

HAH Happenings

December 2016



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

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

631.537.2223 <u>hahgarden.org</u>

at the Bridgehampton Community House

HAH Monthly Lecture - Sunday, December 11, 2016 - 2 pm



TROPICAL IMMERSION: GARDENING IN COSTA RICA WHERE THE RAINFOREST MEETS THE SEA

Dennis Schrader, a noted personality among New York's horticulture circles, is one of the foremost experts in the metropolitan area on plant production and garden design. His design accomplishments range from small penthouse gardens in Manhattan to large-scale commercial and estate landscapes on Long Island and throughout the Northeast. He has also designed gardens in southern Florida, California and Costa Rica. Dennis and partner Bill Smith have operated Landcraft Environments Ltd., a wholesale greenhouse operation, since 1992, although they began growing unusual annuals, tender perennials and tropicals for their landscape clients, select designers and connoisseurs ten years earlier. They collect rare seeds and plant material from around the world and grow them on in trial display gardens before introducing these rarities to the gardening world. The business, which is located on Long Island's North Fork, currently has over two and a half acres of greenhouse growing space, and additional acreage of outdoor growing

structures, producing hundreds of thousands of plants each year. Landcraft ships their plants to garden centers, public gardens and garden designers throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Lecturer, entertaining talk show participant and author of numerous articles in addition to his life as garden grower and designer, Dennis has also co-authored two major books, <u>Hot Plants for Cool Climates</u> with Susan A. Roth, and <u>Extraordinary Leaves</u> with Stephen Green-Armytage. HAH was honored to offer a wonderful study group at Dennis and Bill's Long Island garden recently which was led by them. And in February of 2017 HAH will visit their garden in Costa Rica. This amazing garden was featured in the early spring 2015 issue (#189) of Garden Design magazine.

THE NEXT HAH ROUNDTABLE SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016, 10am - noon

OUR TOPICS WILL BE:

- "Chameleon Evergreens" We'll discuss a variety of evergreen trees and shrubs that change color during the winter months, and give your garden a new look.
- Foraging in your Garden for Holiday Decorations to Bring Indoors
- General Garden Questions: Bring Them Along and Hopefully We'll Have Answers!

Moderated by Pamela Harwood



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The colors of fall are fading and soon we will be looking at the "bones" of our gardens. I enjoy this season of contemplation, reflection and anticipation. Thankfully, this transitional season allows my mistakes of last year to be forgotten and my hopes for the future to be realized, if only on paper or in my mind.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as the President of HAH. I could not have asked for a better board to work with or a more gracious and welcoming membership to lead. I am looking forward to an even better 2017 and hope you are too.

After Dennis Schrader's lecture on December 11th, please join us for the annual HAH Holiday Party. This party will be celebrating 30 years of the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons! Bring your memories of the past and ideas for the future, I want to hear them all! I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers to 30 more years!





HAH 2016 OFFICERS

President Janet Donohoe Ollinger
First Vice President Pamela Harwood
Second Vice President Marie Di Monte
Recording Secretary Susan Brackett
Corresponding Secretary Erika Shank
Treasurer Bettina Benson

DIRECTORS

Terry Coppola 2016
Rick Bogusch 2016
Alicia Whitaker 2017
Jeffrey Glick 2017
Elaine Peterson 2018
Mary Maran 2018

LIBRARY CHAIR

Susan Kennedy Zeller

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE EDITOR

Elaine Peterson

hahmember@optonline.net

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

MAILING

John Benson

PHOTOS

George Biercuk, Elaine Peterson

HOLIDAY PARTY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY LECTURE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016



Please stay after the lecture and celebrate at our annual holiday party!

We ask that all members attending bring 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 2017

OFFICERS: (an officer serves for a 1 year term)
President Janet Ollinger
First Vice President Bettina Benson
Second Vice President Marie DiMonte
Recording Secretary Susan Brackett
Corresponding Secretary Erika Shank
Treasurer Pamela Harwood

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

Alicia Whitaker 2017
Jeffrey Glick 2017
Elaine Peterson 2018
Mary Maran 2018
Rick Bogusch 2019
Lydia Wallis 2019

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

On occasion the board may appoint someone to fill an unexpired term if necessary.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2017

AS YOU WINTERIZE YOUR GARDEN...

As you winterize your garden this month, think of any questions, challenges, or issues that may arise in doing so, and email them to Pamela Harwood at <u>pamharwood@aol.com</u>. Pamela will take your emails and have them answered by a panel of experts at a unique Sunday meeting that the HAH is planning to hold on October 15, 2017.

Yes, 2017. No misprint. The HAH is planning a unique Sunday meeting for October 15, 2017. Topic: "Putting your Garden to Bed for the Winter". The meeting will have a panel of experts: Elizabeth Lear of Lear and Mahoney Landscapers, Peter Bertrand on roses from the Southampton Rose Society, Robert Boyle of RB Irrigation Systems, and Paul Wagner of Greener Pastures Organics (in partnership with Perfect Earth Project). The moderator will be Pamela Harwood. If you have been to the Saturday morning Roundtables, you know Pamela is terrific in leading a discussion and bringing all of us into the conversation.

We want the audience to interact with the Panel on such winter issues as which perennials and shrubs to cut back, what bulbs to dig up, evergreen protection, winterizing roses, fertilization, winter lawn care, irrigation and hoses, care of tools, etc. That etc is for other issues you would like addressed. So, as you prepare your garden for winter this month, email to Pamela Harwood (pamharwood@aol.com) your questions and issues you would like the Panel to address. Later on in 2017, we will remind you of this unique Sunday meeting.

HAH BOOK REVIEW GROUP meets Saturday, December 17 at 11 am -12 noon in the Library.

The reviewers and the books they read are as follows:

Susan Brackett: Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood - Judith Tankard & Martin Wood

Mike DeVito: Winterize Your Yard & Garden - George Taloumis

Janet Ollinger: The Botany of Desire - Michael Pollan

The moderator is Carolyn Gemake. Come join in for a stimulating discussion of words on horticulture.

HAH John Lo Gerfo Library Footnotes¹ December 2016

By Susan Kennedy Zeller

Tempting Winter Reading

By now most of us have put our gardens to bed for the winter! But of course HAH has books available for you to peruse that will inspire you to still stroll outdoors and see what beauty surrounds us here in the Hamptons. "My Garden in Autumn and Winter" by E.A. Bowles; "The Winter Garden," by Ruth Buchman and "The Garden in Winter" by Suzy Bales are just a few that may inspire you. Several of the fall/winter issues of magazines are also available.

In mentioning magazines...for those lucky HAH travelers to Costa Rica we have a delightful preview of Dennis Schrader and Bill Smith's garden "The Tropical Immersions," in Garden Design Magazine. The issue is right on the Library desk book stand. You are welcome to read in the library OR even make a copy on our zerox machine! It looks amazing!

Another new library volume is "Hamptons Gardens" by gardening architect Jack deLashmet. Sadly we lost him in February this year but you can revel in some of the beautiful landscaping work he has done in our neighborhoods.

Our Popular "Book Club" shall return on the third Saturday of each month at 11 AM. Contribute your friendly review of any book you like or just come and listen! See the separate newsletter notice above concerning December's meeting.

Library Winter Hours. Saturdays from 10 AM – noon and many Tuesdays from 10 AM-noon; anytime we are having an event such as roundtable, workshops, and after lectures. (Snowstorms close the Library of course.) If you need a special visit please contact SKZeller@aol.com and arrangements will be made.

HAH ROUNDTABLE NOVEMBER 6, 2016

Pamela Harwood

I wish to thank all who attended our November 6th Roundtable. We had a full room and great participation. We covered three areas during the two-hour session:

The November Garden

Many gardens may look rather bare this time of year because annuals and summer-blooming perennials and shrubs are spent and we do not have anything to replace their splendor. Perhaps that is why so many gardeners spend November planning for spring by planting bulbs. Although this is an important task, and we all look forward to those bursts of color after a dreary winter; we could also be enjoying a glorious November garden.

The day of the November 6th Roundtable I took photographs of perennials, shrubs, and trees in my garden and the HAH garden that still had blooms - many of them in their prime - and fabulous-looking foliage. These photographs were presented as a slide show at the session.

Flowers of Aconitum (monkshood), Tricyrtis hirta (toadlily), Alstroemeria (Peruvian lily), Penstemon, Geranium 'Rozanne,' Sedum, Fuchsia magellanica, Alllium tuberosum (garlic chives), Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (plumbago), Buddleia (butterfly bush), Rosa 'Knockout' with yellow blooms, Rosa hybrid tea; Dahlias, Mums, Chrysanthemum 'Sheffield', emerging bracts of Helleborus foetidus, reblooming Iris germanica 'Immortality,' Achillea (yarrow), Gaillardia (blanket flower), and Lavender. One attendee asked how my lavender is still reblooming in November, and my answer was that since the border is planted along a white, gravel driveway, the reflected heat keeps the plants warm and dry.

Sturdy-stemmed seed heads and seedpods of Baptisia australis (false indigo), Echinacea (purple coneflower), Ligularia 'Britt Marie Crawford', Agastache, Echinops (globe thistle), Eryngium (sea holly), Rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan), and Astilbe.

Changing colors of red maples, Cornus alba with red stems, yellow Forsythia, Lagerstroemia (crape myrtle 'Natchez') with red/bronze foliage and exfoliating bark, red Spirea 'Goldflame', bronze-turning Barberry, red/yellow Pennisetum with straw-colored plumes, pink and brown Hydrangea paniculata, Hydrangea macrophylla still rose-colored in shadier locations, red/bronze Hydrangea quercifolia (oakleaf) with brown dried flowers, Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle' with cream and brown blooms, blueberry's red foliage, red foliage of Nandina (heavenly bamboo), Clematis paniculata (sweet autumn clematis) with masses of intertwining faded blooms, yellow Amsonia leaves, large dried flowers of Eupatorium 'Little Red,' yellow leaves of Rose of Sharon, red Imperata (Japanese blood grass), bronze Rh. PJM, Miscanthus foliage and inflorescences turning a lovely straw color, yellowing Hamamelis (witch hazel).

Berries on purple Callicarpa dicotoma (beautyberry), red berries on female Skimmia, Holly, Barberry; black berries on Ilex japonica, silver berries on Eastern red cedar, Clerodendrum trichotomum's sapphire-blue berries.

General Questions and Answers and Tips from Attendees:

- 1. "If I have limited time, what are the most important chores to do now to prepare the garden for winter?"
- **a.** Rake and clean out your garden beds of all garden debris and of soil around diseased plants. Although some say it's best to leave everything to shelter wildlife and beneficial insects during the winter, doing so also creates garden problems. Allowing fungal and bacterial plant diseases to overwinter in the soil and fallen leaves encourages these problems to reoccur in next year's garden. A thick layer of leaves can also harbor rodents from their natural predators. Dispose of all diseased garden debris of plants prone to disease, especially roses, phlox, and vegetables. Do not add these to your compost.
- b. Rake and mulch healthy fallen tree leaves and return the mulched leaves to your garden beds, especially around your acid-loving, shallow-rooted, and broad-leafed evergreen shrubs like rhododendrons, azalea, pieris, kalmia, ilex, hydrangea, etc. Boxwood shrubs prefer a neutral-ph soil, so add some lime to that mulch. Mulched leaves do not compact under heavy snow as much as wood chips; they will keep soil moist, reintroduce vital nutrients, and improve the soil structure. If you don't have many leaves, you can use mulcher and bag attachments to your lawn mower. For a large amount of leaves, I suggest using an electric, free-standing leaf mulcher. After the Roundtable, I read a copy of the newest issue of Horticulture Magazine at the HAH, and found they have an article this month called "Leaf It Up." Here are some other links to articles: http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/put-fall-leaves-to-work/5402.html

- c. Take Steps to Protect Evergreens. Most of the damage to evergreens during the winter is inflicted by drying winds and sun, as well as from the weight of wet snow and when melting snow turns to ice. Broad-leaved evergreens can benefit by spray applications of anti-desiccants, also called anti-transpirants, like Wilt-Pruf and horticultural oil. A brand with latex also deters deer. Branches of arborvitaes can be tied together so that they don't flatten out from heavy snow. I mentioned that after last year's wet snows, I used small bungee cords to tie the branches in an upright position again. Some broad-leaved evergreens are damaged by the winter sun and should be planted where they will not be susceptible to this. Camellias like a protected north or northeast-facing spot with just enough morning sun to flower. Aucuba is best in full shade or against the house facing north or northeast. Varieties of boxwood other than "Winter Gem" or "Green Velvet" benefit from protection as suggested in one book entitled *Winter Gardens:* burlap attached to stakes around the exposed sides of the shrub, an "A-frame" made up of burlap attached to snow fencing or made from plywood, or burlap tied around the shrub, or wrap garden twine around the shrub to keep branches upright. Rick Bogusch described boxwoods' susceptibility to the Volutella fungus and steps you can take to prevent it.
- **2. How can I protect my borderline-hardy fig tree?** This is a question that is frequently asked. The answers are to give it a generous layer of mulch as well as to tie it up with white or see-through plastic to retain heat. This will be unsightly, but otherwise your fig tree may lose it upper growth and when it grows back next year will not be likely to fruit.
- **3. Other topics** included protecting roses, pruning back raspberry canes, lessening mole and vole problems by attacking grubs (the larval stage of beetles) with beneficial nematodes and how to apply them, deterring rabbits and rodents from your vegetables (spray them with a solution of boiled and strained 'Scotch Bonnet' hot peppers or place upside-down forks around them), still time to plant your garlic (you can watch a how-to video on *Fine Gardening* magazine's e-letter on this topic as well as how to dig and divide dahlias), how to deter geese (purchase and position a bunch of plastic coyotes or use ribbons attached to stakes so they see movement). I also advised the group that for those who would like to grow vegetables but do not have the space, Rick Bogusch at Bridge Gardens offers allotments for \$250/year. You plant, but they will water and weed once per week. Finally, on a recent trip to the Central Park Conservatory Garden I noted that their tall, ornamental grasses were kept upright by using large, round peony hoops and stakes a very clever solution!

Great Garden Tools

Whenever possible, I recommend using the least noisy and least polluting tools possible, and since there are electric tools on the market that meet these requirements more than gasoline-powered ones, these are preferable. Some are not as powerful, but in most cases they are fine for the home garden. Southampton Town has introduced its first "Green Zone" in East Quogue," where routine maintenance is performed quietly and emissions- free using electric equipment and manual techniques. "The growing availability of commercial grade, lithium battery-powered equipment makes it possible to transition away from fossil fuel-based equipment." Websites: www.gov/976/Southampton-Green-Zone and www.quietcommunities.org/new-york

- My neighbor has an electric, WORX GT2.0TM and loves it. It's "a powerful grass trimmer, a precision edger, and even a mini-mower -- all in one lightweight, maneuverable, cordless machine," according to their website, worx.primetimetools.com
- Flexible, metal rake with adjustable width for getting into narrow spaces, and adjustable handle length. Mary Maran brought a great one from www.kinsman.com
- Fiskars 7.9 12 foot extendable, rope-free, Tree Pruning Stik. This tool, first shown to our group last year by member Jay Hunt and which I swiftly purchased, has enabled me to cut down narrow tree and shrub branches without a ladder. amazon.com/Fiskars or fiskars.com
- "Tiger" hand trowel: "dig in the hardest clay soils, pry out rocks, cut back vines and overgrowth, pop out
 dandelions, cut through roots with the serrated edges and measure soil depth with the graduated blade. Easy-tolocate orange handle is made from recycled materials in the USA." burpee.com/gardening-supplies/garden-tools---tiger-trowel-prod002520.html
- Narrow, long-handled shovel and long-handled bulb planter.

THE NEXT HAH ROUNDTABLE SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016, 10 am - noon See the Front page of this Newsletter for details!

Musings and Ramblings

George Biercuk

Strange weather. Changed conditions. Things unanticipated. Consequential results not surprising. The positives though, for us, far outweighed any negatives. November's arrival was greeted by a garden still mostly intact. Our Oak canopy seems to shelter us from the worst of the first early tastes of cold though the various coleus cultivars were beginning to show signs of weariness and were allowed to complete their life's cycle - in the compost bin thus aiding future generations when spread in the garden to help their descendants maximize their all too short life in our briefly embracing climate. The caladium had already collapsed and the pots were ready to relinquish their soil for the winter potting-up of the Fuchsia "Gardenmeister" and angel wing begonias whose corms, if saved, won't be so casually tossed into the compost as they were this past spring, only to subsequently sprout gloriously in our consequentially "most distinguishly adorned" compost bin. Even more surprising was the overlooked pot of over-wintered caladium corms discovered in the basement in early November, many of which were just beginning to sprout despite having endured the most unfavorable of conditions. A brief flash of "let's pot them up for the winter indoors" was immediately quashed with their incorporation into the newly started compost.

Additionally, despite a cold spring, oak pollen generation, set the preceding year, was supremely abundant, so much so that everything in Oak tree territory was coated and any air intake mechanism became clogged. Memories of the spring pollen "blizzard" faded as the drought, which began in March, relentlessly advanced. As the drought continued and deepened the stress on the landscape was showing more and more. With leaf drop starting in early September who could have anticipated the volume of masting we have experienced this year. Experts in this field have expressed perplexity with the resulting fecundity. The biomass that these trees produced was astronomical and the potential strain on their future wellbeing is worrisome. We raked up hundreds upon hundreds of pounds of acorns to keep them from sprouting everywhere willi-nilly and yet they continued to bombard us. With each gathering of the nuts we'd again pondered "what will be the future toll of the "super natural" masting inflicted upon the oaks this year"? We know that our fingers, used as rakes (the only "tool" that readily removed acorns entangled mainly at the base of shrubs), were achy.

The essence of the light that played across the landscape this autumn was astounding. Canopied, open field and ocean reflective spaces are all within close proximity to us. The light's tonality changed dramatically upon crossing these demarcation lines. The unseasonal warmth, punctuated with "cold" snaps, resulted in the light's quality ranging from warm to cool. Coupled, in our garden, with the daily lowering of the sun's zenith and resultant lowered and deeper angle of penetration of the sun's rays into the garden and the autumn canopy colors changing toward yellow, gold, orange, russet, mahogany and hints of red, the understory colors, especially the F. "Gardenmeister"(coral/orange pendulous tubular flowers) exploded in the early morning as the sun ever so excruciatingly slowly breached the horizon, something we never witness in our garden. The first light, cool toned on the eastern horizon, transformed golden as it intensified and filtered through the canopy, slowly enveloping us in its golden glow.

Another "light" experience occurred on the pre-dawn beach one late October morning. Jake and I were walking east as the approaching sunrise began to transform the water/sky line from cool blue to warm gold. On the horizon in the moments before the sun broke the surface a faint orangey arc appeared, intensifying in range until Sol's emergence, so ponderously slow, (he seemed to resent being woken) as a deeply colored smudge that then begrudgingly rose ever so slowly, then clinging, seemingly out of separation anxiety, to the water in order to avoid breaking contact with Mother Earth. Protracted, the sunrise gifted me with a fleeting experience. The colors were the gaudy ones seen in many painted touristy tropical scenes (yes they really occur even in northern climes). My eye though was caught by the long, exaggerated ground shadows cast by the water's movement, something that I could never experience in the garden. The sun cast its light perpendicular to the water's surface. The ocean was flat, the breaking shore line ripple a mere eighteen inches at most. On a wide expanse of flat beach the breaking surf rolled in many yards. What I had never seen before was the preceding shadow cast by the approaching "swell" as it broke from west to east. Yards from the water's edge a dark line appeared, slowly advancing landward. Approximating the contour of the beach the shadow waxed and waned with a rhythmic beauty. Swell after swell, the sun slowly rising, the track of the shadow eventually retreated toward the ocean. As the sunrise passed that critical point of angularity all that remained was a memory of something so very fleeting. As I drove back home, passing through a progression of differing environmental surroundings

form ocean to forest, the enveloping coloration transformed from cool blue to warm golden, the spectrum of color that I find most soothing. So, just as there are ephemeral moments in the garden so do they exist in the broader landscape.

Having experienced a benign, protracted autumn, it was with a bit of amazement that we turning the clocks back to standard time. There were only six plus weeks until the daylight hours again begin to increase. The end of year celebrations are upon us. Enjoy.

MERRY HAPPY HEALTHY



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

Reminder! Renew your HAH Membership!

RENEW NOW

in order to continue receiving your monthly Newsletter and all the benefits of HAH Membership

\$10 Full Time Student

\$45 Individual
\$75 Family Dual
\$90 Contributing Single
\$125 Contributing Dual
\$200 Supporting
\$300 Patron
\$500 Donor
\$1000 Benefactor
Name
Address
Telephone:
Email:
Check Enclosed payable to The Horticultural Alliance
of the Hamptons (HAH), P. O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202
11/32 0202
Credit Card Information
Visa MC Expiration Date:
CVC Code#
Number:
Signature:

Tax Deductibility of HAH Dues

According to the IRS, 100% of a Student, Individual, or Family/Dual member's dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution since the HAH is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Members in the Contributing, Supporting, Patron, Donor, and Benefactor categories should deduct \$10 from their dues for each guest they bring to lectures; the rest is tax deductible. Patron, Donor, and Benefactor members whose dues exceed \$250 have already received the required written acknowledgement in the form of their 2017 HAH membership card.

Membership dues constitute a tax-deductible contribution to the extent permitted by law. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please consult your tax advisor.

Preview Party – Friday, May 13, 2016

Tax Deductibility of Ticket Price

If you attended the Preview Party all but \$20 of your contribution is deductible for tax purposes. This amount represents the estimated cost of food and wine served at the party in consideration for your contribution. If you did not attend the Preview Party but made a donation as a Friend of the HAH, your entire contribution is tax deductible.

For those individuals who contributed \$250 or more as a Community Partner or Special Friend of the Preview Party, a written acknowledgement was mailed to your home address as required by law.



Please note that if you do not renew your membership this will be your final newsletter.

Think about giving a GIFT of a HAH membership to a friend or colleague who loves plants and flowers. He or she will be thrilled! And you can even give a gift to yourself...play Santa!!

HAH 2016 - 2017 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM

December 11 - Dennis Schrader - Tropical Immersion: The Costa Rica Garden Designed by Dennis Schrader

January 8 - Betsy Pinover Schiff - The Sidewalk Gardens of New York

February 12 - Mary Woltz - Meeting the Bees' Needs

March 12 - Alex Feleppa - The Living Landscape of LongHouse Reserve

April 9 - Larry Weaner - Lawn Alternatives: Creating a Successful Groundcover

May 7 - Ruth Rogers Clausen - Essential Deer Resistant Perennials for Outstanding Gardens

June 11 - Edwina von Gal - Perfect Earth Project

no lectures in July & August

EAST END GARDEN EVENTS December 2016

BRIDGE GARDENS, <u>peconiclandtrust.org/events</u>, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton *Saturday, December 3* **Holiday Open House!** *Sunday, December 4, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.* **Annual Holiday Wreath Workshop**





The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons Bridgehampton Community House P. O. Box 202
Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202
(631) 537-2223

