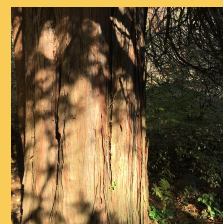




HAH Happenings

October 2020

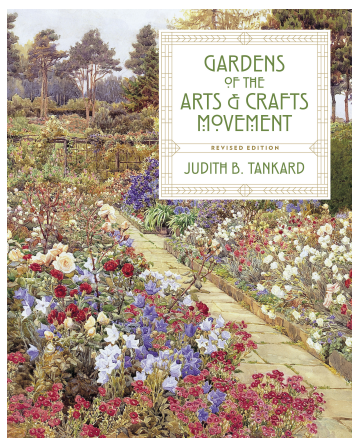


The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org

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

at the Bridgehampton Community House



On Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM
by art historian Judith B. Tankard
on the *Gardens of the Arts & Crafts Movement*.

Judith is an esteemed teacher and author with a specialty in landscape history. A graduate of the New York University masters program of the Institute of Fine Arts, Judith went on to teach at the Landscape Institute of Harvard University for 20 years.

She is the author or co-author of ten books on landscape history, including *Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement* and *Ellen Shipman and the American Garden*, a winner of the 2019 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize.

Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes was named an Honor Book for the 2010 Historic New England Book Prize and *A Place of Beauty: The Artists and Gardens of the Cornish Colony* won an award from the Gardens Writers Association in 2001.

Judith edited *The Journal of the New England Garden History Society* and writes articles and reviews for *Hortus* and other publications. She is affiliated with several preservation organizations, including the Beatrix Farrand Society, the Garden Conservancy, and the Cultural Landscape Foundation.

HAH Planned 2020 Programs Utilizing ZOOM

Due to the continued persistence of Covid-19, we have cancelled **in-house lectures** at the Bridgehampton Community House for the remainder of the year. The **ZOOM** platform has worked well for us for the **Cornell Sessions** and we hope our regularly scheduled lectures will be no different utilizing this technology – **you will receive the ZOOM link via email** which you can then click on and join the meeting. If you've never used Zoom before, we'll be offering an optional ZOOM orientation session for those who would find it useful. Look for an upcoming session in an email update.

We will be presenting the following lectures at 2 PM on Sundays via ZOOM technology:

October 18, 2020 - Judith Tankard, **Gardens of the Arts & Crafts Movement**

November 8, 2020 - Margery Daughtery, **Battling Disease in the Garden**

December 13, 2020 - David Culp, **A Bountiful Year: Six Seasons of Beauty from Brandywine Cottage**

There will be no need to RSVP for the above lectures – the ZOOM link will be sent to the entire membership.

It is important that we have your email address so that we can send you the ZOOM link for the above lectures. You can confirm that we have your email address by contacting Bettina Benson at HAHMember@optonline.net

Finally, if we have your email address, you should be receiving the monthly blast email advising 'coming attractions'. If you are not receiving these blasts, it means we don't have your email address. However, some of you advise that you do not receive the ZOOM link. All of our communications have HAH in the Subject Line. Be sure your contact list includes HAHmember@optonline.net so that our emails do not go into your junk/trash in-box.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I'll bet you are hoping for a long, warmish fall, with pleasant days and cool nights. Let's hope we get that weather so we are motivated to plant trees and bulbs and do light clean up chores, drinking in every bit of good weather before the chill of November. We know that fall is a great time to plant many trees and perhaps you'll be inspired by some of the tree profiles in this newsletter to plant one yourself.

We usually send out membership renewal letters in October, however you will soon be receiving a letter stating that *we are waiving membership fees in 2021* for those with active memberships in 2020. We appreciate your generosity and forbearance during this challenging year when we haven't been able to deliver our normal range of programming and services.

We are embracing Zoom more than we thought we would. Of course we'd rather meet face to face, but the quality of online programming we've had has motivated many to be patient with the technology. We are all learning together.

Please raise your hand if you want to review a garden book in future newsletters. We have the time to read and can get to what's been on the nightstand pile – think about sharing your insights with other HAH members.

Stay well, *Alicia*

The HAH Library will remain closed until further notice. When safe to open we will announce it here and by email.

HAH 2020

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

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.

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

Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank, Lois Sheinfeld

REPORT OF THE 2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is with great pleasure that the Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for 2021 for the membership's vote at the annual meeting in November:

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

President	Alicia Whitaker
First Vice President	Erika Shank
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Pamela Harwood	'22
Marie DiMonte	'23
Michael Longacre	'23

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.

Written nominations for 2021 from the general membership must be accompanied by a verbal or written consent of the nominee.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee,

Erik Brockmeyer, chair
Lori Barnaby Bettina Benson
Elizabeth Lear Janet Donohoe Ollinger

Ficus 'Hardy Chicago'

"Every garden should have its own grapevine and fig tree." So said the late, great garden writer Henry Mitchell. And, so say I. At least when it comes to the Fig.

For about 30 years, my beloved multi-stemmed fig tree, *Ficus* 'Hardy Chicago', has been an A-list star performer in my organic garden. The handsome foliage has been disease-free and the black-skinned, pink-fleshed fruit is delicious.

Figs require alkaline (sweet) soil. I raise the pH of my acid soil by amending yearly with lime and, when available, wood ash from the fireplace. I also fertilize with a mixture of wood ash and compost.

It took a leap of faith to plant Hardy Chicago in the ground, rather than in a container that I could move inside at the first sign of frost. Yet, fearing winter damage, I provided protection by surrounding the tree with chicken wire and dumping bushels of oak leaves into the enclosure. In the Spring, the fig stems were alive but I was left with an unpleasant mess to clean up. So much for winter protection. I decided to trust Hardy Chicago to be true to its name.

And so it was. Over two decades the tree prospered without protection. It did suffer winter damage twice, but each time recovered in the Spring and produced fruit. That is until 2016. After an extraordinary, abundant harvest in 2015, the tree stems died to the ground in the winter, and the sparse, new stem growth in Spring produced no fruit. Not one fig. A major disappointment.

In December 2016 I covered the small bare stems with conifer branches, a protective measure I used with my container roses. And it worked. No dieback in 2017 and we enjoyed figs-a-plenty. If you have a small fig in a container and want to leave it outside over winter, the conifer approach may work for you. (In December, you can find conifer branches for sale at garden centers.)

When my tree grew too big for conifer protection, and after a disappointing, brief flirtation with burlap, I fast returned to the tried-and-true-messy-drown-in-leaves approach. We have enjoyed bountiful harvests ever since. When the figs ripen in the Fall be prepared to share the fruit with assorted wildlife, including -- would you believe -- ladybugs.

I purchased my tree by mail order from Edible Landscaping in Virginia.

For more plant information and lots of photos of my garden plants -- no ads -- follow my blog: www.floragloria.com.

Text and Photos: Lois Sheinfeld, Southampton

Photos below: the tree with winter oak leaf protection, alongside conifer protected roses in containers; a fig stem in August; the fig tree; ladybugs feasting on figs; ripe figs in September.



CLERODENDRUM TRICHOTOMA (HARLEQUIN GLORYBOWER)

I want a tree with stunning impact during August – October that has both fragrant leaves and fragrant flowers, followed by beautiful fruits, is easy to grow and doesn't get too large, and is an insect pollinator and hummingbird magnet. Does this seem too much to ask? Not if you grow *Clerodendrum trichotoma*. This is actually classified as a shrub, but since it can grow up to 20 feet tall, and takes well to pruning, it is frequently and easily trained as a standard tree, which is what it is in my Bridgehampton garden.

I first purchased it as a seedling at one of the HAH plant sales, donated by another member. I found a sunny spot (although part sun or part shade is fine) in the garden that provides room for it to grow to its full size of 10-20 feet tall and wide, and each year in spring I limb up the lower branches. Since it's in a narrow throughway, I even trim the branches in mid-season to contain width. Our Eastern Long Island climate zone 7 is supposedly the northernmost range for this native of China and Japan, but even following cold winters it has remained hardy. It's a bit late to leaf out, as is Crape Myrtle, another late-flowering shrub that is trained as a tree, but once it does its large leaves are striking and, when rubbed, have the aroma of peanut butter! In mid-August the pink flower buds form, followed by white, star-shaped tubular flowers that have a strong perfume fragrance. Despite it not being a native plant, when it's in bloom the tree is covered by all manner of butterflies, bees, beneficial wasps, and hummingbirds. Mine is planted not far from my den window and from a garden bench, from where I watch all this activity at close range. No other tree in my garden boasts that much wildlife interest. Beginning in late September and through October, the flowers transform into the most unusual, iridescent, sapphire blue fruits, which are food for the birds.

Clerodendrum does self-seed, but I find it easy to remove the volunteers if you do so when they're new. But if you want your own supply of new plants, this can be a good thing. It also does sucker when placed inside a garden bed. But since mine is planted surrounded by lawn, the mower takes care of these. Good news is that this plant is not prey to any serious diseases or pests, needs average moisture, and so does not need any special care.

Text and Photos: Pamela Harwood, Bridgehampton



Pterostyrax hispidus, the fragrant Epaulette Tree

I was introduced to the fragrant epaulette tree in the late eighties..when the Arnold Arboretum offered a group of plants native to Japan to test their hardiness along the East Coast close to the ocean. Very little information was provided, other than that the tree was rare and needed protection from wind.

We really did not know what we had, it was very uncommon in the nursery trade. So we planted the lanky little whip close to the shelter of a native choke cherry facing east.

Pterostyrax hispidus is a deciduous tree native to Japan, specifically in the forested mountains of Houshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. A member of the styrax family, it is closely related to the silverbells (*Halesia*.) It can grow almost as broad as tall, reaching up to 50 feet in height and 40 feet in width. It is more often noted as a large multi-stemmed shrub reaching about 25 feet. In fact it was the shrub form that Arboretum Director C.S. Sargent first saw in 1892 growing in Japan.

The leaves are oblong with a tapered point and have finely toothed margins. Bright green turning yellow in autumn. The bark as it matures turns to a silvery gray.

I cannot remember how many years it took to flower, but what a spectacular, unexpected sight...a profusion of 7-9 inch long panicles of fringed downward facing white flowers appear in early June. Hanging below the leaves, the flowers sway in the breeze, attracting multitudes of pollinators and giving off a delicate sweet scent. The inflorescences, resembling epaulettes, the ornamental shoulder coverings found on select military uniforms, give the tree its common name. The seed pods which follow the pendulous blooms are grey, fuzzy drupes and cling to the branches throughout the winter.

I have watched this little whip turn into a magnificent specimen, about 40 feet tall and almost as wide. The choke cherry grew in the opposite direction giving the epaulette tree space to spread it's wings. Through later research I learned that it needs full sun to flower, but it has performed well in semi shade. It did require pruning for clearance and to develop structure, and branches do snap off during storms. There is basal sprouting.

Standing underneath the epaulette tree when in full flower, evokes the feeling of being in an all white magnificent cathedral!

Text and Photos: Erika Shank, Amagansett

reference: Pamela J. Thompson, Arnold Arboretum



Sweetgum

Liquidambar styraciflua

You might be surprised to learn that botanically, sweetgums are related to witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) and winter hazels (*Corylopsis*). Native from southern Connecticut to Florida and west to Texas, sweetgums grow 60-feet tall locally, taller in the Mississippi valley, where they are one of the first species to colonize abandoned fields and disturbed floodplains.

Sweetgums have several characteristics that make them one of the easiest trees to identify. They have straight trunks and a neat, pyramidal outline that becomes more rounded with age and their bark has distinctive corky ridges. Unique, star-shaped leaves with five to seven points are glossy green in summer and a mix of brilliant colors in fall. And then there are the gumballs. These one-of-a-kind fruits arise from female flowers that appear in April and turn into hard, bristly, burr-like, spherical clusters of seeds, one and a half inches in diameter. They hang on the trees for months and then fall to the ground from December until April.

Sweetgums are fast growers, increasing in size two feet and more per year, especially in moist soils. Naturally found in fertile bottomlands with slightly acid soil, they are adaptable and easily grown in average soils. They do not tolerate shade.

With no serious pests or diseases, sweetgums make good landscape trees, especially for parks, large lawns and properties. They also make good street trees if given ample room for root development. Though they transplant well when balled and burlapped, sweetgums can take a year or more to re-establish. Unbeatable for fall color, their leaves turn a long-lasting mix of yellow, purple and red, though this can vary among individuals. Originally part of Manhattan's 9/11 memorial along with swamp white oak, they were scrapped from the design because their fall color stood out too much and distracted from the other features of this somber landscape.

What people don't like about sweetgums is their gumballs. Some collect them and decorate with them or use them for craft projects. Most dislike the crunch of this "litter" underfoot and the constant raking required to keep areas beneath the trees clean. There are many varieties of sweetgums, some with variegated, spotted or golden leaves, some with a particular fall color and one with round leaves and no fruits to rake.

A good tree for wildlife and a favorite hang-out of the luna moth, sweetgums are also an important timber tree, especially in the south and midwest. Their wood is strong, easily worked, has an attractive grain and is used for flooring, plywood, furniture and veneers, as well as barrels and pulp. In years past, the sweet and gummy sap from this tree was harvested from wounds and processed into a resin used in medicines, perfumes and chewing gum.

If you'd like to see mature, well-grown sweetgums, you need look no further than Main Street in Bridgehampton, where several were planted as street trees many years ago.

Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens, Bridgehampton

Soft Wood Cuttings of Pelargoniums (Scented Geraniums)

MATERIALS – Sharp and clean scissors, clipper or knife; sterile potting mix; clean pots (I use 4, 6 or 12 cell market packs depending on the cutting size), labels, pencil or magic marker, and hormone powder (optional).

CUTTINGS – Healthy stem with at least three (3) leaf nodes and the least amount of stem between nodes (3 – 4 total inches for the cutting). Check for and rinse off any insects.

METHOD – Fill pot(s) with soil and wet down thoroughly. Gently remove all but the top two or three leaves depending on their size and pick off all flower buds. Cut the stem just below the third node as this is where it will root. Dip in hormone and shake off excess. I have just as good success without using the hormone. Stick the cutting in the pot of soil firmly. Label the pot. Place them in a sunny spot and keep just moist. Some growers will let the cuttings callus overnight to lessen the chance of them rotting before it roots. I do not do this and generally have good success with them.

I maintain a current list of all my Pelargonium (Scented geraniums) to insure that when I take my cuttings in the fall (late August to mid October), which are labeled when planted in the spring, I am able to secure my entire collection or whatever survived the summer. I try to plan to do this in mid September as sometimes if the cuttings are taken in October they tend to sit and are slower to root and sometimes don't at all. (Ideal time is mid March till mid September, when they are in active growth)

I generally take 3 to 6 cuttings per Pelargonium, depending on the variety, to insure I will have at least one plant to carry on the next generation. This I do one at a time to make sure they are labeled correctly.

Some varieties will root in as little as two weeks and others can take much longer so check often by either observing the roots coming out of the bottom of the pot or a gentle tug on the stem to see if it holds in place.

When they are sufficiently rooted they can be placed in a larger pot to grow on. I find a 2" pot is good as anything much larger will stay too moist and cause the plant to rot. They are succulents and prefer to be on the dry side. Once established in the pot I will give them a light feed once or twice a week. Some of the larger leaved varieties will demand a further repotting. Use your own judgment.

If they become leggy just pinch them back to maintain a good shape and remove any flower buds to promote a tighter growth.

During the winter months they tend to stand still as this is their normal dormant period. Come February they will become more active with growth and at this time you can take more cuttings with success of rooting.

I have also rooted cuttings in water although this method is not always successful when they are then thrown into soil. If you do this make sure the roots are white and not more than an inch in length before potting up. I use glass jars, clear or colored, as plastic containers can throw off a chemical that can inhibit rooting.

Use un-chlorinated water for exuberant growth! They will tolerate street water but not grow as well.

Mary Maran, formerly of Watermill, now lives in Pennsylvania. For many years now, Mary has grown and donated a wide variety of pelargoniums to the HAH Plant Fair Sale. Thank you, Mary, for these notes and the ZOOM workshop on September 28!



HAH Lectures for 2021

January 10 - Katherine Tracey – *Succulent Love*

February 7 - Evan Abramson – *Designing Biodiversity: Local Strategies for Pollinator Habitat Creation & Connectivity*

March 14 - Lois Sheinfeld – *Outstanding Trees for the Home Garden*

April 11 - Tony Avent – *My Favorite 100...Perennials I Wouldn't Garden Without*

May 2 - Susan Cohen – *The Inspired Landscape*

June 13 - Dan Hinkley – *From Shadow to Sun: the Making of Windcliff*

September 12 - Andy Brand – *Spectacular Natives, Beauty & Biodiversity of the Northeast*

October 17 - Bill Cullina – *What do you Mean I'm Not a Perennial?! Native Shrubs & Small Trees for Perennial Companionship*

November 14 - Holger Winenga – *New Plants at LongHouse Reserve*

December 12 - Roxanne Zimmer – *igarden – New Tools for a Bountiful Garden*



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100% Recycled 

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