



# HAH Happenings December 2020

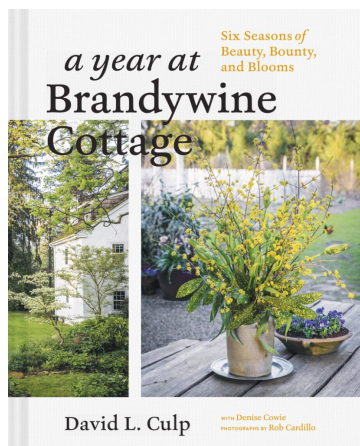


The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

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

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

at the Bridgehampton Community House



**On Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm  
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM  
by David Culp on *A Bountiful Year:  
Six Seasons of Beauty from Brandywine Cottage***

David Culp is the creator of the gardens at Brandywine Cottage in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, which are listed in the Smithsonian Institution/ Archives of American Gardens. The gardens have been featured on television and numerous magazine publications. David is the principle of David L. Culp Designs, owner of the galanthus nursery, Brandywine Snowdrops, and the developer of the Brandywine Hybrid strain of hellebores. David has been lecturing about gardens nationwide for over 25 years, and teaches herbaceous perennials at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

Based on his new book of the same name, this talk digs deeper into David Culp's celebrated garden, featuring a focus for each month, including recipes, a garden to-do list, flower arrangements and practical information. Favorite mail order sources, gardening for biodiversity and wildlife habitat, the creation of the meadow at Brandywine Cottage, recommended plants for dry places, and even favorite weeds will also be discussed. This lecture and book are about lifestyle, and blurring the lines of indoor and outdoor living.

David is the author of [The Layered Garden](#) (Timber Press), which won a Gold Medal from the Garden Writers Association (GardenComm) for Best Overall Book of the Year. His new book, [A Year at Brandywine Cottage: Six Seasons of Beauty, Bounty and Blooms](#) (Timber Press), takes us further, detailing how more than 30 years creating this sensational year-round garden provides an abundance of joy, both indoors and out, whether it's choosing plants for twelve months of interest, weaving edibles into the mix, or bringing the bounty indoors with simple arrangements and homegrown recipes.

## 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, December 5, 10 am - HAH Roundtable** (see p. 6 )

**Sunday, December 6, 2 pm - Sarah Alford Workshop on Wreath Making** (see p. 4)

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

**Saturday, December 19, 11 am - HAH Winter Book Group** (see p. 5)

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



## HAH 2020 Annual Report

All I can think about is Charles Dickens' classic phrase "it was the best of times....it was the worst of times." Such an unexpected and strange time, with the lockdown, illness and fear happening so quickly. We sat together for a lecture in the Community House during the first week of March, and by the second week, we were isolating in place and avoiding any gathering. We had a number of ambitious plans for the year, especially a new initiative regarding trees, as well as our normally robust schedule of speakers, roundtables, book groups, garden tours and the garden fair. I believe that for those first few weeks, many of us were in shock about what was going on and very unclear about what we could do to move ahead with our goals and plans for HAH. But after some reflection, move ahead is what we did!

It was extremely disappointing to realize that we could not hold our Garden Fair in May – not only is it our prime fundraiser, it's an important social event and a celebration of spring for our gardening community. Many of you had already donated money for this event, and many were kind enough to allow us to keep your contributions. Thanks to all who did so, as it was a sign of confidence in HAH as well as a charitable action.

We have several members who always contribute to our Garden Fair through "digs" of plants in their garden. Lydia Wallis organized a sale of perennials, shrubs and trees from her garden and sold close to one hundred plants to HAH members, all done in a way that was safe. The feedback was that the plants were great, as expected, but also wonderful was the opportunity to see our gardening friends who were picking up their plants. Michael Longacre also organized a plant sale of succulents, conducted online through a website he created, to support HAH. Thanks to Lydia, Michael and their supporting cast for doing something so special for HAH.

In the early days of pandemic, we were all concerned about safe sources of food. Remember that March and April were times when many basics were not available at our normal grocers and we were worried about disruptions in the food supply chain. I'm grateful that we quickly researched farm stands that stayed open, delivery options and Community Supported Agriculture shares that our members could buy. We were happy to support our partners and to let our members know where they could find healthy food reliably. Bettina Benson, the voice of @Hahmember, broadened the use of our blast emails beyond announcing our educational programming. Our May newsletter offered many resources about growing food at home.

Starting in April and throughout the year, our newsletter has been a lifeline for many of us, as it filled a void at a time when we couldn't have our normal educational events take place. Many members contributed articles that both informed us and cheered us. It helped us keep learning new things, even as our library remained closed. Thanks to all of you who contributed new voices to this vital publication, and thanks to Elaine Peterson's leadership as Editor. Thanks too to John Benson, who continued to work steadily to get the newsletter into our hands through the mail.

We had the sad task of cancelling or postponing speakers scheduled in the Community House during the winter and spring for our monthly lectures. But very quickly, Bettina Benson had reached out to Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, and we began offering frequent Zoom lectures by knowledgeable Cornell staff. We went from being a relatively technology-averse organization that clearly preferred face to face and print communication, to being significantly more comfortable with online resources, particularly Zoom. There's a learning curve, but many people learned how to use this resource and have expressed how much they like it. We have already offered 14 programs with Cornell, and this fall, we re-started monthly lectures, all on a Zoom platform. In some cases, our speakers have done their first Zoom lectures with us – we were happy to help them get started with this technology. We now often record lectures for viewing later, an unanticipated benefit of using Zoom.



The pandemic forced schools to operate in a new way, largely online, and we worried about graduating seniors and their hope to attend college to pursue a horticultural or environmental degree. Our Scholarship Committee persisted in offering support to local graduates and we ended up having four scholarship recipients this year, who probably had an unexpected first year of college. Thanks to Susan Edwards and her team, who navigated the scholarship evaluation process, overcoming all the barriers created by the pandemic. Not all recipients have claimed their scholarships yet, but will be able to do so when they are attending universities in person or online.

Workshops have always been a great way to provide hands-on learning for HAH members. The good news is that we did our first Zoom workshop on planting softwood cuttings with Mary Maran, a huge contributor of rooted geranium cuttings to the Garden Fair. Mary now lives in Pennsylvania but showed us her propagation tips and techniques from the comfort of her greenhouse. We'll do more when online learning makes sense for the given topic. We're in the process of scheduling a wreath making workshop and I'll bet seed starting in the spring would lend itself well to this medium.

Pamela Harwood has recently re-started our Roundtable program and will continue to offer monthly Saturday morning sessions that enable fellow gardeners to share their knowledge and problem solve together. The inaugural program in November focused on native plants and ways to put the garden to bed in ways that respect the need to provide habitat for wildlife.

Many of us are missing our HAH Library! We keep looking for ways to offer low contact library services safely, and hope to have more options in 2021. The issue in our office and library in the cooler months is the difficulty with air circulation. It's not safe for more than one person to be there at a time. Stay tuned – a solution will emerge, including one that may involve leaving books for members outside in our book drop. We are pleased to be able to reinstitute the Winter Book Group - details are here in this newsletter - and we thank Ursula Thomas for her ongoing leadership in collaboration with Susan Brackett and Janet Ollinger.

We decided not to hold garden tours of members' gardens in view of concerns about safety, but we had the luck of being invited to two July Open Days at the Landcraft Foundation gardens, owned by Dennis Schrader and Bill Smith, as well as at Winds Way, owned by Nancy Gilbert and Richard Wines. The fact that these are large properties, as well as extended hours for visitation, meant that our members were able to safely visit two spectacular gardens. It was a treat to see these special properties and to see our gardening friends after months of relative isolation.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for continuing to show up and contribute to monthly board meetings, now done on Zoom. This was new for us, but we quickly caught on and were able to conduct business as needed. The Board contributed many vital ideas about how to continue our programming in spite of the need not to gather together.

So much of what we're able to do depends on how well Covid-19 is controlled in our country and in our area. We all have our fingers crossed for the fast distribution of an effective and safe vaccine. Our garden dreams will continue, and here's to hoping that we can be together again sometime in the spring of 2021. Thanks to all for your patience, creativity and generosity as we navigate something that was unfathomable early in 2020.

Alicia Whitaker



## **Juglans cinerea - Butternut**

A close relative of black walnut, butternut was once a common feature of the local landscape, growing on the deep, rich Bridgehampton loam soil commonly found on the east end of Long Island. With a short trunk and rounded crown, the tree quickly grows fifty feet tall and often as wide, with sweeping, low-hanging branches. Ranging from Canada to Georgia and west to the Dakotas, butternut prefers moist bottomlands and is often found along streams.

Butternut has large pinnate leaves, similar to black walnut leaves but with fewer leaflets. (They also resemble the leaves of the invasive *Ailanthus*.) Bark is more finely textured than that of black walnuts, densely ridged and furrowed, dark gray and white.

Nuts are edible, buttery and sweet, but small, difficult to extract from the hard shell and thus not available commercially. They are also not commonly planted as ornamentals, because their large taproot makes transplanting in large sizes almost impossible. However, the species and several varieties chosen for quantity and quality of nuts are available as small, bareroot, often grafted trees. Butternut is an excellent tree for wildlife. Its leaves provide food for the larvae of over one hundred moths and butterflies and its nuts are stored for winter by squirrels and other rodents.

When it was abundant, butternut wood was valued for paneling, cabinetry and furniture. The inner bark of butternut trees was once used as a bright yellow dye and native Americans boiled the sap into an edible syrup.

Butternuts can be still be found scattered locally and throughout its range. Overharvesting for timber, land development and a fatal canker disease introduced from Asia have reduced numbers and placed the tree on the endangered species list.

I planted a butternut five years ago. It arrived as a two-foot graft and now is over fifteen feet tall. Even though its leaves resemble those of the invasive *Ailanthus*, even though it suffered damage in the last big windstorm and even though it has only produced a handful of nuts so far, I'm still happy I planted it. No signs of canker yet.

Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens

## **Wreath-Making Workshop**

Led by Sarah Alford

**Sunday, December 6th at 2pm**

**ZOOM link will be emailed prior to the event. No need to pre-register.**

**Join us** on Zoom to make a wreath from local greens and a spool of ribbon. In advance of the workshop, gather the materials on the supply list. Feel free to get creative! Then follow along on Zoom to create a wreath and bow that will add holiday cheer to your home.



### **Supplies:**

- Florist wire
- Wreath frame
- Assorted greens
- Pruning clippers
- Ribbon
- Festive flourishes

If you don't have a wreath frame, consider using four straight, sturdy sticks to make a square wreath.

## BOOK GROUP IS BACK!

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. Cicero

As we segue into cooler weather and put our gardens to bed we are excited to bring back the ever popular and much requested HAH Winter Book Group. We will be bringing this to you through the ZOOM platform which we hope will allow even more participation from our fellow gardeners and readers who are farther afield. The nature of the book group is casual and inclusive of all different types of horticultural books: design, plant focused, nature, food, agriculture and biographical are some of the book topics that have been reviewed in the past. We will have up to three presenters who will take us on journeys through their books, the event lasts one hour on a Saturday morning, just long enough to enjoy a cup of tea and the company of your fellow gardeners and bibliophiles. Please use our online library as inspiration and if you'd like to take out a book please contact us through [HAHmember@gmail.com](mailto:HAHmember@gmail.com).

### The specifics:

**Winter Book Group will be at 11am the third Saturday of the month -**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> , January 16<sup>th</sup> , February 20<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Please mark your calendars. You will receive the ZOOM invitation with the HAH weekly email of events.**

We will be reaching out to people to review books. However, if you have a wonderful read that you would be willing to present, please send an email to [HAHmember@gmail.com](mailto:HAHmember@gmail.com).

To access our library collection please go to our website [HAHGarden.org](http://HAHGarden.org) click the Library tag at the top of the page, select "our Collection", then scroll down to the "search our collection" link at the bottom of the page. You may also look at past book reviews under the Library tag and Winter Book Group.

We can't wait to see you and to hear about what you have been reading.

Sue Brackett, Ursula Thomas and Janet Ollinger

**Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am via ZOOM**

**Uprooted** by Page Dickey, presented by Scott Sottile

**Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants and Gardens** by Daniel J. Hinkley,  
presented by Alicia Whitaker

**The New American Landscape**, by Thomas Christopher, presented by Sue Brackett





**THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM RESUMES  
JOIN US ON ZOOM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 10-11:30am**

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

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**

**GOOD FOR THE GARDEN, GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

During our Roundtable last month, we focused on incorporating native plants into our gardens. At our December 5th session, we are going to extend the idea of good gardening practices for the environment. Our participants will include **Edwina von Gal of Perfect Earth Project, Tony Piazza of Piazza Horticultural Group, Rick Bogusch of Bridge Gardens and Rusty Schmidt, a Landscape Ecologist with Nelson Pope and Voorhis**, an environmental planning firm. Mr. Schmidt consults across Long Island for habitat restoration, sustainable landscaping and water protection. He is also the president of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) and an adjunct professor at Farmingdale.

We'll discuss how to help your garden thrive without dependence on synthetic chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides including creating good garden soil with compost (and the various methods of making your own), switching to organic slow-release fertilizers, the best companion plants to ward off pests, rain barrels and rain gardens, attracting pollinators, and best lawn practices, and, as they say, so much more. I know of at least one member who began apiary and vermiculture projects this summer!

**HOLIDAY DECORATIONS STRAIGHT FROM THE GARDEN**

Now that we are spending more time at home and perhaps less time shopping, December is a great time to decorate for the holidays by looking for inspiration and materials in and from your own garden. I know we have some very talented members who can share their ideas!

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

**Saturdays \* December 5 \* January 2 \* February 6 \* March 6 \* April 3**



## NOTES FROM THE ROUNDTABLE, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Text and photos by Pamela Harwood

Our first HAH virtual Roundtable was held via Zoom (thank you to Alicia Whitaker for hosting). It was a pleasure to see the (unmasked!) faces of so many members, whom we haven't seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### INCORPORATING NATIVE PLANTS INTO YOUR GARDEN

I introduced the topic by asking the question, "What is considered a native plant for for East End gardeners?" Is it native to North America, or to the Eastern United States, or just to Long Island? According to the website of the Peconic Estuary Program, "Native plants are naturally found in a particular geographic region and have been growing in that area for thousands of years. They are naturally adapted to the type of climate, soil, rainfall, and availability of pollinators like bees and butterflies and require low maintenance and do not require fertilizers. Additionally, native plants can survive native pest attacks better than most non-natives." Yet their search tool gives one the choice of natives only, or "Peconic Friendly." The Town of Southampton has a list of native plants that is used as a guide for revegetation, but their own contractors use plants that have a broader native range, like *Hydrangea quercifolia*, native to the southeastern U.S.

Alejandro Saralegui, Director of the Madoo Conservancy in Sagaponack, believes that even if you are unable to create a dedicated native plant garden, then incorporating them into your garden still helps beneficial wildlife and the ecosystem. Examples of natives sprinkled throughout Madoo are PawPaw, Lobelia, and grasses. He also mentioned that the Bridgehampton Citizens Advisory Committee had recently completed projects with Southampton Town that involved renovating Militia Green Park on Ocean Road with native plants: *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry), *Viburnum dentatum*, and *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf) as well as having 26 new trees planted along Main Street that include *Cercis canadensis* (Redbud) and ***Acer rubrum* (Red Maple)**.



Sue Brackett is working on her Master Gardener certification with Cornell and is focusing on native plants. She advised that Southampton Town has lists of Long Island natives, seaside natives, and wildflower natives. Sue and her fellow students expressed frustration that many of these plants are not deer resistant and Southampton Town does not allow residential fences that are higher than 6 feet to the rear and 4 feet in the front of one's property. Sue shared that Bridge Gardens has recently planted native *Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry) in the front.



Ellen Johansen and Howard Harris, following the installation of a new septic system that required digging up their front lawn, decided that, rather than replace it they would install a cottage-style garden of native plants. A design/construction firm chose plants that would bloom from April-November. These included a variety of North American natives such as Agastache, Bayberry, Beach Plum, Asclepius, Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Baptisia, Little Bluestem grass, *Ilex verticillata*, *Viburnum dentatum*, New York Ironweed, Redbud, ***Solidago*, *Eupatorium purpureum***, and White Wood Aster. Ellen showed before and after photos, including the planting design and the list of plants.



Although Lydia Wallis was not able to attend, she emailed that with the Southampton Garden Club she had just helped to replant their 9/11 memorial garden in Shinnecock Hills with pollinators and natives that include *Viburnum*, native *Magnolia* trees, *Abelia*, a variety of grasses including 'Little Blue Stem', *Coreopsis*, Highbush blueberry, ***Lobelia cardinalis***, *Ilex verticillata* full of red berries, *Deutzia gracilis*, *Penstemon*, *Agastache*, *Carex*, and *Calamintha*. It is planted to look like a happy meadow and the path is a thick layer of pine needles.



Terry Coppola planted a small native garden that includes Bayberry, which is a fast grower and has self-seeded to fill a large space. As her garden is not fenced in, the deer have eaten the White Wood Aster. Michael Longacre gardens in Sagaponack and has *Viburnum dentatum* and Tulip Tree, both of which self-seed to provide more plants.

## 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 - Page Dickey - *Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again*

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*

The HAH Library continues to be closed for everyone's safety until further notice.  
Happy and healthy holidays to you all!



HAH Happenings  
December 2020  
100% Recycled 

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