



# HAHappenings



## December 2015



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

631.537.2223 [hahgarden.org](http://hahgarden.org)

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

at the Bridgehampton Community House

**HAH MONTHLY LECTURE - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015 - 2 PM**

### Unusual Geophytes and Cyclamen

Horticulturist John Lonsdale, originally from Sheffield, England, will discuss the many choice and unusual species and selected forms of bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes that he grows at "Edgewood Gardens", the Lonsdale family garden in Exton, SE Pennsylvania. Geophytes are easy to grow and provide beautiful flowers and foliage interest throughout the year in all areas of the garden. Plants which will be discussed and extensively illustrated include Cyclamen, Iris, Crocus, Narcissus, Corydalis, Erythronium, and Trillium, as well as many others, which are suitable for garden conditions ranging from the rock garden to the woodland, as well as growing in containers. The presentation will focus on methods for their successful planting and cultivation, and propagation by division and from seed.

Cyclamen will be especially featured. In the Primrose family, the genus *Cyclamen* is one of few whose numerous species and cultivars are universally appealing. Cyclamen are endowed with charming flowers ranging in color from near red through pink to white, and the different Cyclamen species can be found in flower at almost any time of the year. They possess a variety of fragrances, and beautifully marked leaves which give interest and much pleasure before, and long after the blooms have gone. The foliage alone justifies growing them. *Cyclamen hederifolium* and *Cyclamen coum* alone will provide a spectacular hardy ground cover from October until May. John has spent over 30 years raising tens of thousands of seedlings with amazing leaf shapes and patterns, and will be bringing a selection for sale at the meeting. You can see the garden and the range of plants John grows at [www.edgewoodgardens.net](http://www.edgewoodgardens.net).



### UPCOMING HAH EVENTS

**DEC. 5 - BOOK GROUP - 11 AM**

**DEC. 13 - ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY,  
immediately after the 2 pm lecture**

**DEC. 19 - ROUNDTABLE - 10 AM**

**JAN. 2 - BOOK GROUP - 11 AM**

**JAN. 10 - LECTURE - 2 PM**





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Ilex verticillata serrata*  
'Koshobai'

Thank you all for your steady support these past three years while I've been at the helm. The generosity of your gifts, friendships and time spent volunteering has made my work so much easier. Special thanks go to all our board members past and present who always worked together as an effective, well-oiled team and will continue so with Janet Ollinger at the head in 2016. A warm welcome to new board members, Greg Wiseman and Mary Maran, and a huge thank you and farewell to Cathie Gottschalk. She will be stepping down next year after being a fantastic 'Volunteers' chair for many years as well as a board member and will be greatly missed for her calm presence and organizational skills. She promises to keep on working in our HAH garden though when she is here in the warm months!

I hope to see you all at the Annual Party on Dec. 13 where we can all celebrate another great year at HAH. Lori Barnaby will be working her decorating magic again and the food is always the best anywhere - straight from your kitchens!

Happy Holidays everyone!

Elaine

## HAH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!**

**Immediately following our 2 pm lecture, Sunday,  
December 13, 2015, in the main hall of the BH  
Community House**

**We ask that all members attending provide a dish  
of finger food - either sweet or savory. Please be  
sure it is covered and ready to serve. As always,  
wine, apple cider, coffee and tea will be provided.**

### HAH 2015

#### OFFICERS

President	Elaine Peterson
First Vice President	Janet Ollinger
Second Vice President	Marie DiMonte
Recording Secretary	Susan Brackett
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Wood
Treasurer	Bettina Benson

#### DIRECTORS

Cathie Gottschalk	2015
Pamela Harwood	2015
Rick Bogusch	2016
Terry Coppola	2016
Greg Wiseman	2017
Alicia Whitaker	2017

#### LIBRARY CHAIR

Susan Kennedy Zeller

#### NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE EDITOR

Elaine Peterson

[hahmember@optonline.net](mailto:hahmember@optonline.net)

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

#### MAILING

John Benson

#### PHOTOS

George Biercuk, Elaine Peterson

### HAH 2016

#### OFFICERS: (an officer serves for a 1 year term)

President.....	Janet Ollinger
First Vice President.....	Pamela Harwood
Second Vice President.....	Marie DiMonte
Recording Secretary.....	Susan Brackett
Corresponding Secretary.....	Patricia Wood
Treasurer.....	Bettina Benson

#### DIRECTORS: (a director serves for a 3 year term)

Terry Coppola.....	'16
Rick Bogusch.....	'16
Alicia Whitaker....	'17
Greg Wiseman.....	'17
Elaine Peterson.....	'18
Mary Maran.....	'18

The Library Chairperson (who serves on the Board with a vote) is currently: Susan Kennedy Zeller

## HAH LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

**Susan Kennedy Zeller**

**Winter Library:** When our gardens are quiet it is such a great time to be reading, scheming and planning for another gardening year! Do stop in when we are open, relax, and use the books, magazines (hey- why pay for your own subscription when we have it here for you?), and even our Vertical Files, which contain numerous timeless articles! See hours below or browse any time you are here for an event such as a workshop. Want to know if we have a particular book? Go to our HAH website and click on the Library link. Our catalogue is online!

**Book Discussion Group:** Mark your calendar as the return of the successful DO NOT READ THIS BOOK talks will begin in December 5. Remember- Each presenter will be doing the reading for everyone so no need to prepare anything. Just come, relax, bring your own coffee, tea or whatever and munch a cookie or two we provide and enjoy your morning. Carolyn Gemake is Moderator so if you would like to be a presenter just call our office number - 631-537-2223- and leave your contact information.

**Book Donations:** Many thanks to those who have donated books for benefiting the HAH. Because we have no safe storage space we can NOT accept more during the winter months. Please watch the newsletter and when we schedule another sale event we will let you know when you can drop off! We appreciate thinking of us!

**HAH at Bridge Gardens, October 24th**

**Working together!**



## WINTER BOOK GROUP

Our first meeting of the season is December 5 at 11 am in the HAH library. Remember you don't need to read the books yourself. The presenters have done that for you! Carolyn Gemake will moderate. Come join us!

Mike DeVito: What are Gardens For?: Visiting, Experiencing & Thinking about Gardens - Rory Stuart

Susan Brackett: Jacques Boyceau & the French Formal Garden - Franklin Hamilton Hazelhurst

Joan DiMonda: Dream Plants for the Natural Garden - Hank Garritsen & Piet Oudolf

**Library Open Hours: Winter. Every Saturday (except the Saturdays after Thanksgiving and Christmas) from 10 AM to noon and after our Sunday Lectures. As an extra convenience we are also open most Tuesdays 10-12! If you need a special time just give us a call at 631-537-2223.**

**GIVE A YEAR OF PLEASURE  
TO SOMEONE SPECIAL -  
A MEMBERSHIP IN HAH!**

**You will give all this and MORE:**

Lectures by horticultural experts, roundtable discussions and workshops, local and long distance garden tours, use of our outstanding library, a monthly informative garden newsletter, and new gardening friendships!

**Student memberships...\$10**

**Individual memberships...\$45**

**Family/Dual memberships ...\$75**

**Premium Memberships:**

**Contributing single...\$90**

**Contributing dual...\$125**

**LET US ARRANGE IT FOR YOU. SIMPLY CALL 631-537-2223, or email our Membership Chair Bettina Benson at [bbettina@optonline.net](mailto:bbettina@optonline.net). or write HAH, P O Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202**

**AND REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR OWN GIFT TO YOURSELF, if you haven't already!!**





## HAH ROUNDTABLE - OCTOBER 17, 2015

Moderated and written by Pamela Harwood

Our first Roundtable of the season drew a full crowd of over 20 attendees, all participating in lively discussions. With four topics for the day, the agenda was admittedly ambitious for a two-hour session, which kept us going right up until the noon “bell.”

**“Looking Back: Some of My Plants Did Not Thrive this Season. Does Anyone Know Why?”** was the first plaintive question and I was the first to ask for guidance. Following the last Roundtable in April, which was about Edible Landscaping, or Edible Ornamentals, I decided this summer to try my hand at growing my first non-herb edibles, mixing kale, Swiss chard, cabbage, and zucchini in my herb bed and ornamental borders. I thought the time was right now that I have deer fencing. It did not take long before the rabbits ate the kale, chard, and cabbage. I was so focused on deer I did not remember the hungry rabbits (and voles and moles for all I know). So, deciding they are height-challenged, I moved them to planters, where they thrived. It was not quite the design “look” that I had planned, but at least the plants survived. The zucchini posed another problem. For years I have grown gourds, and these have never been touched by any of the wildlife. So I was lured into a false sense of security by switching to their zucchini cousin. However, their flowers proved irresistible to the non-human residents. Although I managed to get four very healthy zucchinis, my hopes of overabundance were dashed. My other false assumption was presuming that zucchini, like gourds, would adapt to growing up a trellis or fence, thus saving space. Wrong again: zucchini definitely likes to spread out; not up and not down.

Alas, I had other disappointments. The supposedly disease-resistant Knock-Out roses seem just as prone to fungal diseases as my hybrid teas. The *Cornus sericea* ‘Sunshine’ shrub I had purchased had fungal problems all season. One attendee asked if it was planted in sun or shade, and I replied that it was in all-day sun. I was told that her same variety was in part shade and did beautifully. Thank you very much; my shrub will be moving as soon as possible... All new growth of a variegated hosta I purchased reverted to all-green foliage, proving that many hybrids do not deliver as promised. I also made a change with my clematis x ‘Ramona,’ which is in Group 3 or late-flowering variety. Actually, it’s supposed to bloom in June and then rebloom in September, but it never has. In the attempt to follow the conventional wisdom to put the roots in a cool and shady place, I believe the protected area prevented air circulation and caused the leaves to develop wilt each year following flowering. So I lifted the plant out of the perhaps compromised soil and transferred it to a container with all new soil, and placed a metal, pyramidal trellis over the root ball. Compost was added on top of the soil to keep the roots protected and nourished while the foliage now gets sun and air circulation and, voila, my June-blooming clematis rebloomed in September, and no subsequent wilt! Bettina mentioned that she grows clematis “Viticella” (Italian clematis), a small-flowered variety that is less prone to clematis wilt.

Basil has been a problem for us all year and last year as well, and this bad result was echoed by many at the table. When researched on the internet, there was mention of a blight or wilt. One attendee said that she has had success planting the Greek variety, which is available at Lynch’s. Oh—and I didn’t even get a chance to ask if anyone knows why only one of my *lychnis coronaria* ‘alba’ is blooming...help!

Another attendee bemoaned the fact that her boxwood has blight. Everyone agreed that this has been a problem with many types of boxwood for several years now. Linda Scalfani suggested that the dead parts be pruned out (not on a sunny day) and that the entire shrub should be removed from its container and the soil completely changed.

The next topic was **“Dividing Perennials and Suckering Shrubs.”** for which I distributed a handout with information about why to divide plants, best methods and tools, and replanting the divisions, all gleaned from past Roundtables as well as my own research and experience.

One attendee inquired as to the best time to divide hosta. Marie DiMonte suggested that spring is a good time and this suggestion is echoed in much of the horticultural literature. On the other hand, I prefer to divide as many plants as possible in the fall, for the following reasons:

- The entire plant is visible, so you can better judge the circumference of the root ball
- Temperatures are cool enough to avoid stress on plant
- Roots will have a longer time to establish before the next summer’s heat than if you divide in spring
- Having the roots already established by spring will enable the plant to put its strength on growing foliage and flowers

Several tips were offered regarding increasing the survival chances of the replanted divisions. Carol Campolo stressed the importance of filling up the new planting hole with water and then setting the plant in the water-filled hole. This way the roots are given an immediate injection of water. If you do not transplant the same day as removing the plant, then let the divisions or parent plant’s roots soak in water overnight. Pat Wood suggested placing a pot over each replanted division for one day to hold in moisture.

## HAH ROUNDTABLE - OCTOBER 17, 2015

Our third subject was **“Saving Seeds: How to Harvest and Store Seeds from your own Plants and the Best Time and Method for Sowing them.”** Following the tradition of the late Jim Jeffrey, my predecessor in moderating the Roundtables, I brought some samples from my own garden, in this case seed pods of *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed) in varying stages of development. One sample had the pod intact and closed, indicating the seeds inside were not yet ripe; another was beginning to open, showing the cottony substance that protects the seeds, and the third sample was the open pod with the seeds separated from the “down” and fully brown or ripe. This happens to be one kind of seed that is called “hydrophylic,” meaning that the seeds should be sown as soon as they are ripe and not dried and stored. In nature the seeds would simply drop to the ground as soon as the pod opens and releases the ripe seeds. Other examples are *aquilegia* (columbine), *helleborus*, *corydalis*, and *trillium*.



I distributed another handout for attendees to take home, covering topics such as *Why Collect Seeds, Caveat Emptor: the Seeds of Hybrid Varieties, How to Collect Seeds, Cleaning, Drying, Storing, and Sowing*, including information about the subject of seed “stratification,” or the requirement of some seeds to go through cold and warm periods in order to germinate.

Finally, we discussed **“Putting the Garden to Bed for Winter.”** Although this is a topic we have previously discussed, it is definitely an “evergreen,” or one that always interests our attendees. An updated information sheet was distributed, covering such topics as *Which Perennials should not be cut back, but left for winter interest and food for wildlife (that’s birds, not deer or voles or moles, etc.), Which deciduous shrubs provide attractive winter branch structure and berries, Semi-evergreens, What to Cut Back Now, Tender Bulbs to Dig Up and Store, Composting, Winter Evergreen Protection, Winter Care of Roses, How to Use All those Fallen Leaves for Compost and Mulch, Applying Mulch for the Winter, Which Plants Need Protection from Deer only in the Winter, Fertilizing in late November, and Protecting Garden Hoses, Planters, and Decorative Accessories.*

A lively discussion ensued about removing and storing non-hardy bulbs, corms, and tubers and elicited a chorus describing failures and successes in methods of storage. I shared the fact that although I have always had success storing my dahlias and gladiolas (storing them in lots of crinkled newspaper in paper bags set on a basement shelf), I lost the colocasia bulb given to me last year by Carol Campolo. When I retrieved it in spring, it was just a mass of mush. Carol suggested that I store them in a box filled with dry peat moss. Agapanthus was also discussed. Bettina Benson noted that there are now agapanthus varieties that are hardy in our zone 7 and Linda Sclafani suggested cutting the leaves back before winter. However, it was generally agreed that, if in doubt, call “Dr. Mike,” that is Mike Monaco, apparently our HAH expert on storing bulbs for winter. This advice was given in his absence, but he’ll be given the heads up if he reads this newsletter.

Another attendee asked whether or not fig trees are hardy in our area and, if not, how best to protect them. I have seen fig tree branches wrapped and tied up in plastic for the winter, and although not attractive by any means, this method does allow the winter sun to warm the plant, like having a plastic cold frame. Protecting them is necessary if the temps dip below 25 degrees F, and that would definitely include our East End winters. Adding a 4” layer of mulch around the tree (but not up against the trunk) also helps protect the roots. It was agreed, however, that if these measures fail to bring the leaves back next spring, figs will usually grow again from the base of the plant.

One attendee asked what she should do with all the potting soil in her planters and whether it should be thrown out now and replaced next spring. It was generally agreed that potting soil needn’t be thrown out: one can either supplement it next spring with additional nutrients, or you can put this soil on the bottom of planters and place a layer of fresh soil on the top.

Carolyn Gemake inquired as to the best time to move a lilac shrub and the feedback was unanimously in favor of fall. It was also pointed out that lilacs prefer an alkaline soil so that adding lime after transplanting is beneficial, since most of our East end soil is acidic. Bettina also suggested planting on a mound to increase drainage.

**OUR NEXT ROUNDTABLES WILL MEET ON DECEMBER 19, JANUARY 16,  
FEBRUARY 20 AND MARCH 19 AT 10 AM**

## Musings & Ramblings

George Biercuk

The mid-October hard freeze (we've yet to have a frost as of early November) brought many a garden to its knees. I assumed from past experience that our proximity to the still warm ocean would moderate the expected cold air mass enough to prevent the garden's premature demise. Surveying the garden the following Monday morning all seemed well. Though we blinked on Sunday and dug up nine LARGE and nine smaller now two foot "cuttings" of our angel wing begonias the garden looked to be in remarkably good shape. We'd know the garden's true fate by the afternoon which was warming rapidly, a precursor to above normal temps the next few days. It appeared the garden was saved by the ocean's warmth. The only casualties were the coleus, especially C. "Green Card". The fuchsia "Gardenmeister", stromanthe, salvias, cuphea "David Verity", cannas, aconite and Encore azaleas continued to be in full glory as did many phlox paniculata which were in their second flush after their late summer deadheading.

When we went to clients what a different story. A client across the field from us, maybe a tenth of a mile west, as well as one less than half a mile from the ocean were freezer burnt messes. Another more than six miles from the ocean was a somewhat mixed bag. The commonality for death was the absence of a substantial tree canopy. Cold is cold and we have in the past survived early frosts, having had the canopy's protection, but this was more than a frost which can occur at temps quite a few degrees above freezing so the garden's resilience was very much enjoyed. In early November we were basking in unseasonable warmth. The garden was glorious as evidenced below and since a picture is worth a thousand words.....

Camellia "Jean May"







**Top left: Phlox paniculata seedling**

**Middle left: Encore Azalea "Autumn Embers"**

**Bottom left: Anemone japonica 'Whirligig'**

**Above: Canna 'Tropicana Gold'**

**Below: Callicarpa dichotoma**

**Photos: George Biercuk**



## HAH 2015-2016 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM

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

*January 10 - Deborah Nevins - Landscape Thoughts and Current Work*

*February 7 - Duncan Brine - Naturalistic Landscape Design: Breaking Rules on Principle*

*March 13 - Ernest Cavallo - Galanthophilia, A Good Kind of Love*

*April 10 - Dan Snow - Listening to Stone*

*May 1 - Michael Wojtech - Bark: Get to Know Your Trees*

*June 12 - Stephen Orr - The New American Herbal*

*No lectures in July & August*

## East End Garden Events - December 2015

**BRIDGE GARDENS** - open Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 5, Sundays 12 - 5 [www.peconiclandtrust.org](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org)

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

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

**MADOO CONSERVANCY** - [info@madoo.org](mailto:info@madoo.org), 618 Sagg Main St, Sagaponack

Saturday, December 5, 11am - 3 pm **Annual Holiday Market**, gifts, plants, books, greens, wreaths & more

**MARDERS** - 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, 631-537-3700 [info@marders.com](mailto:info@marders.com)

Sunday, December 6 - **Boxwood Tree Making Workshop**

Sundays, December 13 and December 20 - **Wreath Making Workshops**



100% Recycled

December 2015

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