



# HAH Happenings

## November 2020



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

631.537.2223 [hahgarden.org](http://hahgarden.org)

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

at the Bridgehampton Community House



**On Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 2:00 pm  
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM  
by Margery Daughtrey on  
Battling Diseases in the Garden**

When it rains, diseases soar! Many of the contagious diseases that affect the garden plants we love are more apparent in a rainy year. Margery will help you understand how diseases operate, and offer strategies for recognizing and managing garden enemies such as powdery mildew and bacterial leaf spot of zinnia, rust and bacterial leaf spot on geranium, downy mildew of impatiens, black root rot of vinca, and leaf gall on azalea and camellia. She will also describe research progress on fearsome problems such as boxwood blight and beech leaf disease that we are still learning how to manage. Improve your understanding of the microbes that like to have breakfast, lunch and dinner in your garden—and learn how to outwit them!

Margery Daughtrey is a Senior Extension Associate with the Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology of Cornell University. She has conducted a research and extension program on the management of diseases of ornamental plants since 1978, at Cornell's Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center in Riverhead, NY. She diagnoses plant diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, nematodes and viruses on nursery and greenhouse crops, and has done research on problems from anthracnose on dogwood to zinnia powdery mildew. Daughtrey holds a B.S. degree in Biology from the College of William and Mary and an M.S. in Plant Pathology from the University of Massachusetts. Daughtrey is coauthor of several books, including Diseases of Herbaceous Perennials, the Compendium of Flowering Potted Plant Diseases and the Compendium of Bedding Plant Diseases and Insects. She was named a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) in 2012.

### HAH Planned 2020 Programs Utilizing ZOOM

Due to the continued persistence of Covid-19, **we have cancelled in-house lectures and group events** at HAH for the remainder of the year. However, these events will be sent to you by ZOOM technology as listed here.. **You will receive the ZOOM link via email** which you can then click on and join the meeting.

Saturday, November 7, 10 am - **HAH Roundtable** with Pamela Harwood (see p. 3)

Sunday, November 8, 2 pm - Margery Daughtrey, **Battling Disease in the Garden** (see above)

Tuesday, November 17, 1 pm - Dr. Bradford King on **The Most Popular Camellias Bred in Each State** (see p. 3)

Sunday, December 6, 2 pm - Sarah Alford **Workshop on Wreath Making** (watch for more info in Dec. Newsletter)

Sunday, December 13, 2 pm - David Culp, **A Bountiful Year: Six Seasons of Beauty from Brandywine Cottage**

There will be no need to RSVP for the above events – 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](mailto: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](mailto:HAHmember@optonline.net) so that our emails do not go into your junk/trash in-box.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Well, here we are close to the end of this extraordinary year. And the end of our normal garden season, with frosts ahead and clean up behind us.

We are working hard to restore some of our programs and services while staying safe. Look for notices of the resumption of our book group and roundtables with ZOOM. So many of our members are joining our ZOOM lectures, and although there's a learning curve in using this technology, we are doing well and feeling more connected. Mary Maran delivered our first workshop on taking softwood cuttings – it worked really well and we are now wrangling other members to do some hands-on demonstrations in a workshop. Stay tuned!

Next month we'll have our Annual Meeting and election of officers by ZOOM before our December lecture. Stay tuned for guidance on how we'll do it.

Please keep well and enjoy the local November foliage color,

*Alicia*

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

☕ **Winter Book Group will be at 11am the third Saturday of December(19), January (16), February(20) and March(20) please mark your calendars. You will receive the ZOOM information with the HAH weekly email of events.**

## 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

Ernest Cavallo, Bridget DeCandido, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank

## Proposed HAH 2021 Officers and Board of Directors

The following slate of officers for 2021 and two directors (who will serve through 2023) will be presented for the membership's vote at the annual meeting on December 13, 2020, at 2:00 pm via ZOOM.

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## THE HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM IS RESUMING AND GOING VIRTUAL!

### JOIN US ON ZOOM

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 10-11:30am**

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

Thank you to all of those who sent in great topics for our upcoming Roundtable programs. Each monthly session will cover one or more of these suggested topics. While in-person gatherings are restricted, our sessions will be held on Zoom. The day prior to the Roundtable date, members will receive an email with the Zoom link to enable you to log on to the program. We hope you'll join us. Some of us will have questions, and others will have helpful advice. We can all benefit from this lively give and take.

### TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER 7TH:

#### **Fall Garden Tasks and Cleanup**

This is the time of year when we go out in the garden and decide what to bring inside for overwintering, what to cut back, and what to leave until spring. Sometimes the answers are clear - such as what not to prune now so you don't lose spring blooms, and which plants should be removed so they don't rampantly self-seed - and other times the answers are not so clear, according to one's own aesthetics and goals. For example, do I want a tidy garden to enjoy for the winter, or am I willing to have a less tidy space that will provide winter food and habitat for wildlife? What are the benefits and disadvantages of each approach? Also, one member wishes to know about clearing surrounding plants to better show off autumn bloomers and plants with winter interest. Another member wishes to know about potting up and overwintering plants now for spring giveaways.

#### **Creating a Garden Area with Native Plants**

Two members have just added a new septic system, which involved the removal of most of their front yard garden. They would now like to take advantage of this blank canvas to plant native varieties this fall. And I'll bet they are not alone in wishing to do so. Thankfully, there are HAH members and community partners with lots of expertise to share.

As always, we'll save time for other questions from the floor.

**Saturdays 🌸 November 7 🌸 December 5 🌸 January 2 🌸 February 6 🌸 March 6 🌸 April 3**

**Hello all Camellia lovers,**

**I hope you are doing well and coping with this new way of going about your daily routine.**

**Obviously we will not have a fall meeting, but we have arranged a ZOOM presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 1pm EST entitled THE MOST POPULAR CAMELLIAS BRED IN EACH STATE. It will be presented by Dr. Bradford King, President of the American Camellia Society.**

**The fall blooming camellias will be flowering shortly, so I encourage you to take a photo or two and send it to me and I will forward to our Instagram site, Long Island Camellia.**

**Please watch your email for the ZOOM details and link. The Camellia photo here is 'Yuletide'.**

**Stay safe, be well, Bridget DeCandido**



## Great Book Recommendations from your HAH Tree (aholic) Librarian

Susan Kennedy Zeller, PhD

The HAH Library will remain closed until the covid is under control. So when that happens watch for email and/or notification in our newsletter of our reopening! But the holidays are coming around and for those of you looking for gift ideas for your gardening friends, these are some great recommendations:

1. Gift a friend with a membership to HAH. You can then enjoy the ZOOM lectures and other garden activities together and when we reopen the Library both of you can take out books. (Yes we will have those mentioned below.)
2. Here are some excellent recommendations of new Nature books that you can order online or, better yet, ask your local Book Store to get them for you. (I highly recommend sneakily reading for yourself before gifting a friend!) After all...gardens are for sharing.

**Tree Story: The History of the World in Written in Rings by Valerie Trouet** (She is head of the dendrology Lab at the University of New Mexico.) Many of you know how to tell how old a tree is ...you count the rings once you see the stump. But as a dendrologist (a science started by A.E. Douglas at the Lowell Observatory) that involved counting and interpreting climate and astronomical changes from the growth ring of trees. The science of course goes much further and is more elaborate and there are dendrochronologists all over the world now contributing knowledge by coring living trees (they are not harmed by this process) and interpreting the rings for cosmic activity, water systems, climate control, human interventions, architecture construction, wars and migrations and of course the tree's age. The list goes on. The author not only explains the process, she also takes you on many adventures with herself and colleagues to study and analyze trees all over the world, reading climate's impact on human activities. Her writing is so enticing you feel you are going on expeditions with her. Charts and graphs explain the process.

**The Incredible Journey of Plants by Stefano Mancuso**. (He is a leading authority in plant neurology...plant communication on biological levels.) A great companion to **Tree Rings**, Mancuso tells many tales of how, when and why many plants had intervention by humans and thus moved around the world; sometimes for our benefit, sometimes to our dismay! How human intervention changed the botany of the world. Illustrations are rather sketchy and more for impressions than knowledge but the text is superb story telling.

**Around the World in 80 Trees by Jonathan Drori** (Trustee of the Eden Project, Ambassador of the WWF and former Trustee of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and The Woodland Trust). Original Illustrations by Lucille Clere. I expected a book that would be more of an encyclopedia and chose it for perhaps a good reference book for HAH. Instead, I found I got a delightfully illustrated and written treatise on favorite trees the author chose to tempt us knowing about and maybe go and visit as you might travel all over the world. Readers find themselves becoming interested in the why and how of human interactions and what has been the impact. Lucille Clere's illustrations would be wonderful for anyone to have as the originals are independent art pieces.

### Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*

Inspiration for this article comes from driving around and noticing all the red maples, both those used as street trees and those in natural stands, starting to show fall color. In early autumn, they really stand out from all other vegetation and are often at peak color by mid-October. Red maple is a native tree of firsts. Not only is it one of the first trees to color brightly in fall, it also is one of the first plants to bloom in spring. Small, intensely red flowers, arranged in clusters along young branches, appear in early March and signal the end of winter.

Red maple has a tremendous range and can be found from eastern Canada to Florida and west to Minnesota and Texas. Often found naturally in low, wet areas, it is also known as swamp maple. Hardiness is not an issue in our area, but trees from the southern end of the range may not be hardy up north. When planting a red maple, choose a plant that has been grown in your region.

Easy to grow, red maple tolerates a wide range of conditions from wetlands to dry, rocky ridges, but it grows best in deep, moist, fertile, slightly acid soils. Because it tolerates poor soil conditions, red maple is often used for naturalizing, but also makes a fine specimen tree. It is a common street tree, even though it can suffer from hot, dry, polluted surroundings and compacted soil.

A red maple tree supports hundreds of species of moths and butterflies and is a good tree to plant on the East End, where it grows naturally. Fall color can be variable, so for trees with consistent, brilliant red leaves, choose a variety like 'October Glory' or 'Red Sunset.' By the way, red maple is also called soft maple in parts of its range, because the wood is so soft, it has no commercial value as timber.

Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens



## Baccharis halimifolia (Groundsel bush)

After everything else in the wetland landscape has gone to seed, to berry, to plume, to fruit, to sleep, Baccharis puts on a showy fall display which is both subtle and striking. Its billowing mounds of smallish blue-green leaves are always a welcome contrast in their salt marsh sites. The deciduous, densely branched shrub, ranging from 3 to 10 feet high, is a North American species in the daisy family. Tolerant of saltwater spray, this handsome ornamental is suitable for planting near the ocean and has no diseases or insect problems.



White to green flowers occur in small, dense, terminal clusters. Probably the most significant landscape feature is the silvery plume-like achenes resembling silvery paintbrushes which appear from August to November on female plants. The flowers provide nectar for bees, butterflies and insects. After the flowers have matured to seeds, the silky fluffy portion - the "pappus" remains for weeks to catch the wind.

Baccharis is the ancient Greek name (derived from the god Bacchus) of a plant with fragrant roots. The Latin species name means 'with the leaves of Halimus', an old name for Saltbush, an unrelated shrub. Baccharis was first described and named by Carl Linnaeus in his species Plantarium, published in 1753.

I photographed the Groundsel bush along Napeague Meadow Road in Napeague and Lazy Point Road in Amagansett. To see masses of these flowering shrubs

naturalized in the wetland areas is breathtakingly beautiful and always a mesmerizing experience.

Text and Photos: Erika Shank, Amagansett



reference: [wildflower.org](http://wildflower.org)



# The Galanthophile's Library

Ernest Cavallo

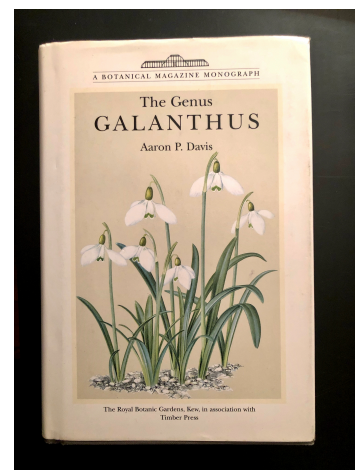
I have hundreds of books about plants and gardens. Some are historical, some are technical and some are just beautiful, and most just sit on a shelf after an initial read. However, I have a special shelf devoted to the genus *Galanthus* with just eight books which are my constant companions from October until April when my snowdrops are in bloom. No surprise that I should covet books about *Galanthus* which translates as the "milk flower" from the Greek. After all, my mother was a librarian and my father was the milkman. But I digress. Let's go right to my world of snowdrops and books.

The latest addition to my library is "The Galanthophiles" published by Orphans Publishing and written by Jennifer Harmer and Jane Kilpatrick who have produced a lively, comprehensive, historical account of the handful of British Victorians who collected and shared snowdrops and wrote hundreds of letters about it to each other in a sort of non-digital version of Facebook. With archival material from the RHS and the descendants of these early galanthophiles, the authors entertain as they give context to the current craze for *Galanthus*. On the pages we meet legends, Sir Michael Foster, James Atkins, E.A. Bowles, Henry Elwes and Lady Beatrix Stanley. We quickly discover that they were all just as crazy about snowdrops as John Grimshaw, Matt Bishop, Joe Sharman, Alan Street, Tom Mitchell and Anne Wright, the current luminaries in the hunt for the new, the unusual and the beautiful snowdrops. Well done Ms. Harmer and Ms. Kilpatrick! Rarely do I read about historical figures, put the book down and think, "I know someone like that."

E.A. Bowles, who figures prominently in "The Galanthophiles", wrote about snowdrops in "My Garden In Winter". However, there was no single volume dedicated to *Galanthus* until 1956 when the eminent botanist, F. C. Stern, published "Snowdrops and Snowflakes" under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society. I obtained a fine copy of this slim volume with pen and ink drawings and a few colored plates after a long search and at great expense. It has little practical use today. The taxonomy has evolved since the 1950s, and the few cultivars that he described are so well known that I would never need consult it. However, I keep it as a tribute to honor his work. Curiously, in this age when people are naming new cultivars for undergarments [John's Y Front] and dogs [Mr. Stinker], nobody has named a snowdrop for F.C. Stern. I wish I had a really good seedling. I would do it in a heartbeat.

More than forty years passed before The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in association with Timber Press published "The Genus *Galanthus*" by Dr. Aaron Davis. Part of his doctoral dissertation, it too is a highly botanical book. Of the 245 pages, only the final 50 are devoted to garden cultivars. There are nineteen plates of lovely watercolors by Christabel King depicting some of the species and thirty-seven color plates of snowdrops in the wild. Not a single close-up of any named cultivar made it into this book. I only use this book to identify some of the doubles which have dodgy provenances. Dr. Davis dissected and counted the number of the inner tepals. If the outer mark is right, and my mystery double has 23 inner segments, there is a good chance it is *Cordelia*. Thank you Dr. Davis.

I first became aware of galanthomania in the U.K. in 2001, when I attended the Winter RHS Show and saw the swarms of people lining up to pay 25 pounds for a single cultivar. The Victorian Era was over. These buyers were not the citizen scientists, content to write letters and send watercolors and exchange the odd rarity with a chum. They were enthusiasts who were more interested in the beauty and joy that these small white flowers brought into their lives than the knowledge of where a species originated or how the leaves unfurled. Dr. Aaron Davis, Dr. John Grimshaw and Matt Bishop saw the light too. In 2001, the same year I saw the buying frenzy at the RHS Winter Show, they published "Snowdrops, A Monograph Of Cultivated *Galanthus*". It is a marriage of Dr. Davis' previous work and the independent studies of Dr. Grimshaw and Matt Bishop. Their genius was to respect the desires of the new collectors by including hundreds of glossy photos of the coveted cultivars and writing brief narratives describing the origins and special features of the cultivars in lay terms, while incorporating Dr. Davis' work on the species. This is very much a twenty-first century book. There is a very telling line in their *Introduction To Snowdrop Cultivars*. They wrote, "printed in smaller type, the technical description gives identification details, which if printed in the narrative section would make tedious reading." They found the formula to satisfy the trained scientists and the enthused collectors. There have been two updates and reprints, but copies are still scarce and cost hundreds of dollars on resale book WEBSites. Galanthophiles refer to this tome as "The Bible". Although the authors have worked diligently for the last decade on a sequel, galanthophiles are still waiting for the "New Testament". My "Bible" is stained and dogeared from years of use. However, as time passes and new cultivars arrive on the market, I find that I go to it less and less. How the mighty have fallen. 2 Samuel 1:25.





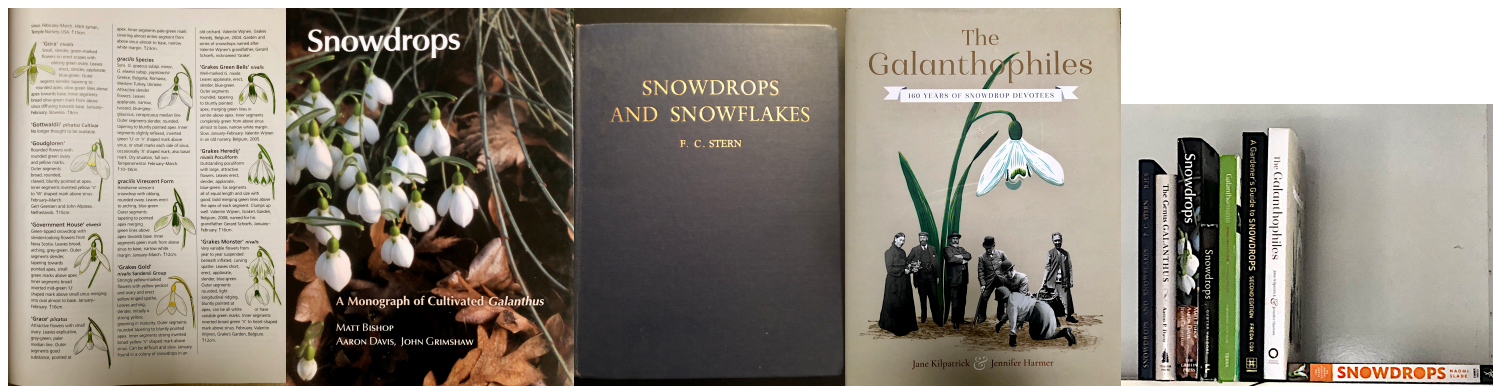
The Brits are not the only galanthophiles. Hanneke Van Dijk of the Netherlands published "Galanthomania" in 2011 from the publisher, Terra. She attempted to blow up the accepted taxonomy of galanthus which was based on the leaves of the plants and introduced her own taxonomy based on the flowers. She designed a simple classification based on ten flower types similar to the classifications used to describe daffodils. In her introduction she posed the quandary, "Some people [state], you have to look at the leaves, but let's be honest, if you are going to admire a snowdrop, you're going to do so when it's flowering. Who's bothered about the leaves then?" Apparently everyone was bothered by her rejection of the established taxonomy, because I have never heard or seen anyone in the snowdrop world refer to her classifications or use them. This was an idea whose time had not come. Fortunately, she included a large gallery of named cultivars which is particularly useful when trying to identify doubles. She included two photos of each, a bird's eye view and a bee's eye view, and for that I say, "Dank je".

Gunter Waldorf was a leading German galanthophile who was much respected and admired in the galanthus community. Although ill, he managed to complete a small book, "Snowdrops", which was published posthumously by Frances Lincoln Limited in 2012. We will never know if this is the book he intended to write, but I can say that this is the book that makes me smile every time I pick it up. It has such interesting small chapters such as, "The First Time" and "The Question Of Money". Moreover, it has more than three hundred exquisite photos in the gallery which actually makes up the bulk of the book. I prefer the Waldorf gallery to the previously mentioned Van Dijn gallery when I am seeking photographs to help me identify the cultivars that have lost labels or mysteriously appear as rogues in an established clump unless it is a double. Call me shallow and lazy, but I also love it because it is only seven inches by seven inches and 160 pages which makes it so easy to carry around in the garden. Rest In Peace Gunter. Your work succeeds.

I had not looked at "The Plant Lover's Guide To Snowdrops" by Naomi Slade since Kew Gardens published it in conjunction with Timber Press in 2014. Initially, I thought it had no redeeming value. When Naomi Slade, a garden writer with no history with the snowdrop community nor interest in snowdrops per se, was chosen to write this book, the galanthophiles shook their collective heads. After all, Kew and Timber had joined forces fifteen years earlier to publish Dr. Davis' scientific treatise. How quickly the worlds of publishing and galanthophilia had changed. When I finally got my copy, I admired the quality of the photographs but cringed at the selection of the cultivars in the photographs. Critics who dismiss galanthophilia frequently state, "All snowdrops look alike." In this book there are pages and pages which reinforce that idea. There are just too many single flowers with small green marks over the sinus. She had the choice of two thousand cultivars, and she obviously chose the tried and true when she could have presented the new and unusual. Appropriately, there is a single snowdrop with a small green mark above the sinus named "Naomi Slade". Furthermore, there are also obvious mistakes in the text. If I can find them why did nobody at Kew find them? Nonetheless, although it is my least favorite of eight, I could recommend this for someone who is galanthocurious as a beginner's guide to snowdrops. It has just enough information to inform a novice without overwhelming the novice. For anyone with experience in collecting, I suggest they use it as I use it ..... as a book end.

I have a new version of an old friend on my shelf, "A Gardener's Guide To Snowdrops, Second Edition" by Freda Cox published by The Crowood Press. The author is an artist who has produced hundreds of watercolors depicting the species and cultivars and written brief descriptions. She is a not a scientist, and some galanthophiles, who do not like her idea of artistic license, have taken to Facebook to accuse her of plagiarizing the more scientific books at the same time others are complaining that many of her descriptions are inaccurate. I am not quite sure how that all works out, and frankly, I do not care, because I am not an expert; I am an enthusiast. As an enthusiast, I have enjoyed the artistry of the book, and much to my surprise, I have used her illustrations to help me identify mystery snowdrops more than I have used the photographs in the other books on my shelf. I look forward to the Third Edition.

I am grateful for these books and hope and pray that someone will write another, because I still have space on that shelf. As a realist, I know that there will be fewer books in the future. I understand the cost of publication is high and the profit margin is low. There are also more and more sites online which provide information and photographs of snowdrops. However, if you are like me and still love the feel of a book in your hand and the joy of ownership with its perks, then I hope my brief summaries will assist you when and if you decide to add a book about galanthus.



## 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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