



HAH Happenings

November 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, November 10, 2019 - 2 pm

The Essence of Flower Photography - Ian Ross, photographer

Growing up in South Africa, Ian developed an early passion for flowers, color and light, all of which is evident in his unique photographs. Ian immigrated to America with his family in 1980 and lives and works in New York City. Ian has been influenced by artists such as Turner, Rothko and O'Keeffe and continues to explore new ways of photographing flowers, developing his own unique style of photography.

Ian has had several solo shows in New York and Cincinnati and has participated in group shows at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, the Kennedy Space Center and exhibited in galleries, both in the States and South Africa. Ian has work in the Pulitzer Collection, the Nasa Collection, the Allen Collection and numerous other private collections.

More of Ian's work can be seen at <http://www.ianrossphoto.com>





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear HAH Members,

Here we are, still raking up leaves and looking forward to the holidays. It all goes so fast. We have lots of activities planned, so that we can all learn more and be active in the “off season.” Doug Tallamy’s messages about what we need to do to provide better environments for insects and birds has led us to consider a way to help all of us learn more about native plants. The truth is that I know more about the most recent Echinacea introductions than I do about native plants, and I have to fix that. Bet you want to do that too, so we’ll be featuring a beautiful native plant each month in our newsletter, and of course we’ll have more for sale at our Garden Fair in May. Rick Bogusch will also be writing a regular column about notable trees we should know about and plant.

Doug Tallamy’s lecture provided some answers regarding what’s driving the huge decline in our North American bird population – among other things, they’re starving. The caterpillars and insects that are a primary food source, especially for baby birds, are in decline because they depend on native plants for their nourishment. And we are decimating forests and planting our own gardens with decorative plants that don’t support the insect population that birds need. Doug’s advice is not that we rip out Crape Myrtles, Ginkgos and other introduced ornamentals that don’t support insect populations, but that we introduce the native plants that do so. It requires a change in mindset, given that we used to equate insects with pests to be eliminated.

Some of the work that we plan to do this winter includes an overhaul of our website. We find that many more people than before are using it, and we want to make it as attractive and as easy to navigate as possible. Stay tuned.

We are thankful for our members, and the community of gardeners we have on the East End. Enjoy our upcoming holiday and reflect on all the things that inspire gratitude in our tiny planet.

Happy thanksgiving,

Alicia

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

Bridget DeCandido, Elaine Peterson, Ian Ross

Proposed HAH 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

The following slate of officers for 2020 and two directors (who will serve through 2022) will be presented for the membership’s vote at the annual meeting on November 10, 2019, at 2:00 pm..

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President	Alicia Whitaker
First Vice President	Erika Shank
Second Vice President	Rick Bogusch
Recording Secretary	Janet Ollinger
Corresponding Secretary	Joan DiMonda
Treasurer	Bettina Benson

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

Jeffrey Glick	‘20
Marie DiMonte	‘20
Elaine Peterson	‘21
Erik Brockmeyer	‘21
Sarah Alford	‘22
Pamela Harwood	‘22

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.

NOVEMBER EVENTS AT HAH

HAH Roundtable meets on Saturday, November 2 at 10:00 am in the HAH Library.

Susan Brackett will fill in for Pamela Harwood as leader this month.

Our topic of discussion will be **GROUNDCOVERS** and we will continue the exploration begun by last month's speaker on this subject. Many of you have had the experience of dealing with invasive, weedy groundcover elimination. Come share what does work well for you. If you bring in some samples, we can have a plant swap. Or bring some photos of your successes.

FOG - Friends of the Garden

Our last fall 2019 date is Tuesday November 5 at 10 am, raindate on Thursday of the same week. Many thanks to all who helped make the HAH garden so beautiful this year!

Cornelia Bostwick

HAH Library Footnotes¹ November 2019

Susan Kennedy Zeller

November already and a perfect time to start all that reading about plants, gardening, containers and even the people who have made a difference in our garden world! Stop into the Library during our winter hours...every Tuesday and Saturday from 10 AM to Noon and also after any other event we have happening such as Roundtables and a monthly speaker. Once we are finished cleaning up our gardens we can start the "curl up, read, and learn" garden time!

Our famous Book Group: One great way to participate is to volunteer to review a book of your choice at a Saturday Book review meeting. Once a month STARTING IN DECEMBER, usually the third Saturday (but sometimes another Saturday so keep posted) of each winter month from 11 am - noon, 3 or 4 presenters each relate what they thought about the books they read to the group assembled. A review takes about 10-20 minutes of sharing. Love it, hate it, learn new facts, a great compilation of gardens, a singular plant or category, book was dreadful and uninformative, ...the review is totally your opinion. That way each attendee has an opportunity to learn about 3-4 books - a great way for gardeners to share! So please suggest your choice of book by contacting our Book Review Chair, Ursula Thomas at uschieeh@yahoo.com or leaving her a message at hahmember@optonline.net. Ursula will coordinate titles and dates when you can attend and present. And even if you don't want to present just yet...come anyway - it's a great way to learn about books. Bring a warm drink for yourself and we'll provide cookies. Watch for dates in the December newsletter. Happy Reading everyone!

The Jim Jeffrey Camellia meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 23. at 10 am at the HAH Library.

All are welcome. Please bring along a blossom from your fall blooming camellias, identified, if possible, or come and see what others have growing in their garden and be tempted to include a fall bloomer in your plantings.

'Autumn Sunrise' - pictured here - could not wait for our meeting and has decided to make an early appearance.



Bridget DeCandido

Membership Renewals Mailed

As a calendar year organization, we mail renewal forms in late October for the year 2020. Included in this mailing you will find a comprehensive listing of the HAH Benefits of Membership. We're always updating this form, therefore, be sure to review carefully.

Look for your renewal form and mail back early in order to continue receiving our comprehensive monthly Newsletter and also be advised of coming events. You can also renew online, if you prefer, at <https://squareup.com/store/horticultural-alliance-of-the-hamptons>

You can also provide us with your email address so that you can receive timely reminders of the dates/times of lectures, workshops, roundtables and special events.

Questions regarding Membership can be directed to Bettina Benson at bbettina@optonline.net

The New York Botanical Garden will host their 20th Annual Winter Lecture Series: 'The Garden Came First' over three Thursdays in the new year.

This year's series spans styles and settings to showcase the distinctive home gardens of three celebrated gardeners, designers, and plantsmen. All lectures are from 10 am to 11:30 am at Ross Lecture Hall on the NYBG campus, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. Attend individual lectures (\$32 for members, \$35 for non-members) or the whole series (\$85 for members, \$95 for non-members). For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/2020-winter-lecture-series/>

Thursday, January 30 - Deborah Nevins: East End, Long Island

Thursday, February 27 - Isabel Bannerman: Trematon Castle, Cornwall

Thursday, March 27 - Sean Hogan: Rancho Cistus, Sauvie Island

Many HAH members have fond memories of two longtime members who recently passed away.

Fran Himelfarb's love of gardening and passion for native azaleas, among other plants, kept her busy not only in her lovely specimen shade garden in Springs. She also found time to be a docent at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and a very involved volunteer at HAH, serving on the board for many years. Fran was a former President of the HAH and later headed up the book acquisition committee for our John LoGerfo Library. Many of the plants and shrubs originating from her garden continue to be shared each year at our annual Garden Fair. She will be missed by family, friends and all who knew her.



Terry Vogel's quietly cheerful and caring nature endeared her to many of us who knew her. She loved gardening and rarely missed a lecture, always eager to learn more and her home made offerings for the table were always delicious. She enjoyed family life and sailing with them on Long Island Sound. Her warmth and deep appreciation for what HAH provides will be greatly missed.

Karish Program Recap: A Chickadee's Guide to Gardening

Alicia Whitaker

It's been a tough news year for the environment, especially for news about the significant drop in the bird population since 1970s, as well as the "insect Armageddon". Many gardeners also become birders because we notice the presence - and absence - of birds in our gardens. It's why we chose to focus this year's Karish Program on the link between birds and the health of our gardens with a presentation by Professor Douglas Tallamy, who talked about "Gardening for the Chickadees." He makes the case for why we must use native plants in our gardens, in addition to the exotic plants that we love. The reality is that there are "garden worthy" native plants that we can use for great decorative effect as well as for supporting life in the garden.

Doug painted a stark picture regarding why we've had such a precipitous decline in birds: they are essentially starving to death, because the caterpillars and insects they use to feed their young are adapted to native plants and trees that have been eliminated from landscapes in favor of Asian trees and shrubs as well as from general habitat loss. Urbanization and suburbanization have taken its toll on the tree population, and we've become a landscape that features few wild places that are life giving to many species of insects, birds, and small mammals. Our own gardens are typically manicured and planned to be mainly decorative versus life-supporting.

In the past ten years, many of us have acted on the message that we need to plant for pollinators – bees and insects. We now know that feeding the soil with compost is more important than using chemical fertilizers, and we typically don't use any insecticides and pesticides in our gardens and have found other ways to live with insects or to eliminate them in ways that don't harm the environment. Roundup has become verboten, after extensive research regarding its link with cancers and its pervasiveness in our water, and we're learning other ways to eliminate weeds. We are learning to be judicious with the use of irrigation. All of these measures contribute to a healthier environment – healthy for us as well as for other living creatures. The next issue we need to tackle is that of introducing more native plants, particularly trees, back into the mix in our gardens.

Doug presented research that documented the superiority of native trees as food for insects and caterpillars, as well as documenting the high volume of insects that birds depend on to feed their nestlings. Many of the birds that we see at our feeders are seed eaters as adults, but can't digest seeds as nestlings. Protein rich insects and caterpillars are necessary for the healthy growth and success of baby birds.

If we care about these issues and believe these facts, we must act. How? By adding native plants back to our landscape. In particular, plant trees, especially Oaks. This is the most important thing we can do to maintain a healthier environment in our gardens. Other things we can do to help wildlife in our gardens? Be a bit less diligent in our fall clean ups so that insects have a place to overwinter in fallen leaves and decaying foliage. Be patient with the web-forming caterpillars that can appear on our trees and shrubs – they, in many cases, can be food for the birds and do not defoliate their hosts. Consider leaving "snags" – dead trunks and limbs of trees – so that birds can shelter and make nests there.

We will of course have more of Vicki Bustamante's native plants available at the Plant Fair this coming May. Take some time over the winter to think about what will work in your garden so you can make a place for some of these trees, shrubs and perennials.

In addition to his important book, Bringing Nature Home, Doug Tallamy has a new book coming out in early 2020 that we will have available in our library: Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard. Each of us can make a difference in our own garden. Over the coming months, we'll be featuring native plants and trees in our newsletter so that we can all learn more about garden-worthy natives.

Go to Doug's website www.bringingnaturehome.net and to www.nwf.org for more information and help finding what trees and shrubs are good for your area. Your zip code will take you there...

Top of the list on Eastern Long Island are Oaks - they support hundreds of types of caterpillars - wild black cherry, blueberry, viburnum, beach plum, birch, beech, witch hazel, bayberry, sumac and hawthorn. And there are many more that are easy to incorporate into your garden, enhancing what is already there.

American Beech - *Fagus grandifolia*

Rick Bogusch

When I was in college a long time ago, I spent many hours wandering the forests surrounding the campus. The silver gray bark of American beech stood out from the sugar maples and hemlocks and made them easy to identify throughout the year, as did the inch-long, cigar-shaped buds.

A major component of forests in the final stages of succession, American beech can be found from Nova Scotia to northern Florida and as far west as Texas and Arkansas. It usually grows in deep, rich, moist but well-drained soils and often forms large colonies by suckering from its shallow roots.

When growing with other trees, it assumes an upright habit, growing 50-80 feet tall. If given space, it will grow equally as wide and develop a rounded crown, with its graceful, zig-zag branches trailing to the ground.

Leaves are dark green and oval in shape. They turn a golden brown color in autumn and often persist throughout the winter, glowing warmly when backlit by the rays of the sun.

American beeches are an important tree for wildlife. Leaves provide food for a couple dozen species of butterflies and moths and the triangular-shaped nuts, which ripen in autumn, provide food for squirrels, bluejays, woodpeckers, nuthatches and many other birds. They were the favorite food of the now-extinct passenger pigeon and were often collected by early settlers and fed to pigs. When beeches lose branches, cavities often form in the trunk and provide homes for many birds and animals.

Even though this tree is usually found far inland, on Long Island, American beech is the dominant tree of natural forests on north-facing bluffs adjacent to north shore beaches, growing with black oaks, an occasional red maple and the vining common sweet brier. There, its outer branches are stunted and dramatically sculpted by wind and salt spray.

American beech also grows quite happily on the south shore, wherever Bridgehampton loam can be found and is often accompanied by American holly.

Because it is difficult to transplant in large sizes and fussy about where it grows, American beech is not planted as often as its relative, *Fagus sylvatica*, the European beech. Sadly, there are fewer and fewer American beeches every year, as habitats are lost to development and agriculture and as beech bark disease takes its toll. Fortunately, beeches on Long Island do not seem as troubled by this problem as trees growing on the mainland.

If you would like to see a stand of American beeches, come to Bridge Gardens, where a thriving colony can be found on both sides of the deer fence. Local lore says this grove was the favored picnic spot of Bridgehampton churchgoers after Sunday services. You may see a maritime beech forest on the Grantham Preserve, managed by the Peconic Land Trust near Riverhead.



CREATE A CANDLE RING FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE

Saturday, November 30, 2019
10:00 am, HAH Library



Join us for this fun workshop and bring home a beautiful candle ring.
Ornaments, ribbons and fresh flowers will be provided.

Please bring clippers, gloves and a Lazy Susan if you like; a variety of greens from your garden in a bucket of water, pinecones, berries, rose hips and pods.



Create a Candle Ring for Your Holiday Table
\$20 members, \$30 non-members

Name _____ email _____

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to: HAH, Attn. Workshops, P.O. Box 202,
Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2019

Questions: **Lydia Wallis** lydiapbw@optonline.net

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!

November 10 Ian Ross – *The Essence of Flower Photography* **December 8** Annie Novak – *Grow Up! Rooftop Farming*

MORE LOCAL AND NYC GARDEN EVENTS

November 2019

Saturday, November 2, 11:00am to 4:30pm. Ecological Design Retreat with Edwina von Gal.

962 Springs Fireplace Road, East Hampton, NY 11937. Discover the emerging field of Land Partnering with landscape designer and environmentalist Edwina von Gal and horticulturist & chemical-free landscape contractor Tony Piazza at Edwina's home and "laboratory" garden. \$145 for NYBG members, \$159 non-members. For more information and to register: <https://www.enrole.com/nybg/jsp/session.jsp?sessionId=202LAN904>

Monday, November 4, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Andrea Cochran: Immersive Landscapes (part of New York Botanical Garden 21st Annual Landscape Design Portfolio Lecture Series). Scandinavia House, Victor Borge Hall, 58 Park Avenue (38th Street), New York, NY 10016. \$23 for NYBG members, \$26 non-members. For more information and to register: <https://www.enrole.com/nybg/jsp/session.jsp?sessionId=202LAN801D>

Friday, November 15, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. A Call to Action: Protecting Earth's Biodiversity. Morning Keynote Session from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm featuring **Doug Tallamy (A Guide to Restoring the Little Things That Run the World)** and **Randy Westbrooks (A Land Conservation Challenge for the 21st Century)**. Afternoon Session from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm featuring case studies from the Lower Hudson Valley PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management). Ross Lecture Hall on the NYBG campus, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. \$25 for NYBG members, \$29 for non-members. For more information and to register: <https://www.enrole.com/nybg/jsp/session.jsp?sessionId=202HRT839#>

Friday, November 15, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Madison Square Park Horticultural Symposium: The Transformative Properties of Horticulture. Eatly's SERRA by Birreria, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. FREE.

RSVP is appreciated, please respond to: symposium@madisonsquarepark.org.

More info: <https://www.madisonsquarepark.org/view-do/horticulture-symposium-on-the-transformative-properties-to-horticulture-2019>

Sunday, December 1, 12:00pm to 2:00pm. Umberto Pasti, Eden Revisited: A Garden In Northern Morocco. \$20 for Madoo members, \$30 non-members. Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack. For more info and to purchase tickets: <https://www.madoo.org/calendar-event/umberto-pasti-lecture-and-book-signing/> or email info@madoo.org or call (631) 537-8200.

Marders Annual Open House Events. Friday, November 29 - Sunday, December 1, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. FREE. 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. More info: marders.com



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