardeners**. A special selection of many books will be sold from \$1 - \$3.
- Priced-to-sell **perennials** and **shrubs** dug from Horticultural Alliance Members' own gardens: deer-resistant arums and ferns; perennial white and pink begonias, and much more.
- **Victoria is back!** Vicki Bustamante of **Provenance Natives** will again be selling hard-to-find native plants sown and grown on Long Island.
- **Sharp Hamptons is back!** Greg Hollman will be there to sharpen your garden tools from 9am to 1pm.
- Rain or Shine
- Location: **HAH Library**, ground floor of the Bridgehampton Community House/School Street side of the building.
- Admission free
- All proceeds help to support HAH's educational programs

If you would like to donate plants for the sale, we will gladly welcome your contributions. Please clearly mark your plants with botanical and common names, growing conditions, mature plant size, bloom time and color. We have a supply of pots if you need them. Donated plants can be dropped off on Saturday morning.

On September 20, 2015, at 2 pm, HAH member and popular lecturer Lois Sheinfeld will give an illustrated lecture for the NY Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society entitled: **THE FRAGRANT GARDEN: RESPLENDENT FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS**. The lecture will be held at Planting Fields Arboretum, Main Greenhouse Classroom. The public is welcome. No charge. For lecture details, see Lois's Blog: www.floragloria.com.

HAH WORKSHOP

Make a Beautiful Fresh Greens Tabletop Tree

Saturday, November 21st

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Workshop limited to 20 people - materials included



Create a lovely centerpiece to adorn the holiday dinner table. This 14 to 16 inch tree, using FRESH EVERGREENS, will last for months in moist foam. Learn techniques of shaping for desired look. Finish by decorating your creation with many assorted dried flowers, berries, cones, and natural items harvested from the end of season garden. Participants can choose a theme such as color, texture, woodland, holiday, seasonal, seashore, etc.

Come enjoy the satisfaction of making your own arrangement. Be inspired by the passion **Diana Conklin, Dried Floral Designer**, loves to share.

Date & Time: Saturday, November 21st at 2 pm

Location: John LoGerfo Library, Bridgehampton Community House,
Enter the Library on the School Street side of building

Materials: All materials needed are included in the cost of the workshop

Cost: \$30 HAH Members; \$40 Non-members

Payment must be made by November 1, 2015.

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the Dried Flower Arrangement Workshop on Saturday, November 21st at 2pm

Name(s) _____

Phone: (cell preferred) _____

Email: _____

I would like to purchase tickets at: \$30 Member _____; \$40 Non-Member _____; Total _____

Please make checks payable to HAH and Mail to HAH, P. O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. Attention: Workshops. Please mail your check no later than November 1.

Questions: Call Pat Wood at 631.537.0296, email patricia.wood@dilect.us or Bettina at 631.728.1981, email bbettina@optonline.net

MUSINGS & RAMBLINGS

A “Sanctuary” Under Siege Where have the birds been driven?

George Biercuk

When looking for a piece of land upon which to build our house there were nonnegotiable criteria: south facing rear exposure; wooded; surroundings also wooded; trees deciduous to ensure maximum winter passive solar heat gain and minimized summer heat gain. We thought, naively in hindsight, that the town’s updated land clearing laws protected the trees and understory surrounding us. Not so. Zoned agricultural overlay, though the trees are well over 100 years old, we thought our shade garden was secure. Two lots, one to the south and the other just to the southwest of it have been stripped of ALL vegetation. The glaring sunlight, which now pours deeper into the garden each day as we approach the Autumnal equinox, will have unknown, at the moment, consequences on what was up to now a bright shade garden. Time will tell.

The first casualties of the relentless, every few days, leveling through late spring into early summer were the frantic birds. By this time nesting sites and feeding ranges were established. We are home to myriad birds which had already established their territories. Now we had displaced birds anxious to have chicks this year. The increase in their activity in the garden was stupendous. They were so raucous at 4:30AM sunlight that I knew if they woke me I was late for my 5:30AM opening of the gym. The local hawk was in avian bliss. Here were all these displaced birds just waiting to be plucked from the sky because they were homeless. The garden was a hub of activity until the adjoining lot was brutally assaulted. Apparently so much habitat was being destroyed as one tree after another was felled that our nesters were also disturbed.

The final straw seems to have been the scorched earth clearing of the second lot. Not only had the light’s intensity amplified, the sky had fallen. No longer was there just a westerly focus toward bright light, softening one’s gaze toward the brightness, as well as the sound of the waterfall. Time will tell what awaits our future garden. Nonetheless there was almost no avian activity in our garden as of early August. *Viburnums Shasta* and *Summer Snowflake* still retained their berries, something unheard of in years past. The pool’s waterfall has always hosted birds that bathed in its shallows. Considering the extreme drought we were experiencing their absence was profound and unsettling.

As to the drought, it has been extreme at our home front. While there have been piddling sprinkles around us not a drop has kissed our soil in weeks. Since the beginning of April when we had a surfeit of several inches the tally has turned to

deficit of almost eight inches resulting in a shortfall of almost one foot. Adequate August and September rainfall is essential to the initiation of tree and shrub winterization process.

Our gardens have been under extraordinary stress since the beginning of the year. The “old fashion” winter morphed into a cold dry spring. Trees and shrubs struggled to foliate and repair the ravages of winter. The deepening drought deprived them of an essential component needed to replenish their “stock” to support next year’s growth. Unfortunately there’s another player lurking in the environment that can be fatal if our flora, mainly trees, isn’t adequately hydrated by the end of September. GYPSY MOTHS!

There were insular outbreaks this past June, one as close as Hampton Bays. It is anticipated that there will be a MAJOR region-wide outbreak next year, baring a cool, rainy June which could help decimate their population and spare us from a deluge of larva poop as they mindlessly munch away at our trees. Adding insult to injury are what we call inch worms which just as mindlessly chomp away at everything in their path. We found a number of bloated carcasses at the bottom of the pool this summer, a possible forewarning of what might be in store for us next year. Just as the overall landscape as a whole is suffering because of the drought the areas defoliated

will be extremely vulnerable in the future since they are using up their reserves without any hope of replenishment this late in the year.

Hydration and nourishment are the keys. DEEP WATERING is essential to keep roots focused downward in order to enable all our plants to survive these ever more common dry spells. Absent an

automated irrigation I am Gunga Din for our garden. With nine spigots located throughout the garden I can concentrate watering where needed, for as long as needed, site specific. Granted this will not work for everyone. This was my solution to the inability of any irrigation company to devise a system for this type of garden.

Nourishment is going to be most crucial this autumn. Given what our gardens have gone through this year they need FOOD. In late autumn, not before Thanksgiving, feed your trees and shrubs. A fertilizer such as 50% organic 10-6-4 is a good broad spectrum feed for all manner of trees and shrubs. You don’t have to be concerned about their pH preference. Come spring that stored nourishment will give them a needed boost. Again next year, no later than early April, give them another feeding to sustain them into summer, by which time they should be producing sustenance unaided. We hope, as gardeners and caretakers of our small piece of terra firma, that our efforts will continue to provide a sanctuary for our avian dinosaurian descendants. Thankfully the final desecration beyond our land happened post-nesting and we will, in the future, have the full complement of the avian community with which we have cohabited in the past. This garden is our, as well as the birds’, sanctuary.



HAH MEMBERS TOUR GARDENS ON THE NORTH FORK

JULY 13, 2015

Pamela Harwood

Although it was a hot and humid July day, the group of HAH members and their guests who traveled to the North Fork for our garden tour were well-rewarded with visits to two unique private gardens and one wonderful nursery.

Our first stop of the day was the Jamesport property of Nancy Gilbert and Richard Wines, which has been owned by members of Richard's family for over 100 years. On the way to the main house, we rode through a long driveway that intersects a huge field that had just been harvested to provide food for horses at nearby stables. There are numerous historic buildings on the land that have been moved from other locations and given a new home here. The main portion of their residence dates to the 1700's and is surrounded by a cottage garden and old pump which now serves as a quaint water feature. Just across a path is an orchard with both upright and espaliered trees and caged blueberry bushes. At the end of the path that runs through it is an old school house. Hanging upside down inside the entry is curing garlic as well as a wreath made of dried, red chili peppers and heads of garlic. Inside the schoolhouse are an old, long table painted a bright red; a vintage bicycle with one huge and one small wheel; and a framed record of long-past Arbor Day plantings. Continuing along we passed vegetable gardens interspersed with perennials and re-seeded annuals, tall trellises made of old tree trunks and branches as well as more formal obelisks, and large birdhouses on tall posts, all surrounded by white, picket fences as well as plantings of tall, flowering shrubs. I particularly liked the artichokes, which are grown from seed each year. And what devoted gardener wouldn't be impressed by their innovative deer deterrent: all the planting areas are surrounded by electrified wire. Beyond the gardens we came to the shore of Great Peconic Bay, with a stunning view of watery expanse and the South Fork in the distance.



From there we traveled northwest to Baiting Hollow to visit the private, non-member garden of Alice and Jack van der Wetering. At the end of a long, dirt road we came upon their beautiful, modern-style home surrounded by gardens filled with perennials, shrubs, and trees, and one of the largest private ponds I have visited, replete with lily pads, jumping frogs, fish, birds, and other wildlife. There were also numerous, shaded resting areas with gravel and stonescaping, which were quite welcome on such a hot day, as were the iced-cold bottles of water the owners had waiting for us!

For our last stop we drove south to the Peconic River Herb Farm in Calverton. Peter and I headed right for the picnic tables that were under the shade of trees on the Peconic River, and enjoyed the lunch we had brought along for the tour. There were a number of plants available here that I haven't seen at the South Fork nurseries. But the day being so hot, we headed home empty-handed, leaving behind Terry Coppola who, although she was about to drop, was still shopping for plants. You go Terry!

HAH MEMBERS GARDEN TOUR

EAST HAMPTON AND SAG HARBOR, AUGUST 15, 2015

Pamela Harwood

Our second HAH members tour of local gardens this season drew 36 people, all hardy folks ready to brave the heat, humidity, and traffic of mid August and show up at 9am for the opportunity to see, not “behind-the-hedges,” but rather “into the woods” of these beautiful member gardens. Thanks to all of you who did. And thank you to Mike Monaco for allowing us to start the day at his garden and be on hand to answer our questions and give us advice, and to Dr. Vincent Covello, who personally led us on a tour throughout five acres of his gardens.

- *Dr. Michael Monaco, East Hampton*

Mike has skillfully created winding stone paths, visual focal points, and seating areas, all surrounded by interesting borders of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees. I particularly enjoyed the red-painted bench; the oversize wood, triangle trellis; large sculpture, the long entryway lined on one side with shade-loving plants and on the other side with sun sun-loving plants.

- *Dr. Vincent Covello, Sag Harbor/East Hampton*

It was with a great sigh of relief that I pulled up the driveway, as the tour of this magnificent property has been postponed twice in the last year and a half, due to Dr. Covello’s work with the World Health Organization. Many of us may recall the fascinating lecture he gave for the HAH about two years ago. He described his youthful travels in Japan and how he was influenced by the garden design and sensibility in that country, where the strategic placement of rocks and pebbles create a sense of timelessness, and vast stretches of moss, sometimes five inches deep, create a cool and tranquil environment.

For each of the last 20 years, Dr. Covello has created various gardens, carved out of the wooded property, for his wife’s birthday. There are 10 acres of moss, and the different colors indicate different varieties. The many rocks in some of the gardens are of different sizes and placed to have symbolic value. But many other features have been added to rock and moss “bones” of these gardens. Wooden bridges create a path over water streams, waterfalls, and dry streams of pebbles. We were showed the large, “sacrificial koi pond,” so named because of marauding hawks. The many trees included polonia, which grew from seeds that made their way into packing material in shipments from China, purple fountain beech, Acer palmatums, Acer griseums, white birches, a dawn redwood (a deciduous species once thought to be extinct, but discovered in China in 1944) and Wollemi pine, one of the world’s rarest and most ancient trees. In 1994 they only were known from fossils, but a chance discovery in a rugged gorge in the mountains west of Sydney, Australia revealed a grove dating back 200 million years! (Dr. Covello calls this his “Jurassic Park” garden.) One surprise was a monkey puzzle tree that had died, but was painted red to give it a new, decorative life...

Some of the theme gardens we toured included a “1491 native garden” including trees and plants indigenous before Europeans arrived; a “dry landscape garden” symbolizing the stages of life, ending with the gates of paradise; a dry waterfall garden composed of rocks; 8 stone “islands” shaped like tortoises surrounded in a sea of moss and last but not least we entered the “Classical Italian garden,” with autumn olive trees, fountain, and replica of an ancient sculpture from Roman Carthage. As I walked back to the car, I felt as if I had left a magical forest.

HAH 2015 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM

September 13 - Roxanne Zimmer - The High Line: Lessons for Our Gardens

October 18 - Anne Spiegel - Rock Garden Plants - At Their Homes and at Yours

November 8 - Catie Marron - City Parks: Public Places, Private Thoughts

December 13 - John Lonsdale, Phd. - Unusual Geophytes and Cyclamen

East End Garden Events - Fall 2015

MADOO CONSERVANCY - open Fridays and Saturdays 12-4 pm - info@madoo.org

BRIDGE GARDENS - open Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 5 , Sundays 12 - 5 www.peconiclandtrust.org

Wednesdays, 2-5 pm - **Free Lawn & Landscape Advice** with arborist Paul Wagner of Treewise Organics

Saturday, September 12, 10 am - 12 pm - **Designing with Native Grasses**, \$20 pp, \$10 BG member, reservations required. Rain or shine.

Saturday, October 17, 10 - 11:30 am - **Bay-Scaping: Protecting our Bays**, \$10 pp, BG members free, reservations requested. Rain or shine.

Sunday, December 6, 2 - 4 pm - **Annual Holiday Wreath Workshop**, \$30 pp, reservations required. Rain or shine.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS - www.gardenconservancy.org

Saturday, September 12, Gardens in East Hampton and Cutchogue.

HAH EVENTS

Saturdays, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19 - Roundtable - 10 am at the HAH Library

Saturday, November 7, 10 am - Jim Jeffrey Camellia Group at the HAH Library

Saturday, November 21, 2 - 4 pm - Fresh Greens Workshop, registration required. See p. 4! at the HAH Library

Saturday, December 5, 11 am - Winter Book Group at the HAH Library

Dryopteris expansa



100% Recycled

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