



HAH Happenings

February 2018



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org
at the Bridgehampton Community House

HAH Monthly Lecture - Sunday, February 11, 2018 - 2 pm



Rick Bogusch *Herb Blends & Spice Mixes:* *How to Make Them & How to Use Them*

The use of herbs and spices has a long history, longer than you might imagine. The earliest ancient Egyptians enjoyed anise, caraway, cardamom and mustard and the Goths showed their love of black pepper--still the most valuable and traded spice today--when they demanded three thousand pounds of peppercorns, along with gold and silver, not to sack Rome.

Our February lecture will explore the history and horticulture of herbs and spices and examine spice mixes from around the world and their ingredients. There will be handouts with recipes, as well as spice mix samples. A reception featuring herbs and spices will follow.

One of the spice mixes featured is Four Spice Powder or Quatres Epices. This blend of peppercorns, nutmeg, cloves and ginger is perfect for any long-simmering stew, as a dry rub on poultry or meat before roasting or grilling and to flavor vegetables like carrots and parsnips. Variations abound and often herbs like rosemary and thyme are added to the mix.

Rick has degrees in botany and landscape architecture and has gardened since he was a young teenager. He worked for Cornell University for 20 years as a landscape architect for the Cornell Botanical garden. After that he worked as an estate gardener in Columbia County, NY. For the past 10 years he has worked for Peconic Land Trust as the Manager of Bridge Gardens and for the past 4 years he has proudly served on the Board of the Horticultural Alliance. His love and knowledge of plants extends from the extensive herb and vegetable gardens at Bridge Gardens right into the kitchen where he avidly uses what he grows.

Come learn and warm up a winter's day with this fun and informative talk on plant foods we all love!



ALL WELCOME AT THE NEXT HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM

moderated by Pamela Harwood

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Starts at 10am sharp - NOON in the HAH Library

Topic: NATIVE PLANT GARDENS, RAIN GARDENS, RAIN BARRELS
SPEAKERS FROM THE PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM
WILL TALK ABOUT THEIR HOMEOWNERS' REBATES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"What is the good of your stars and trees, your sunrise and wind, if they do not enter into our daily lives."

E.M. Forester

As I write this, we are in the middle of a deep freeze and I cannot be more grateful. I was speaking to John Halsey and Jen Pike over the New Year's holiday and as farmers, they reminded me that these cycles are necessary to kill pests, germinate seed and to reestablish balance in nature. I also feel these cycles are necessary to replenish ourselves, to slow down, cook, read, reflect and be with friends and family.

Rick Bogusch, whom I enjoy spending time with talking about gardens and plants, and eating his cooking, will be speaking at HAH this month! Rick will be bringing a little spice and hopefully a lot of heat to HAH with a lecture about herb blends and spice mixes! This lecture promises to add a fresh pinch of summer to our winter doldrums.

As with all of the winter months, I cannot wait to hear about what people are reading at the HAH Book group which will be on the third Saturday of the month. Our terrific Roundtable discussions continue to pull together so many levels of expertise as well as creative ideas; It is the perfect forum to gauge what people are passionate about and interested in as we move forward as an organization. Most of all, before we retreat to our separate gardens, I am looking forward to spending time with all of you!

I'll see you in the garden,

Janet

HAH 2018

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

President	Janet Donohoe Ollinger
First Vice President	Bettina Benson
Second Vice President	Susan Brackett
Recording Secretary	Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Erika Shank
Treasurer	Pamela Harwood

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

Elaine Peterson	2018
Mary Maran	2018
Rick Bogusch	2019
Lydia Wallis	2019
Jeffrey Glick	2020
Marie DiMonte	2020

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

LIBRARY CHAIR (serves on the board with a vote)

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

SAVE THE DATES!
HAH GARDEN FAIR AND
PREVIEW PARTY
MAY 18 & 19, 2018

THE HAH BOOK GROUP
meets next on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
AT 11 AM in the HAH Library

The reviewers and their books are:

Lydia Wallis:

Elements of Garden Design - Joe Eck

Carol Spencer:

The Gardens of Winterthur in all Seasons -
Harold Bruce

Jane Iselin:

Long Island Landscapes and the Women
Who Designed Them - Cynthia Zaitsevsky

HAH John LoGerfo Library Footnotes¹ February 2018

By Susan Kennedy Zeller

Reminder: Saturday, February 17 at 10 AM is another presentation of the Book Club. You do NOT need to have read the book as presenters shall review for all of us. See the “presenter’s box” (page 2) for what books will be discussed. Bring your favorite beverage, munch a cookie and chat.

New Year...and New Books have arrived! Thanks to Carolyn Gemake who organized a fantastically interesting group of reading for the HAH Library! After processing into our catalogue we put them on the holders on the library desk for your perusal and remember you can take home and curl up with one. Especially nice on these frigid days. Here are just a few of the new arrivals:

The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt’s New World. Author of Founding Gardens, Andrea Wulf has written another fascinating true tale.

Prick: Gynelle Leon takes us into the world of succulents, choosing, growing, different styles and caring for them with a concise directory and lovely photos.

The Problems in My Garden: Kendra Wilson. Need simple solutions for your outdoor spaces? This book is chock full of ideas.

The Head Gardeners, Forgotten Heros of Horticulture by Toby Musgrave. For those who love to read biographies and dream of accompanying the innovators on their garden discoveries.

New Policy: Should you wish to take out an older issue of any magazine, merely leave your name and contact information with the Librarian and return it within 4 weeks. Latest issues cannot be taken out but can be read whilst visiting the Library and you may copy an article for free on our copier machine..

Library hours: Tuesday and Saturdays 10-12. Also after any HAH event that happens in the Community House. **Snow storms close the Library.**

Susan Kennedy Zeller contact: SKZeller@aol.com Please put HAH in the subject line.

Book Donations - Due to a lack of dry, clean storage spaces, sadly, we cannot take garden book donations until shortly before we are able to have a sale. So watch the HAH Newsletter for the next notice of donations accepted in the Spring.



Musings & Ramblings

George Biercuk

I've been studying the basal configurations, forms and shapes of trees and shrubs, primarily deciduous, mainly those having a mature stature of about twenty five feet. Being winter, all is laid bare, their nakedness revealing the essence of their unadorned beauty. We can see, in the camouflage of summer foliage, only the merest hint of the intricacies of their fundamental beauty, while every trunk, branch and stem, in winter, is unabashedly presented to us for intimate inspection. The composition of the whole can be delicate or strong. There's bark that may exfoliate revealing mottled coloration, complete color change, or merely revelation of its essential texture in the low winter light. There are branches that may twist, contort or arch but none are ramrod straight. The tips present next year's buds, mainly leaf but if spring flowering those also, while they may be the source of bark coloration. Their starkness exaggerated their cumulative beauty, a beauty sublime and psychologically comforting. The embracing form of the flora's structure acted almost as the sirens' callings to ancient mythological mariners as they strayed into treacherous seas, though now it was a benign seduction into the winter garden. Hopefully a benign seduction if you weren't prepared.

Almost all of us have experienced a change, cataclysmic or to some lesser degree, in a landscape in which we found comfort. As these changes are mentally processed, we eventually take on a new perspective. When younger I was schooled about certain rules that I was to follow in my parent's garden. Thankfully I grew past that. Torturing of plants, unless they genetically predispose a tendency toward someone's desired form and size, results in mutilation. The resultant tortured, nasty looking silhouette usually results from way too late "corrective" measures. I prefer to select plant material that, when it reaches its natural ultimate dimensions, fits comfortably within its space with only a snip here and there along the way. As these plants and I matured I came to appreciate their structuring more and more.

I initially selected smaller understory trees that had a single trunk arising from the base so that I could guide it to be as upright straight as possible so that I could plant extensively underneath them. Over time I became enamored with the winter silhouettes of many Japanese maples, most notably those with multi-trunked bases. Had I only known what opportunities for an enhanced winter garden I was passing up. What could those challenged plants have become had I known what I know now? One slightly lopsided small-leaf rhodo I rescued years ago for a very specific use has developed a graceful down swept, windswept silhouette which has been exaggerated by the weight of heavy snow over the past few years. (Transplanting is now in its future.) Being a slow grower this plant has been naturally "bonsaied."

We've long ago run out of space to sneak in new plantings. There have been casualties in the past few years (disturbing because they are due to poor propagation practices and these cultivars are now extremely difficult to replace) which afford opportunities though not ones that will allow for dramatic sculpting. There are a few candidates that are outgrowing their allotted spaces, and as they are too large now and consequently awkwardly situated, they will be given a reprieve and chance to strut their stuff, bare legged, though in our case each will be a lonely single leg. Also, by limbing-up there are opportunities to incorporate more understory and groundcover plants, primarily deciduous since those that are evergreen complicate fall leaf clean-up.

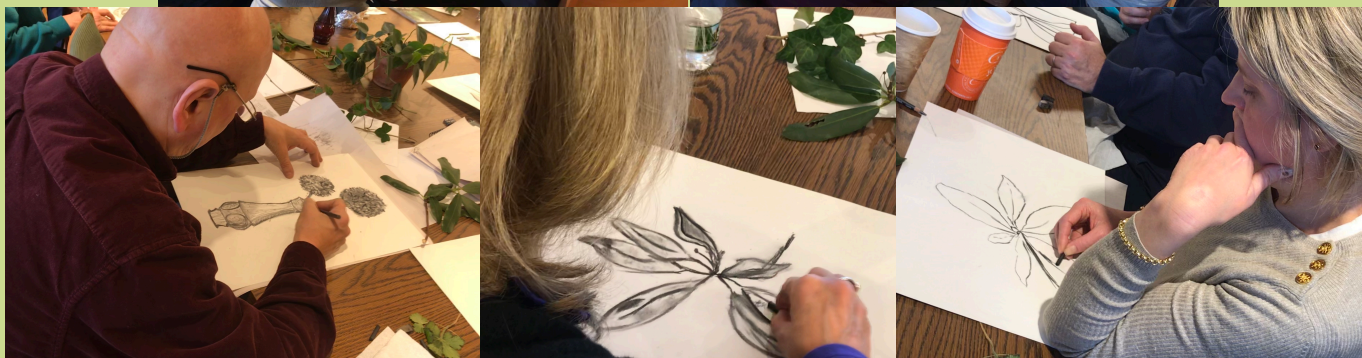
Odd numbered trunks are ideal, three, no more than five though. You don't have to worry about balance just eye pleasing gracefulness. Think Japanese floral arrangements and up the scale. Kousa dogwoods and lagerstroemias are two species that are perfect for this approach as long as the trunks arise from the same base. I've seen container grown lagerstroemia with four individual starts grown in one pot to create, I guess, canopy fullness. There was absolutely no way that container could be planted without it looking bizarre at ground level. When the brain perceives something in even numbers it unconsciously seeks symmetry of some sort and the slightest deviation sets off alarms of unease whereas odd numbered configurations are somehow comforting. Crucial, also, is that the central point should be tight close to the ground, otherwise it too feels unnatural.

I purposely avoided large multi-stemmed trees such as oaks, because like fork tongued harpies, they usually are rotten at the core and pose danger to their surroundings, thus requiring constant vigilance.



Helleborus foetidus

Great fun was had by participants who eagerly acquired new skills at the Botanical Drawing Workshop on January 13th. Thanks to Marie DiMonte for organizing and to Andrea Cote for leading the group!



Thank you
Andrea Cote and Jeffrey Glick
for the photos!



HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM - JANUARY 13, 2018

WINTER ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE FOR SPRING GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

By Pamela Harwood

IT'S REALLY COLD OUTSIDE. WHAT CAN I DO INDOORS?

- Start germinating seeds. Thank you to Jay Hunt for explaining the procedures he follows for the 250 different kinds of seeds he germinates for Good Shepherd Farm in Bridgehampton.
- Care for tender perennials and tropicals in your greenhouse. Another thank you to Jay Hunt for explaining his greenhouse maintenance tasks of cleaning, setting up grow lights, checking that the timer is functioning. Jay leaves the lights on for 16 hours per day. He also disinfects his seed flats with a bleach solution.
- Check that tubers and bulbs stored in the basement are not drying out.
- Clean, sharpen, and oil your garden tools so they will be ready for spring work.
- Have equipment like lawn mowers serviced (one attendee suggested Grodski in Southampton.)
- Plan and research:

I'VE SEEN OR READ ABOUT PLANTS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO MY GARDEN

1. Make sure you have the right conditions for each plant.
2. Decide if you have the right place in your garden for each plant.
3. Do the colors and textures go well with the plants that would be around them?
4. Make a garden drawing that includes these plants or what you already have.
5. Do you have a photo of your garden areas into which you can digitally insert the new plants to see how they would look?

I WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE ONE SECTION OF MY GARDEN OR PROPERTY

1. What don't you like about that area now? Do you know how you would like to change it?
2. What are the conditions in this area, e.g., sun/shade, soil composition, wet/dry, roots.
3. Do you wish to add privacy plants or an ornamental bed?
4. What are the best privacy shrubs/trees for your conditions?

DO INTERNET / MAGAZINE / BOOK RESEARCH ON SUITABLE PLANTS

1. Are they the right size, color, shape, texture, do you have suitable conditions?
2. If they are rarely found in local nurseries, order on the internet or mail and the supplier will deliver them at the right time for planting. However, such plants will be very small compared to what you might find at a local nursery or the HAH garden fair in May.

OUTDOOR WINTER TASKS

- Remove winter weeds in garden beds if the ground is not frozen. This will create less work in spring.
- Look for signs of voles, such as small holes and narrow, surface tunnels; if they are present put out traps with apple slices.
- To discourage voles from chewing on tree and shrub bark, clear the area around the trunks of mulch or debris under which voles can hide while they gnaw away.
- Do mulch around newly planted or tender trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Winter is a good time to prune dormant, deciduous trees and shrubs. And yet another thank you to Jay Hunt, who has a fruit tree orchard, for speaking about this. The best pruning times for deciduous trees are December 26 - April 1.
- Attract birds to your garden during the winter with berrying shrubs and trees, bird feeders, and a water source. An attendee noted that wrens like to have a selection of houses from which to choose! The question arose as to whether or not you should clean out the old debris from birdhouses. The consensus was that it's not necessary as birds will do the work if they wish to, except it was noted that bluebirds like a clean house.
- Make sure pots and containers are emptied of soil and turned upside down or stored inside.
- Relax on the sofa and read gardening books!

Attendees expressed an interest in having Roundtables on Pruning Methods (Pamela has seen some very helpful short videos that could be shown in the HAH library), and also on Methods for Harvesting and Germinating Various Kinds of Seeds. We will plan these for the future.

THE HAH SEED EXCHANGE PROGRAM

continues before our Sunday lectures this winter and spring

If you bring donations of plant seed packets (preferably your own, labeled with variety), you will receive another package for free. If you do not have any of your own seeds to donate, you can purchase packages for \$2.00 each.

Information for starting seeds indoors and outdoors will be available.

2018 MOON CALENDAR

The 2018 Gardening by the Moon Calendar prepared by Elaine Peterson is now available both on the HAH website, under the heading 'Plant Info' and in hard copy on the HAH librarian's desk. You may copy the calendar at the office, but please do not remove the librarian's copy.



PLANTS FOR THE WINTER GARDEN

Elaine Peterson

I have learned to love my outdoor winter flowering plants as much as my spring ones. Not only are they extremely floriferous when least expected, but they are tough enough to withstand any extremes of weather foisted upon them and us. Heavy snow may cover them up or delay flowering for awhile, but they are programmed to flower when daylight hours are fewer than nighttime hours and so will bloom by February or March at the latest and sometimes they will open in December or January if temperatures are a little moderate. All will benefit from protection from the searing winds of winter but most are not of interest to deer or rodents, though occasionally deer may trample them if planted near shrubs that they do like.

Snowdrops come in many varieties so you can have some in bloom all winter and there is nothing more cheerful than a snowdrop flower in winter. Many are fragrant and they are a delight to pick and bring inside to set by your work space or bedside to inhale. The scent will take you straight to the tropics! Read the latest HORTICULTURE MAGAZINE issue at our library for a profile of snowdrops and our HAH member snowdrop devotee, Ernie Cavallo, who travels to England every winter to see snowdrops and to see what's new amongst galanthophiles.

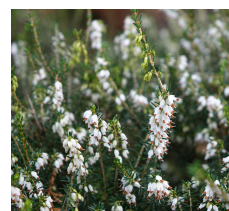


One of the first trees I planted when I became a gardener 40 years ago was **Hamamelis mollis 'Pallida'**, the fragrant Chinese yellow flowered witchazel. I moved it twice when it was young, thinking that it wasn't thriving where it was. From a mail ordered small sapling it has grown to a 12' x 15' giant despite my



chopping off many branches to bring inside every winter. I have planted several more over the years and they all seem to take their time settling in, but once in their spot they last a very long time, only gaining in their ability to delight. 'Jelena' and 'Diana' and 'Gingerbread' are lovely shades of red/orange and smaller in stature so far.

The third favorite of mine is the winter heath, **Erica carnea**. They are long lived and stay low to the ground forming a large spread over time. Their buds are well formed by fall and will start to bloom in December often if the weather is mild, or hold off til it is, sometimes as late as March. Any bees that are lured out by mild temps will go immediately to these flowers as long as there is sun on them. There are many white or pink varieties. 'Rosalie' is long lived, very robust pink one.



HAH 2018 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM - BH Community House

All lectures are free to members, \$10 for not-yet-members. Memberships start at \$45. Please join us!

February 11– Rick Bogusch – *Herb Blends & Spice Mixes: How to Make Them & How to Use Them*

March 11 – Bill Noble – *Imaginary Gardens with Real Toads in Them*

April 8 – Thomas Mickey – *America's Romance with the English Garden*

May 6 – Diane Barthel-Bouchier – *Botanical Art: A Continuing Tradition*

June 10 – Ken Greene – *The Wonder of Seeds*

There are no lectures in July & August

September 9 – Lynden Miller – *The Designer's Eye*

October 14 – Anne Haines - *Fragrant Plants*

November 11 – Jane Garmey – *A Sense of Place – An inside Look at a Wide Variety of Private Gardens in Connecticut & the Hudson Valley*

December 9 – Donald W. Hyatt – *Chasing the Bloom in the Southern Appalachians*

HAH and other LOCAL GARDEN EVENTS

February 2018

Saturday, Feb. 3, 10:00 am - HAH Roundtable, in the HAH Library, see p. 1 for details.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2:00 pm - HAH Lecture, in the big hall at the Community House, Bridgehampton., see p. 1.

Saturday, Feb. 17, 11:00 am - HAH Book Group, in the HAH Library, see p. 2.

New Hours at BRIDGE GARDENS, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, 631.283.3195 ext 19 or peconiclandtrust.org.
Open to the public 7 days a week, 10 - 4, year-round!



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