



HAH Happenings

January 2019



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, January 13, 2019 - 2 pm



Botanizing in the Land of the Blue Poppy Yunnan & Western China

Matt Mattus

One of the world's richest floral regions, Yunnan and the borderlands of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, remains of immense interest to botanists and alpine gardeners. Home to some of our most cherished garden plants, the region remains a hotspot for primula, rhododendron and meconopsis – the famed blue poppy. Matt will share with us his stunning photos and some film from this expedition (from this past June 2018) which promises to deliver at least an hour of high-elevation Himalayan escapism following in the footsteps of some of the world's


greatest 19th century botanists like Farrer, Ward, Forrest and more.

Matt Mattus is an American plantsman, author and plant collector. He is most known for his award-winning gardening blog 'Growing with Plants' which has been featured in the pages of *Martha Stewart Living*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and *House Beautiful*. Matt is the author of a new book 'Mastering the Art of Vegetable Gardening' (2019).

Since his childhood growing up in a Massachusetts gardening family, there is little in the plant world that Matt hasn't grown or collected. His greenhouse and gardens have been the subject of articles in many publications and have featured his collections, from trained Japanese Chrysanthemums to cut-flower English Sweet Peas. Many know Matt through his involvement in plant societies, having served as editor of the American Primrose Society Journal and as President of the North American Rock Garden Society for two terms. He also founded the New England Dahlia Society and currently serves on the board as Trustee and Vice President of Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA.

Matt lives in Worcester, Massachusetts with his partner, Joseph Philip, three Irish Terriers, rare poultry, fancy canaries and homing pigeons.

HAH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 5, 10:00 am, HAH Roundtable, in the HAH Library, for details look 

Saturday, January 12, 1:00 pm, HAH Workshop, in the HAH Library, see December Newsletter, p. 7 for details and registration form.

Sunday, January 13, 2:00 pm, HAH Lecture, in the big hall at the Community House, Bridgehampton, see above for details.

Saturday, January 19, 11:00 am, HAH Book Group, in the HAH Library, see page 3 for details.

Roundtables and Book Groups are free & open to all.



HAH ROUNDTABLE SESSION

SATURDAY, January 5, 2019

10 am - noon

TOPICS

- **Plants that Attract Pollinators and Beneficial Wildlife**
- **Deer-resistant Plants:** the most up-to-date list (in Bridgehampton!) will be distributed and discussed
- **Moles, Voles, Rabbits:** Protecting Your Garden

Moderated by Pamela Harwood



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear HAH Members,

How lucky am I to be assuming the Presidency of the Horticultural Alliance at a time when we have a deeper need than ever for the beauty and respite that our gardens and the landscape provide! Our organization has committed volunteers, healthy finances, and a track record of bringing fantastic resources to our members. We are consciously working to build a community of gardeners – amateurs and professionals – and many of us have new friendships as a result of our involvement with HAH. We can build on these assets to do even more, and we hope to surprise you with some new offerings in 2019.

You will read details in the newsletter of the Member Survey we are launching this month, and we promise to make it easy to complete and relatively brief! You can do it online as well as on paper, and we'll use the results at our annual strategic planning session, so please let us know what's on your mind. We'll also share highlights with you in the March newsletter. We can always be more innovative and effective – your ideas count! Of course you can also pick up the phone, send an email, or speak with me or any of our board members at a HAH event when you have an idea or issue to discuss. (My email: awhitaker196@gmail.com)

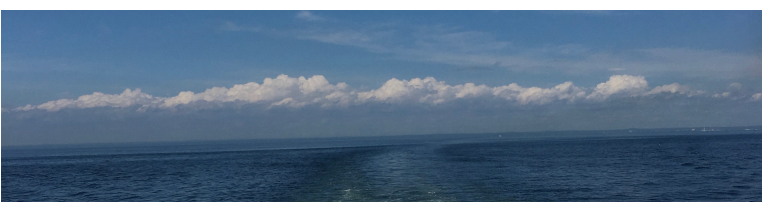
Winter is a wonderful and terrible time for those of us who garden. We need to content ourselves with houseplants...seed starting...and making plans for the new season's garden.

So, grab the opportunity that winter provides for garden dreams and for the respite that we all need!

Happy New Year,

Alicia

HAH THANKS YOU



HAH 2019

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

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

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

Sarah Alford	'19
Rick Bogusch	'19
Jeffrey Glick	'20
Marie DiMonte	'20
Elaine Peterson	'21
Erik Brockmeyer	'21

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

Sarah Alford, George Biercuk, Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank



JANET, for a great job leading HAH for 2016, 2017 and 2018!!! And ALICIA for taking up the metaphorical spade to keep HAH digging in our garden of ideas, programs and

celebration of the horticultural life, while Janet now gets some time to actually use that spade!



And LORI for another spectacularly decorated Holiday Party!!!

And



MARIE and CORNELIA for greeting us with smiles always!

HAH Library Footnotes¹ January 2019

Susan Kennedy Zeller

The HAH LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

What is the question members ask the most in the HAH Library?

...answer... HOW DO I FIND A BOOK ABOUT
(name any subject or author!)

Of course we have the computer for looking up info but many people like to browse and do not know the author, title or where to start their 'browse.'

Well...putting back the SHELF MARKERS will solve this problem! **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

January 19 at 10 AM

come 1 hour BEFORE the January 19th Book Club Talks and help us label our shelving!

Then reward yourself by staying at 11 AM for our stimulating book talks!

Thanks in advance for your help!

Your HAH Librarians

Except for January 1, and when we have a snowstorm, we shall be here on Tuesday and Saturday mornings and after any HAH event. 631-537-2223.

BOOK REVIEW GROUP SATURDAY, January 19, 2019 in the HAH LoGerfo Library 11:00 am

Richard Russo: *The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievement of Earthworms* - Amy Stewart

Pamela Harwood: *Gardening with Foliage First* - Karen Chapman & Christina Salwitz

Susan Brackett: *The English Vicarage Garden* - Miss Read & Piers Dudgeon

We have the Book Reviews on the third Saturday of each winter month. If you have not been before, we do them a unique way. You are NOT expected to have read any of the books being reviewed. Instead each presenter does the reading for you and recommends...or not! A nice, easy way to make discoveries and chat during the winter.

Carolyn Gemake will lead us. Open to all!

Next meeting will be on February 16, 2019.

We'd love your input!

Keep an eye out for a survey in January about all things HAH. We will email HAH members a link to the survey, in addition to sharing paper copies during HAH events in January.

The input will help shape our programming and guide our activities. We'd greatly appreciate members' feedback regarding your interests and preferences.

Your individual responses will be confidential — we will review consolidated results during our annual strategic planning meeting in February. The survey will be open until January 25, and we'll share a summary of the results in the March newsletter.

Your ideas and opinions make a difference! Thanks for taking the time to help.

Plant-O-Rama, A Symposium, Trade Show and Jobs Fair at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Symposium: Morning session from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, Afternoon session from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Keynote speaker: Roy Diblik (co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm and author of 'The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden'), speaking about the Top 40 Perennials for Urban Environments. Screening of the documentary *Five Seasons: the Gardens of Piet Oudolf* with an introduction by the director, Tom Piper. \$65

The following are FREE and open to the public without preregistration:

Horticultural Trade Show from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. 45 exhibitors including specialty nurseries and wholesale growers, horticultural products and pottery suppliers, soil and compost companies, and more.

Breakout sessions:

10:00 am -- Planting Large Projects

11:30 am -- IPM Strategies for Managing Ticks & Mosquitoes

1:00 pm -- Great Plant Picks for 2019

2:00 pm -- Winter Plant Walk in BBG's Gardens and Collections

Jobs Fair from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. 35 exhibitors promoting jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities.

Roundtable Report from December 1st, 2018

Our group discussed the wide variety of evergreen and deciduous plants that provide garden structure, foliage color, interesting bark, berries, colorful branches, and even flowers during the winter months. We also touched on the garden ornaments and furniture that still provide great viewing from your windows and plants to bring indoors for winter decorations.

Photos: Pamela Harwood



Musings & Ramblings

George Biercuk

It portended to be the cruelest Thanksgiving. Camellia 'Jean May' was in a profusion of bloom unlike any we had seen before but the weather forecast was for record breaking cold for a couple days. It unfortunately came to fruition. Come early Thanksgiving morning she still retained her cloud of clear pink blossoms. As the day progressed there was some hint of browning on a few flowers. As the day progressed C. 'Jean May's' pink blush descended further toward brown. By late afternoon the inevitability of the situation was depressingly apparent. One more night of deep cold to go. Then the toll would be depressingly visible. Amazingly the plant remained covered with flowers only slightly more tinged with brown despite it being 11°F. Then as the sun continued on its circuit and the day warmed the flowers melted into sickly looking limp blobs. By sunset they were a hideous brown. This year the onset of winter's iciness, unusually early coming in late-mid November, abruptly brought an end to C. "Jean May's" flowering, the earliest ever. For us winter had officially arrived. The budding buds were to be closely monitored for possible subsequent opening. There were hints of survival.

Encore azalea "Autumn rouge", which began reblooming in mid-September and continued until the deep freeze descended, doesn't possess the toughness/hardiness of C. 'Jean May' and flowering succumbed immediately upon the cold's onset. As for Helleborus foetidus it would be 'wait and see.

We thawed out from this intense arctic blast. C. 'Jean May' looked forlorn under her cloak of withered brown flowers but there were her then emerging flower buds, still green. Were they petrified? It appeared so. Then Bob said he saw some hints of life in some of them. After a quick scrutiny it looked to be wishful thinking. Then on November 28 there was a bud partially open. Not only was there that one that apparently survived the deep freeze but additionally new buds, upon closer scrutiny, were seen to be emerging. Without question she is a tough cookie.

Winter had lost its initial "icy" stranglehold yet its continued clawing was taking its toll which finally took out those struggling buds. Old Man Winter had won this year. Sadly I would have to hand pick each still clinging brown blob.

Worrisome, also, was the extreme interior defoliation of Chamaecyparis obtusa cultivars which, when started in early October, was thought to be normal autumnal defoliating. Minimal as usual? Not so. As Sol's zenith was continuing to sink lower and autumn began to succumb to Old Man Winter, despite temperatures that were signaling "spring", their interior shedding intensified, so much so that some large specimens might have to be removed. Thankfully none that are essential screeners had been affected.

Pieris cultivars, also, were heavy shedders, surprisingly since they were adequately hydrated throughout the entire growing season. Perhaps they were shedding somewhat excess foliage that would be difficult to support through the winter. Even worse, were they harbingers of a brutal winter ahead? Early December was somewhat ominous.

Snowdrops were again doing something strange. Earlier in October large patches of bulbs had pushed to the surface. Some were replanted while others were covered over with leaf compost. All seemed well until, in early December, they were again attempting to escape Gaia's earthly embrace. Siting doesn't seem to be a determining factor since it's happening atop walled spaces, skirting the bases of rocks or planted strategically throughout the garden. The colonies, though, are incredibly dense, over an inch deep. Perhaps it's one of Gaia's methods of dispersal, possibly using squirrels to sequester the bulbs for winter consumption, which they might forget, thus establishing a new colony. All we can do now is to wait and see what comes up where. Likewise, It's always interesting to see where the squirrels have deposited crocus tommassinianus throughout the garden so I'm looking forward to seeing if there are any stray snowdrops sprouting in offbeat places.



The Helleborus orientalis still looked to be in late autumn mode - no early emerging flower buds. Their foliage will be left until early spring, as usual, until we return from St. Martin, at which time I will carefully, leaf by leaf, cut back the old foliage in order to fully display the flowers whose emerging stalks are extremely fragile and prone to decapitation if jostled just so.

Winter settled in rather early this year. It appears it might be a long slog until the hamamelis and snowdrops usher in the new growing season, soon followed by the hellebores. We'll take advantage of the down time to recoup from our respective ailments.

The sun's downward slide has hit bottom and daylight hours are increasing daily minute by minute. Spring will soon spring.



A Walk in the Woods on a blustery day brought us many new insights into the world of trees. Many thanks to Naturalist Vicki Bustamante for leading us on a delightful winter hike through Montauk State Park on December 8, 2018. We learned so much about our native plant life and even saw the beginnings of Spring with the emergence of skunk cabbage in a babbling brook!

The beauty and intricacy of the myriad barks on all trees sprang to life as Vicki showed us what to look for and how certain things would reveal the identity of the tree. The structure of branching, the thickness, streaks, ridges and colors of bark - all can tell us something about what tree it is, if we know what to look for.

Thanks to Erika Shank for the lovely photos and for being willing to remove her gloves to take them! It was a bitterly cold day with a north wind but a small cadre of stalwarts stayed out for two hours. The seals were elusive that day, perhaps wary of hungry sharks, but we were happy to get back into the sheltering forest and not linger on the shore!





HAH Workshop
Introducing Gerald Raffa
“Bees in Jeopardy”



The Life of Bees and the Beekeeper
Saturday, February 9, 2019, 10am – 12pm
(Snow date Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10am – 12pm)

Workshop will be held in the HAH LoGerfo Library
at the Bridgehampton Community House,

Entrance on the School Street side of the building just off the parking lot.

Gerald Raffa is the official Beekeeper for the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, N.Y. and a member of the Long Island Beekeepers Club. He will explain the importance of bees (and ladybugs) for pollination, food and flowers, tell us how he decided to become a beekeeper and show a video about the bee dance called the “Wiggle Waggle,” the bee’s private communication system, explaining how bee scientists labored for years before breaking the essence of the “Wiggle Waggle” bee code. Gerald will also be taking suggestions for names of the ten queens in his hives.

Cost: \$5 Members \$10 Non-Members Payment must be made by February 5, 2019

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the “Bees in Jeopardy” Workshop on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 10am at the John LoGerfo Library.

Name(s) _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

E-Mail _____

I would like to purchase tickets at:

\$5 Member _____

\$10 Non-Member _____ Total amount included _____

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to: HAH, P.O. 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932 Attention: Workshops no later than February 5, 2019. Questions: Call Marie DiMonte at 631-728-0292 or Email osprey23@optonline.net



SEE THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER (page 7) FOR DETAILS ON
OUR JANUARY 12 WORKSHOP, 1-3 PM

with Steve Storch from NATURAL SCIENCE ORGANICS!!
It’s FREE but you need to register with Marie, please, as above.

HAH 2019 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!

January 13 Matt Mattus - *Botanizing in the Land of the Blue Poppy – Yunnan & Western China*

February 10 Alejandro Saralegui - *Madoo*

March 10 Ed Bowen & Taylor Johnson – *Reconsidering the Cutting Garden?*

April 7 – Margie Ruddick – *Wild by Design: Promoting Life in the Designed Landscape*

May 5 Jerry Fritz – *New & Exciting Perennials*

June 9 – Karen Bussolini – *Gardening with Kids: Opening Eyes & Doors*

Please note there are no lectures in July or August

September 8 Lee Buttala – *Twenty Heirloom Varieties, Their Stories and Why they Belong in Your Garden*

October 20 Renee Marsh – *Groundcover Plants – Beyond Pachysandra*

November 10 Ian Ross – *The Essence of Flower Photography*

December 8 Annie Novak – *Grow Up! Rooftop Farming*

MORE LOCAL AND NYC GARDEN EVENTS

January 2019

Tuesday, January 29, Plant-O-Rama, A Symposium, Trade Show and Jobs Fair at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. For more information and registration instructions: https://www.metrohort.org/images/uploads/files/2019_POR_schedule.pdf
For details, also see page 3 in this newsletter.

Thursday, January 31, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Martha Stewart: A Life in Gardening (part of The New York Botanical Garden's 19th Annual Winter Lecture Series: The Education of a Gardener). Ross Lecture Hall on the NYBG campus. \$32 for members, \$35 for non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/2019-winter-lecture-series/>



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