



HAH Happenings

January 2017



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, January 8, 2017 - 2 pm



NEW YORK CITY GARDENS: ROOFTOPS TO SIDEWALKS

Having photographed more than 300 NY City gardens over the past two decades, **Betsy Pinover Schiff** has made a careful selection for this talk in order to best show the enormous diversity of gardens in terms of design, style and plant material. These will range from gardens developed by the Rockefeller family in the 1930's to very contemporary gardens that defy the traditional definition of the word.

Much of the talk will focus on plantings, parks and gardens that can be seen simply walking the city sidewalks – the subject of Ms. Pinover-Schiff's newest book, *The Sidewalk Gardens of New York*, published by Monacelli Press in September 2016, with a text by HAH board member Alicia Whitaker.

The lecture will be an eye-opener to even the most seasoned New Yorkers and garden-lovers. Ms. Pinover Schiff assures us that much will be new and surprising. Adrian Benepe, former New York City Parks Commissioner, in writing the foreword to *The Sidewalk Gardens of New York*, says "Betsy Pinover Schiff's unerring eye and spectacular photographs tell the story of a city, and how its pre-Dorothy and Oz colorless and downtrodden existence has been redone as if by wizardry in glorious Technicolor."

REMINDER! HAH WORKSHOP - Make It Yourself Hypertufa Trough Workshop
Saturday, January 14, 1-3 pm See the December Newsletter for registration!

THE HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM CONTINUES IN JANUARY

DATE: **SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th, 2017, 10AM - NOON**

PLACE: **HAH LO GERFO LIBRARY AND MEETING ROOM,**
BRIDGEHAMPTON COMMUNITY HOUSE
LOWER-LEVEL ENTRANCE ON SCHOOL STREET TO THE RIGHT OF THE BOOK BAY

THE TOPICS WILL BE

- SILVER FOLIAGE PLANTS: Deer Resistant, Semi-Evergreen, and Standout Color Contrast
- HOW TO SHRED YOUR LEAVES INTO A VALUABLE MULCH AND SOIL AMENDER
- QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR: Bring your questions and we'll hopefully provide the answers!

Moderated by Pamela Harwood



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Yesterday I went for a stroll around my garden. It's been a while since I was in the garden without picking up a pair of Felcos or pulling a weed. The light was just right and I tried to stay in the moment. A few special Galanthus from Ernest Cavallo's collection were poking their noses out of the dirt. My new favorite Camellias, a gift from Pat Wood's spectacular garden, are in full bud and an Edgeworthia, procured from my aunt's former garden, is bursting with incipient flowers. I adore the innate hope of a garden; it continually reminds me that as much as I try, nature is beyond my control and that is okay.

Looking forward, there are going to be some fantastic workshops with our community partners. The trip to Costa Rica will brighten the month of February and Book Group and Roundtables will take us into the spring months. I think 2017 is going to be one of those exceedingly fabulous years and I'm looking forward to spending it in my garden and with my HAH Friends!

Happy New Year,

Janet

HAH 2017

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

President	Janet Donohoe 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

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, Pamela Harwood, Janet Donohoe Ollinger, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank



We fondly remember **Carol Mercer**, an extraordinarily talented and creative garden designer who passed away peacefully in her sleep at home, on November 19th, 2016.

Carol was a long time member of HAH and served as a director in the nineties. Together with her gardening partner Lisa Verderosa, Carol ran a very successful, award-winning garden design firm called *Secret Gardens*.

A passionate plantswoman, Carol always explored cutting edge perennials, annuals and tropicals and was not afraid to use colorful plant combinations. Her own beautiful garden in East Hampton was a testament to her love of plants, and was often on tour for the Garden Conservancy and other garden groups for many years. She will be missed dearly. Here she is at Kellie Castle in Scotland in 1994 on an HAH trip.



HAH John Lo Gerfo Library Footnotes¹ January 2017

By Susan Kennedy Zeller

HAH Library Winter Wonderland

WHAT'S NEXT? Have you ever wondered what to do after all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas and Jewish Holidays? Well...now you have time for garden reading and planning your 2017 garden! And the HAH Library is the perfect place to do it. Not only do we have those delightful Book Club events on the third Saturday morning of each month (see the information on this page below) and all those tempting magazines and books for you to peruse but you are welcome to bring a cup of warm cheer and sit for awhile any time we are open. (See official hours below BUT also any time we have any event like a workshop).

INFORMATION: See our Bulletin Board for handy information (which you are welcome to take down and copy on our zerox). You will find: who is who on the committees and Board of HAH; the 2017 speakers' list; butterfly garden information; a great list of deer resistant plants; how to do Facebook; important gardening information from our great roundtable discussions; pamphlets of many of our neighboring gardens such as our partner Peconic Land Trust and Bridge Gardens and interesting local newspaper postings. Need other answers? Ask in the Library and if we do not know we can steer you to what member may have answers for you.

HAH LIBRARY HOME SEARCHES: You are welcome to search our collection using the HAH computer but did you know you can search from home? Here is how to look up from home.

Go to www.hahgarden.org- it opens to our web site with lots of information

-Click on ...Library -Click on ...Our Collection

-Scroll to bottom where it reads "Click this link:...and click

Boxes open up:

- Left box says "All words" - advise that you leave as is (although you can change to author and title if you prefer)

- Fill in the other boxes with your request and click search

Selections come up - you may scroll through until you find a title and call number

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.

THE HAH WINTER BOOK REVIEW GROUP meets Saturday, January 21st at 11 am - 12 noon in the Library.

All are welcome. The reviewers and the books they have read are as follows:

Lydia Wallis: Dear Friend and Gardener: Letters on Life and Gardening - Beth Chatto & Christopher Lloyd

Susan Kennedy Zeller: The Irish Garden - Jane Powers

Pamela Harwood: Winter Gardening - Steven Bradley

Upcoming dates are Saturdays, February 18 and March 18 at 11 am.

HAH ROUNDTABLE DECEMBER 3, 2016

Pamela Harwood

“Chameleon” Evergreens that Change Color in Winter

Thank you to those who participated in this Roundtable presentation and discussion, as there were quite a lot of competing horticultural events in the Hamptons that day. Also thanks to George Biercuk who not only had the idea for this unusual subject, but who brought in samples from his garden of azaleas whose leaves had already changed from green to their winter color (although we agreed that due to the mild November weather most changes in evergreen leaf color had not yet occurred.)

Azaleas –leaves of white-flowering varieties turn yellow, those of pink- and red-flowering turn bronze

Buxus (boxwood)* ‘Winter Gem’ turns bronze

Chamaecyparis thyoides ‘Red Star’ (Atlantic white cedar) – blue-green leaves turn plum/purple

Cryptomeria japonica* (Japanese cedar) - turns bronze

 ‘**Elegans**’ (Japanese plume cedar) – blue-green needles turn bronze or deep purple

 ‘**Elegans Nana**’ – slow-growing dwarf that reaches 4-6 ft. tall

 ‘**Elegans Compacta**’ – dwarf that reaches 10 ft. tall

 ‘**Mushroom**’ – 3-foot lime-green mound whose needles turn bronze-purple

 ‘**Pygmaea**’ – only 10 inches tall; foliage turns purple, tinged with ember orange

 ‘**Vilmoriniana**’ A dense, rounded conifer, tightly packed, whose deep-green foliage turns bronze-red

 ‘**Yoshino**’ turns bronze

Euonymus fortuneii

 ‘**Emerald N Gold**’ turns from summer yellow to winter gold

 ‘**Emerald Gaiety**’ leaf edges turn pink

Juniperus horizontalis (creeping juniper) ‘**Blue Chip**’ and ‘**Mother Lode**’ acquire purple tones

Mahonia (grape holly)* leaves turn purplish-bronze

Nandina domestica* (heavenly bamboo) non-spreading, foliage turns red and red berries develop

Pieris japonica* (andromeda) develops reddish flower buds from fall through winter that will bloom in spring

Pinus contorta* var. latifolia ‘Chief Joseph’ turns bright yellow

Pinus mugo* ‘Winter Gold’ develops golden tips

Pinus sylvestris* ‘Aurea’ (golden Scots pine) turns bright, golden-yellow

Rhododendron PJM turns bronze

Thuja (arborvitae) occidentalis ‘Sanderi’– light-green foliage turns purplish-brown

Thuja orientalis turns light bronze

Thuja ‘Woodwardii’ turns bronze

Thuja ‘Aurea’ and ‘Reingold’ turn from summer gold to winter bronze

Groundcovers and low-growing evergreens

Ajuga reptans turns bronze* (this spreader can be invasive)

Andromeda polifolia* turns purple

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (bearberry) turns bronze

Euonymus fortuneii ‘Coloratus’ turns bronze (this spreader can be invasive)

Bergenia cordifolia (cabbage-like leaves) turns garnet red

Calluna vulgaris* (heather) turns bronze

Gaultheria procumbens* (wintergreen) turns reddish-purple

Semi-evergreens

Geranium macrorrhizum* turns red/orange

Viburnum ‘Conoy’ turns purplish

Leaves that turn brown and stay on the tree until spring:

Carpinus betulus (European hornbeam)

Fagus (beech)

Ligustrum (privet) turns bronze/brown

Quercus (oak)



Thuja orientalis with winter bronzed tips.



Azalea winter bronzed

Changing and Colorful Stems and Bark in Winter:

Acer palmatum ‘Sango-kaku’ (coral bark maple) pinkish-red branches

Cornus alba (Tatarian dogwood) – stems turn red on newest wood

Cornus sanguinea (bloodtwig dogwood) ‘Winter Flame’ golden orange stems tipped with coral

Cornus sericea (red osier dogwood) – newest stems turn red

Hydrangea quercifolia (oakleaf) brown flower heads and exfoliating bark

Lagerstroemia (crape myrtle) bark exfoliates in fall and keeps brown and tan colors through winter

Salix integra (Nishiki willow) newest stems turn red

Salix matsudana ‘Scarlet Curls’ (willow) slender, curly twigs intensify in color

***Information about deer:**

An asterisk indicates that the plant is generally deer-resistant, at least in my neighborhood in Bridgehampton. Plants that deer usually eat only in winter, unless you frequently spray or your property is fenced in, include:

Azalea Euonymous

Privet Rhododendron

Thuja Yew

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM ROUNDTABLE ATTENDEES:

Q: Does the conventional wisdom still hold that one should “feed on Thanksgiving?”

A: According to the website GrowingAGreenerWorld.com “The rationale for late fall fertilization makes sense when you understand why. At this time, deciduous trees and shrubs have lost their foliage for the year and active growth of plants and trees has slowed. Rather than put on new foliage growth, the roots of established trees or shrubs take the nutrients from the soil and apply them to important health-promoting functions, such as disease resistance and root development. The excess nutrients are stored in the roots and become immediately available when needed for new growth in spring.”

If your plants and soil are established and healthy, they may not need fertilizer at all. Topdressings of compost or mulch can be sufficient to protect the plant and amend the soil. However, it is always best to test your soil, and composition and ph can be different in various parts of the same garden.

Q: If my soil is sandy, too rocky, or has construction debris, how can I amend it?

A: This is a large topic suitable for a future Roundtable. Briefly, good soil has several qualities. It has a consistency that holds moisture long enough for roots to take in nutrients and water, but also drains well so that the roots do not sit in water and rot. It also contains beneficial organisms that aerate the soil and generate nutrients. Soil-amending additives include but are not limited to adding compost, dried manure, shredded leaves, and leaf mold.

Q: Why don’t some of my new plants do well?

A: Plants that have been sitting in nursery pots may have tangled or girdled roots. Before planting, tease out the roots to undo this problem. Another issue can be that some nurseries may use soil that is very nutrient rich to get the fastest possible growth. When transferred to the soil in your garden, their size may remain stable for a while. Give them time and consider the adage: “first year sleep, second year creep, third year leap.”

Q: How can I or my landscaper shred my leaves to use as mulch for my garden beds instead of blowing them into the woods or carting them away?

A: If your yard is very small, use a bag and mulcher attachment to your lawnmower. Or, invest in an electric leaf shredder. More on this next month...

A special offer for a very special garden for HAH members only!

One of our favorite community partners, **Bridge Gardens**, is offering HAH members a reduced membership fee. HAH members in good standing for 2017 can secure a family membership (good for a family of 4) to Bridge Gardens for 2017 at a reduced rate of \$50 (a \$75 value). In addition, an Individual Membership, valued at \$50, can be purchased for \$35. All members of Bridge Gardens receive free or reduced fee admission to their workshops and programs, including the music nights and lecture series. Anyone interested in purchasing a membership may do so online through their website (Peconiclandtrust.org), at Bridge Gardens where Rick has membership forms, or by contacting Robin Harris at their office at 631.283.3195, ext. 19. Credit cards, cash and checks are accepted.

Musings and Ramblings

George Biercuk

Resurrection. Not what you may be thinking. The young *Stromantha tricotomum* “cutting” (rooted from a node of leaves on the elongated flower stalk - I had surmised that this was Gaia’s way of propagating an expanding colony or replacement of the mother plant)) was horribly desiccated. So desiccated in fact that it was on its way to the compost when I decided to dunk it into a bucket of water that we were using to soak plants. The leaves were extremely tightly curled “pencils”, almost brittle. After an hour it was obvious that this plant wasn’t reacting as expected. By then there should have been some visible response. Nothing. Since the plant was so direly stressed I wasn’t surprised. Hours later still nothing. The next morning even more nothing. Acknowledging its apparent demise, it was moved aside to be composted. The following day when the compostables were being gathered there was a slight but noticeable unfurling of the stromantha’s leaves. The soil was moist and I fought back the temptation to add a touch more. The next morning we were presented with a fully rehydrated plant, days after resuscitation efforts had begun. Weeks later the plant was robust, showing no ill effects from its “near death” experience. Life, so this demonstrates, is resilient and tenacious.

Updating another resurrection mentioned earlier this year, the tiny amaryllis offshoot that, after potting, sent up a single pathetic leaf which quickly dried up thus relegating the pot to the discard corner, endured months of neglect (mainly not a drop of water), suddenly showed signs of life. A hint of green appeared in the center of the pot, but from what? Poking in the miniature Gobi Desert, the remnants of the bulb were revealed. This was one tenacious bulbette. Submerging the pot in a bucket of water released an explosion of air bubbles which subsided ever so slowly. Rehydrated, the pot, placed by a sunny window, eventually sprouted three good size leaves which continue to nourish and grow the bulb. Hopefully within two years we’ll see some flowers whose color and form I no longer remember, though I do remember that “Mama” was a stunner. This is going to be a supreme test of patience and perseverance.



Gaia. Your foliar cloak so maternally shrouded your deciduous charges, long past their usual annual shedding, which delay resulted in the most spectacular prolonged color display that we have witnessed in years. This was the carrot, along with the balmy temps, that lulled us into a state of complacency. Yes the daylight hours were getting shorter, however we were able to enjoy them outdoors. There would always be tomorrow to deal with the leaves yet, mainly unfallen. And so it would eventually come to be. Day after day they dribbled down, ever so annoyingly, habituating us to their presence, not provoking us to action toward their removal as they so blissfully fluttered downward, until their overwhelming mass became intolerably unavoidable. The initial removal of drought desiccated leaves was a breeze, so light and fluffy. Then came the WIND and rain. What a game changer! Leaves embedded, almost impregnated, into shrubbery. This turned out to be the latest and most arduous leaf cleanup we have ever endured. By mid-December, after meticulously cleaning up the future black gold, we were again dusted with the, hopefully, last bountiful drop. The stragglers would be dealt with in the spring. Not. They were so annoying that another cleanup was initiated and still many were clinging to the trees.

There’s a dark side of this leaf accumulation and the emerging philosophy about piling freshly fallen autumn leaves in situ in garden beds. CRITTERS. The cover provides excellent protection from predators as well as a warm inviting environment delaying the soil’s chilling. When we removed the leaf accumulation we were surprised to see how extensive the critter activity was this early. Bore holes were so prolific that the garden looked like a critter champion golf course, each hole accessing a munchy meal as long as the plant survived. Unfortunately, in a way, we have become an oasis for many of the critters exiled by the desecration of their natural habitat on surrounding properties. Birds, especially, are everywhere on the ground and in the shrubbery. Jake is fascinated by them, having a strong empathy for all forms of life.

Back to the leaves being left in garden beds. There are two sides to this, possibly more given how our climate is changing. The initiation of winter’s impact has progressively been pushed further toward the return of increasing daylight and paradoxically deepening cold. Mulching (accumulated leaves act as such) before the ground FREEZES keeps the soil and the air just above warm enough to interfere with the critters hibernation instinct thus necessitating their NEED TO EAT. Your plants become the “ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET”, the result of an ill thought out concept of expediency. Ground up leaves returned to beds in late autumn, if not piled too thick, don’t have fluffy insulating properties that perpetuate warm soil past the plant’s biological needs. As they continue to decompose through the forthcoming growing season they feed the soil which in turn nourishes your plant material.

Because our extensive oak canopy creates a catch-22 for us the early leaf grindings are consigned to a large compost bin. When I guesstimate that at least two thirds of the leaves have fallen then will I stage piles of ground leaves in various places to be spread in early spring. At the same time the previous season’s compost begins its return to the garden, either as mulch or incorporated into the holes of new plantings or transplants. Thus the cycle comes to fruition only to start anew.

A new year. A new growing season. Anticipation.

How sweet it is.





HAH Seedling & Greenhouse Workshop

**Saturday, February 25, 2017
Time: 10am**

Join Jay Hunt for a presentation on how to harvest, prepare and plant annual flower and vegetable seeds for your 2017 gardening season. Discussion will include planting times and tips to insure a wonderful harvest of local favorites such as tomatoes, basil, marigolds and zinnias.

A question and answer session will follow to address any concerns.

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 10am

Location: John LoGerfo Library, Bridgehampton Community House, School Street Entrance

Cost: Free for Members; \$5 Non-members
Payment must be made by February 15, 2017

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the Seedling & Greenhouse Workshop on Saturday, February 25, 2017

Name(s) _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

E-Mail _____

I would like to purchase tickets at:

\$5 Non-member _____

Total Amount included _____

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to HAH, P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, New York, 11932 **no later than February 15, 2017**. Attention: Workshops

Questions: Call Marie DiMonte at 631.728.0292, e-mail osprey23@optonline.net



THANKS TO LORI
BARNABY, RICK
BOGUSCH AND A
GREAT CREW FOR A
BEAUTIFULLY
DECORATED HAH
HOLIDAY PARTY!!!

PHOTOS BY ERIKA SHANK

HAH 2017 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM

January 8 - Betsy Pinover Schiff - *New York City Gardens: Rooftops to Sidewalks*

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

September 10 - Daryl Beyers - *Fabulous Fall & Winter Containers*

October 15 - Panel Discussion – *Putting Your Garden to Bed for Winter* - Elizabeth Lear, Peter Bertrand, R.B. Boyle, Paul Wagner

November 12 – Ellen Ecker Ogden – *The Complete Kitchen Garden*

December 10 – Jan Johnsen – *Serenity by Design*

EAST END GARDEN EVENTS Winter 2017

LONG ISLAND REGIONAL SEED CONSORTIUM, info@lirsc.org. PO Box 226 Mattituck, NY 11952
Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 12-4pm - 3rd Annual Seed Swap



HAH Fall Speakers Dennis Schrader
and Tony Piazza

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100% Recycled 

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