



HAH Happenings

February 2021



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, February 7, 2021 at 2:00 pm
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM
by Evan Abramson on *Designing Biodiversity:*
Local Strategies for Pollinator Habitat Creation & Connectivity

Evan Abramson is a results-driven designer and planner on a mission to rebuild biologically diverse ecosystems through pollinator-plant interactions. As Founder and Principal of *Landscape Interactions*, he works closely with project partners along every step of the process, from conception through design, implementation and maintenance. In 2020, *Landscape Interactions* was responsible for over 100 acres of habitat installed in the Northeast United States, specifically targeting at-risk bee and butterfly species for each project location.

Drawing on his diverse experience as a regional planner, landscape designer, farmer, community organizer, documentary filmmaker and photojournalist, Evan designs landscapes and regional corridors that build biodiversity and ecological resilience to a changing climate at the ecosystems level. A former Land Use + Natural Resources Planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Evan designed a climate resiliency plan for the Deerfield River Watershed, the first of its kind in the State of Massachusetts. His environmental documentaries have garnered dozens of festival awards, and influenced policymakers across the globe. His photographs have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian* and *The Atlantic*, among other periodicals. As a community organizer for Food & Water Watch, Evan helped pass a statewide ban on fracking waste in Connecticut, and stopped a gas-fired power plant proposal in less than one month. He milked cows, grew vegetables and raised cattle, pigs and poultry on pasture at Hawthorne Valley Farm, a biodynamic farm in the Hudson Valley. He holds a Master of Science in Ecological Design from the Conway School of Landscape Design, Certificates in Permaculture Design and Biodynamic Gardening, and is co-author of the Great Barrington Pollinator Action Plan. Read more about Evan's work at the Landscape Interactions website <https://www.landscapeinteractions.com>

HAH February 2021 Programs Utilizing ZOOM

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

Saturday, February 6, 10 am - HAH Roundtable (see p. 3)

Sunday, February 7, 2 pm - Evan Abramson talk (see above)

Saturday, February 20, 11 am - HAH Winter Book Group (see p. 2)

Saturday, February 27, 3 pm - POT LUCK workshop with Abbie Zabar (see p. 5)

AND February 8th to the 21st only - Stream FIVE SEASONS: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf (see p. 4)

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

In spite of a tumultuous beginning to our new year, the garden is once again showing us signs of the persistence of nature, and showing us hope. By now many of us have witch hazels blooming in our shrub borders and snowdrops emerging by the doorstep. The constancy of how the spring unfolds keeps us grounded and optimistic.

We had a strategic planning session in early January, as we want to continue our progress on key initiatives at the same time we want to be safe. We are considering ways to do plant sales later in the spring and summer that won't involve our normal preview party, with wine and nibbles. We won't be doing that for another year or so, but we will find a way to get wonderful plants, often from our own gardens, into members' hands. We are also ramping up a commitment to do more education about trees, hopefully leading to a "give away" of young trees to people who need them. You'll be hearing more from us about planting and nurturing trees, particularly native trees that make a significant difference to wildlife. The tree initiative begins with more education about trees.

In late January we again heard from Doug Tallamy, who discussed the need for creating "pollinator pathways" in our own back yards. If we all do it, we can give nature and wildlife a better chance to thrive. Why wouldn't we? Pollinator plants are among the most beautiful in the garden.

Stay safe and optimistic,

Alicia

HAH 2021

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 Donohoe Ollinger
Corresponding Secretary	Joan DiMonda
Treasurer	Bettina Benson

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

Erik Brockmeyer	'21
Elaine Peterson	'21
Sarah Alford	'22
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.

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 this month

Vicki Bustamante, Elaine Peterson, Abbie Zabar.

**As winter continues so does our
fabulous WINTER BOOK GROUP!**

Join us on

Saturday, February 20th

at 11am

for three wonderful presentations.

**Watch for the email with a link to our
ZOOM event.**

**Garden Dreams Illustrated and Edited
by Ferris Cook,
Presented by Michael Longacre**

**Wilding by Isabell Tree,
presented by Abby Clough Lawless**

**Reflections of Paradise: The Gardens of
Fernando Caruncho by Gordon Taylor,
presented by Carleen Borsella**

THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM RESUMES

Join Us on Zoom

Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 10am to 11:30am

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

Planting the Shrubs, Trees, and Perennials that Provide Food and Shelter

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

While we are at home and spending more time viewing, working in, and enjoying our gardens during these unusual times, it has given many of us such comfort and happiness to enjoy the fruits of our labor in a way that we may never previously have imagined.

For example, during the beginning of the COVID shutdown during late winter last March, I found myself spending lots of time watching the birds from my window and realizing how much pleasure they gave me. And I was so glad that I had several plantings that provided them food, shelter, and nesting material. I spent two months watching a pair of Carolina Wrens creating a nest in a planter on my deck that I could view from my den sofa, and later two Black-Capped Chickadees doing the same in a birdhouse that I viewed from my dining table out in the garden. But without the berries, evergreens, and other plant materials that I had in my garden, I might never have had the pleasure of such a cheerful experience with garden wildlife.

So at our next Roundtable we'll be discussing which plants, preferably natives but also some exotics that grow well in our East End conditions, attract and sustain our feathered friends.

Among our attendees will be **Brian Smith, Vice President of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative**, who will speak about which native plants are best suited to this topic; member **Nancy Gilbert** who, with her husband Richard Wines, owns Winds Way farm and gardens in Jamesport, who will answer questions about the plants and habitats on their property that feed and shelter birds, and **Eileen Schwinn, Vice President of the Eastern Long Island Audubon Society** and in charge of field trips, who will describe which bird species are in our area during the winter months. Additional knowledgeable community partners will be on hand as well.

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. It's best to log on about 10 minutes early to enable the host to let each attendee enter the meeting so we can begin on time. We hope you'll join us to learn, ask questions, and give advice to others.

As always, we'll save time for questions from the floor about other topics. So see you on February 6!

Saturdays * February 6 * March 6 * April 3 * 2021



Stream from the comfort of your home from February 8th to the 21st only.
HAH will forward the link via email prior to the scheduling.

FIVE SEASONS: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf
2018, 75 min. In English and Dutch with English subtitles
Directed by Tom Piper

Revolutionary landscape designer Piet Oudolf is known for designing public works like New York City's popular High Line and the Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park that redefine our conception of gardens as works of art in themselves.



Upcoming virtual events at other venues

Wave Hill, Bronx, NY - See their virtual winter/spring series for three fascinating conversations with acclaimed gardeners **Matthew Reese on Feb 17, Eric Hsu, March 24 and Fergus Garrett on April 14** as part of their virtual Horticultural Lectures 2021.

To register go to <https://www.wavehill.org/calendar/2021-horticultural-lecture-series>

The North America Rock Garden Society - Saturday, February 6th from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm EST

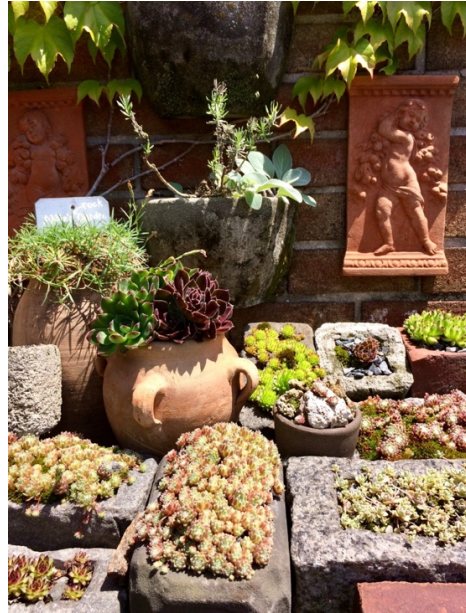
An all day Study Program on 'How to build, plant, display, and celebrate gardening in crevices.'

Six knowledgeable gardeners from around the continent will present talks.

To register go to <https://www.nargs.org/nargs-rocks-crevices-gardening-vertically-and-horizontally-virtual-study-day>

POT LUCK

~ A LECTURE PRESENTATION TO HAH BY ABBIE ZABAR ~
Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 3 pm on ZOOM



In an abandoned New Jersey greenhouse with broken panes of glass and weeds growing through foundation walls I found a stash of vintage British ‘Sankey’ terra cotta alpine pans and orchid pots. That’s how it all began.

When the world is seen through the eyes of a container gardener, possibilities are not just lead, stone, iron, terracotta, tufa, hypertufa, or fiberglass. What of New York City cobblestones? What of rubber tires, ubiquitous to Southern gardens? Or how about nothing more than an endearing little lichen-covered log that tripped me up twenty years ago and nowadays it overflows with cobweb houseleeks (*Sempervivum arachnoideum*). Gardening with containers is taking pleasure in discovering a whole world of options, especially when someone else might kick those tires and give them a pass.

ABBIE ZABAR gardens on a NYC rooftop, in containers – beautifully, expertly, and in spite of the odds. For many years she was the Speaker Chair for the Manhattan Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society and a Learning Leader at Public School 198. Among other museums, her drawings are part of the permanent collection of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, one of the foremost resources of botanical art in the world. Her illustrated stories have appeared in *HORTUS*, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, *FINE GARDENING* and numerous other American and British publications. Her first book, *THE POTTED HERB*, is considered a gardening classic. She has created graphic and illustration campaigns for clients as diverse as Bette Midler’s New York Restoration Project, Bergdorf Goodman, and Daniel Boulud’s restaurants. The “Critter Pot” was her first collaboration with Seibert & Rice; followed by “Abbie’s Orchid Pot” an addition to an extraordinary line of artisanally-produced terra cotta vessels from Impruneta, Italy for Seibert & Rice and importers of the finest terra cotta pots in the world over decades.

Sassafras albidum

Sassafras is one of our most interesting native trees. Its name is native American and it is a member of the often-tropical laurel family. Other members of this family include avocado, cinnamon and bay tree, as well as our native spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*).

You can find sassafras from Maine west to Michigan and south to Texas and Florida and right here on Long Island. It makes its best growth in moist, well-drained, slightly acidic, loamy soil. It can be found along woodland margins and roadsides and on dry, sandy sites, often moving from rocky hedgerows into abandoned farm fields and forming large, dense thickets. It prefers full sun, but tolerates partial shade.

Sassafras has several attractive features. Shrubby and often irregular in youth, it becomes a dense, irregular pyramid in maturity, usually growing about fifty feet tall. With graceful branching like flowering dogwood, it makes a pleasing winter silhouette. Twigs are bright green or reddish if exposed to sunlight. Bark is a dark mahogany at maturity, coarsely textured with thick corky ridges separated by deep furrows.

Sassafras leaves are large and distinctive, bright green above and white beneath, sharply tapered at the base. Some are entire, some three-lobed, some mitten-shaped. Sassafras leaves have spectacular fall color, a fiery mix of red, yellow, orange and purple that seems to glow from within in the right light.

Small, but quite beautiful close-up, sassafras flowers appear in April before leaves emerge, clusters of fragrant, yellow stars at the ends of branches. Some trees are male, some female. Female flowers develop into pendant clusters of dark blue berries with bright scarlet stems in September, and these are quickly devoured by birds.

Attractive as it is, sassafras has limited usefulness as a landscape tree because its deep taproot and lack of lateral roots make transplanting in large sizes almost impossible. Small potted seedlings or root cuttings or small, balled-and-burlapped specimens are the only ways to plant a sassafras successfully. Because it is prone to suckering from the roots, sassafras can quickly grow into large, multi-stemmed shrubs, too large for many properties. If grown as a lawn tree, suckering can be controlled.

Sassafras would be an excellent tree for naturalizing, if it was more available in the nursery trade. Besides being a food source for birds, trees support the larvae of both the promethia moth and the spicebush swallowtail butterfly.

The bark of sassafras roots was used by native Americans to make medicinal teas and was an important export of colonial America because of its perceived therapeutic properties. The root bark was also ground into fine powder, a gumbo thickener still popular in the South, and used as a source of oil of sassafras, a flavoring for sodas and toothpastes. In the 1950's, 500 tons of sassafras oil were sold annually. Recently, research has shown that sassafras products contain safrole, a banned carcinogen, so most culinary uses have been outlawed.

If you want to see sassafras, there are trees on the south side of Mitchell Lane near the railroad bridge in Bridgehampton and there is a small grove in the northeast corner of the Bridge Gardens parking lot.



Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens



**A Late Winter Walk with Vicki Bustamante
in Montauk County Park
Saturday, March 13, 2021, 10 am**

**This walk will be limited to 12 persons,
pre-registration required.**

Follow the Montauketts' footsteps on a walk through the heart of Montauk County Park, passing along the grasslands and savannas to Squaw Hill for a dramatic, panoramic view of Oyster Pond, Block Island Sound and the lighthouse. On the return, we will pass through a mystical red maple-blackgum swamp to view some spectacular *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Acer rubrum*, *Sassafras*, *Hollies*, *Witch Hazel*, *Blueberry* and *Clethra*.

The walk will be around two miles but we will take our time to enjoy the scenery and admire the variety of native plants and anything of interest. Take note that there are some gradual hills and areas of uneven terrain.

Recommended: Sturdy walking shoes/boots, walking sticks, binoculars, water and snack (for lunch), tick protection. COVID-19 guidelines will be adhered to: Mask and social distancing.

Directions: Take 27 East toward the Lighthouse, turn left (north) onto East Lake Drive. Go 0.9 miles to just past Ranch Court. Turn right onto Melchionna Road. Follow this to the crest of hill, make a left through chain link gates to the GTR site and park near other cars there.

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the Montauk Winter Walk on Saturday, March 13, 2021, at 10am.

Name(s) _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

E-Mail _____

I would like to purchase _____ tickets at \$10.00 each.

Total Amount included: _____

All proceeds will benefit Third House Nature Center.

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to: HAH, P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, New York, 11932 no later than March 1st, Attention: Workshops

Questions: Call Marie DiMonte at 631.728.0292 or Email osprey23@optonline.net

HAH Sunday Lectures for 2021- 2pm

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*

No lectures in July/August

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*

MORE HAH VIRTUAL EVENTS coming in March 2021

Thursday, March 11 at 10am - HAH lecture 'Untermeyer Gardens: Past, Present and Future' with Timothy Tilghman, head gardener at Untermeyer Gardens

Wednesday, March 17 at 10am - Cornell Cooperative Extension – 'Getting to Know Woody Ornamentals'

Saturday, March 20 at 11am – Stephen Heyman will discuss, along with slides, his new book - *The Planter of Modern Life*

Sunday, March 21 at 2pm - Christopher LaGuardia will discuss, along with slides, his new book - *Contemporary Gardens of the Hamptons: LaGuardia Design Group 1990-2020*

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100% Recycled



Early Snowdrop, Galanthus
elwesii 'Mrs. Macnamara'

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