



# HAH Happenings

## April 2021



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, April 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm  
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM  
by Tony Avent**

### ***My Favorite 100...Perennials I Wouldn't Garden Without***

In his presentation, Tony Avent will discuss his favorite perennials for the Long Island region including little-known stalwarts as well as cutting edge new introductions...all from his extensive trials.

Tony is a plant explorer, researcher, garden communicator, and plantsman who has grown over 70,000 different plant taxa. He is the founder of Plant Delights Nursery [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com) and Juniper Level Botanic Gardens [www.juniperlevelbotanicgarden.org](http://www.juniperlevelbotanicgarden.org) in Raleigh, NC. In addition to running the nursery,

Avent is a plant breeder who is best known for his Hosta breeding program, but is actively breeding other genera as well. In addition, he travels the world on plant hunting expeditions to search for new, rare, and unusual plants. He is an avid plant collector with a large collection of rare, variegated Agave. A prolific writer having authored dozens of newspaper articles, magazine articles, and web articles in addition to his informative nursery catalog, he is currently a contributing editor to Fine Gardening Magazine.

### **The Karish Education Fund of the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons**

We are now accepting scholarship grant applications from qualified current and future students of horticulture and related fields (such as botany, landscape architecture, garden design, and environmental science). Graduating high school seniors, professional certification participants and college level students are eligible to apply.

Additional information may be obtained on the HAH website: [www.hahgarden.org](http://www.hahgarden.org) under the Education tab. From the HAH site, click the provided link to be re-directed to our administrator's site, where further instructions and application forms can be found after entering the access code: LKARI

**The application deadline is Earth Day - April 22, 2021.**

### **HAH April 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, April 3, 10 am - HAH Roundtable (see p.3)**

**Wednesday, April 7, 4:00 pm - Slide Tour of Filoli ( see p. 4)**

**Sunday, April 11, 2:00 pm - HAH Lecture with Tony Avent (see above)**

**Tuesday, April 13, 10:00 am - Slide Tour of the Gardner Museum & Gardens ( see p. 5)**

**Saturday, April 17, 10:00 am – HAH Herbs Workshop (see p. 4)**

**Wednesday, April 28, 10:00 am – Carolyn Mullet Tour of European Gardens (see p. 5)**

**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,

How wonderful to have made it through winter into this wonderful season. The crescendo of garden chores has started and time seems to be accelerated. The good news is that when we get tired or overwhelmed, we can stare at the daffodils and other spring bulbs that have emerged, and listen to the bird chorus that gets louder every day.

We have filled this newsletter with information about native and pollinator plants, and we're telling you more about our Tree Initiative. HAH is committed to helping each of us shift the balance of plants in our gardens towards the ones that will be most supportive of birds and pollinators, without compromising our desire for beauty. This month Lydia Wallis profiles the beautiful spring ephemeral, Bloodroot, Valerie Hanley tells us about rethinking her garden and Susan Brackett and Janis Murphy are initiating a monthly column about native plants that we can consider for our gardens, so we have no excuse not to know about beautiful, useful and accessible plants. Rick Bogush will continue with his monthly column about native trees. Think "turning the dial" versus a wholesale redo of our gardens. See where you can find space for one of these life-giving plants as we replace underperforming shrubs and make room for new perennials.

As more of us are vaccinated, we are thinking about if and how we can safely gather together again. For the next few months, that probably means outside events only, perhaps including some small plant sales. But the fall will bring a different set of opportunities.

April is a major month for bird migration and many of our favorite songbirds will be back in our gardens as well as visiting our feeders on their way farther north.

Onward to the garden,

*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

Susan Brackett, Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank

## Montauk Hike with Vicki Bustamante March 13



## FOG – Friends of the Garden

The gardening dates for 2021 are Tuesdays at 10am (Rain Dates are Thursday of the same week)

April 6, May 4, June 1, June 29, July 27, August 24, September 21, October 19, and November 16

If you'd like to garden and see some other people while gardening – we would be delighted to have you join us - anyone wanting to join is welcome – but until Covid-19 is behind us - please remember to wear a mask and social distance.

Hope to see you in April or some time this summer.

Cornelia Bostwick



## THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM RESUMES

### Join Us on Zoom

### Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 10am to 11:30am

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

#### Attracting Butterflies, Bees, and other Pollinators to your Garden

As this will be our last scheduled Roundtable before we'll all be purchasing new plants and back outside spending time in our gardens, we thought the timing is perfect to discuss how important pollinators are to the success of our gardens and to the environment. And since not all plants, no matter how beautiful, attract pollinators, we want to focus on sharing information about the plants -- be they trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals -- that do the job. Many of these selections of course will be plants that are native to Eastern Long Island. But others are native to other areas of North America and even other parts of the world. But they all share characteristics that attract and nurture pollinators in various ways and at various stages of their life cycles.

**Sarah Alford** will speak about attracting butterflies to your garden. **Brian Smith, Vice President of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative**, will focus on the native plants that host and nurture bees and other pollinators in our gardens. We will go beyond plant varieties and also suggest how various selections may be best placed in your garden for maximum enjoyment, and other garden elements that are important for our pollinator friends.

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 April 3rd!



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#### Notes from our March 6<sup>th</sup> Roundtable on Landscape Lighting

Our featured presenter last month was Tyler Horn, principal of Luminism Design based in Sag Harbor. Tyler specializes in landscape lighting design and installation. It was fascinating to learn of all the technological developments that have brought this aspect of garden design to the forefront. For example, advancements in LED technology enable landscapers to offer a spectrum of colors, intensity, and levels of warmth to "white" lighting options. The choices of bulbs are important as well: some that have multiple sources of light can create a dizzying effect, rather than the crisp and naturalistic one that bulbs with a single light source provide. The good news is that these enhancements to the enjoyment of your garden during the evening and nighttime hours can all be accomplished while still adhering to Dark Skies codes and also without disturbing your neighbors. Timers can automatically shut off your system by midnight. Fixtures can aim the light directly downward. Special wiring can enable lights to be placed in shrubs and trees to illuminate the plantings without lighting the sky, and to mimic how the sun shines into a garden. One member asked if solar power can be used for landscape lighting, but Tyler explained the technology is not available yet for this sort of sophisticated system. Another questioned whether homeowners can use these techniques to make security lighting more aesthetically pleasing, perhaps through more extended use of motion sensors.

Susan Harder, an HAH member and also the New York representative of the Dark Sky Association, was also a welcome presenter, offering further suggestions such as using dimmers, that lighting doesn't necessarily improve security, and that April 5-12 is International Dark Sky Week.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17th AT 10:00 AM**  
**EXPLORE THE VERSATILITY OF HERBS**

**A HAH Workshop on ZOOM with Joan DiMonda**

With clear blue skies and warmer temperatures Spring is upon us. It brings with it a chorus of returning birds, the hum of buzzing bees and the rush of new emerging green shoots. Springtime reminds me of rebirth, renewal and reawakening. In my herb garden all seems quiet, the noise level is low but the movement and activity underfoot is rapid and robust.

CDC Guidelines have had us washing our hands many times this past year. Adding a fragrant herbal scrub to our routine will enhance this process...both a sugar scrub and a salt scrub will be discussed and prepared.

Sorrel is an old fashioned herb that I discovered makes a tangy delicious soup. The aroma is unique, the flavor smooth and comforting. The recipe with adaptation, originated at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.



After the Boston Tea Party when all the available black tea was floating in the harbor, the colonists turned to herbal teas. Rosemary, lavender, sage and mint were all available choices. Our workshop will end with a chamomile tea infused with turmeric and fruit juice.

From sachets and potpourri to medicinal or culinary, herbs influence many areas of our life. Whether you are a one pot windowsill gardener, purchaser of fresh herbs at the local farmstand or worker in your own garden plot, join us and expand your sense of the versatility of herbs. After the workshop the recipes will be emailed to all participants.

Please watch your email for the ZOOM link to this event.

**Join us on Zoom for a tour of Filoli**  
**Wednesday, April 7 at 4pm**

Located in Woodside, California, this California State Historic Landmark is on the National Register of Historic Places. 30 miles south of San Francisco, Filoli is nestled on a slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains and surrounded by more than 23,000 acres of the protected Peninsula watershed. To the two families who lived here, Filoli represented a desire to create a magnificent and enduring country estate. Today, Filoli's mission is to connect its rich history with a vibrant future through beauty, nature, and shared stories.

Head gardener Louis Mariconi lived and worked at Filoli from 1915 until his death in 1965. He worked with Bella Worn, an innovative horticulturist who worked in tandem with landscape designer Bruce Porter to create Filoli's Gardens. Porter was responsible for the lines and structure of the Garden, and Worn filled it with the textures and colors we see today.

A Zoom link will be emailed prior to the the lecture.



**Tuesday, April 13th at 10am**  
**Join us on ZOOM to**  
**Tour the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum & Gardens**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**

Zoom Link will be e-mailed prior to lecture. No need to pre-register.

The Gardner Museum is a great destination for groups interested in plant production and garden design. Renowned for its magical courtyard garden, these tours include an introduction to the role of landscape design and horticulture at the Museum, past and present. Experience the magic of the verdant courtyard; take a stroll through the Monks Garden, redesigned in 2013 by Michael Van Valkenburg Associates; and learn about Isabella and her passion for gardening. This tour will be led by Meg Kaster, Museum Teacher.

Gardner chose to site her Museum on the edge of the newly built Back Bay Fens, a part of Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace, because she saw the potential for this new landscape to enable, inform, and enhance the city of Boston. Today the Museum continues to recognize the importance of landscape architecture through its landscape department, landscape lectures, and landscape exhibitions.  
[www.Gardnermuseum.org](http://www.Gardnermuseum.org)

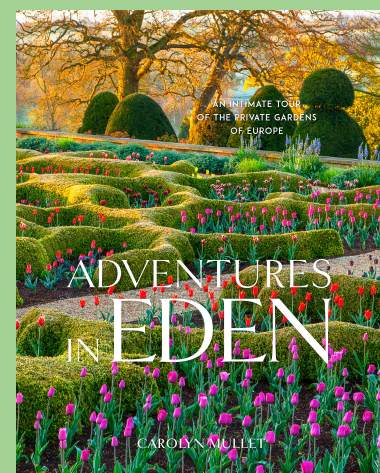


**Join us for a virtual tour of European private gardens**  
**Wednesday, April 28 at 10am on Zoom**  
**Carolyn Mullet will discuss her book**  
***Adventures in Eden: An Intimate Tour of Private European Gardens***

Zoom link will be e-mailed to the entire membership prior to the event. No need to pre-register.

We live in a time of great energy in garden making – private spaces that express ideas about beauty, place, nature, wildness and sometimes fantasy. In this illustrated talk, Carolyn explores the stories behind personal havens scattered across Europe that she chose not for their pedigree but for their owner's passion and creativity.

Carolyn Mullet is a retired award-winning garden designer who practiced in the Washington, DC metro area for over 30 years. She is also the owner and creative director of CarexTours, which offers international garden tours each year for the discerning garden traveler. Her book *Adventures in Eden: An Intimate Tour of Private European Gardens* was published by Timber Press in 2020. In addition, she produces popular social media posts daily showcasing gardens from around the world on both Instagram and Facebook for a large international community of garden and plant enthusiasts.



## IN MEMORIAM

*Bill Shank, one of the co-founders of HAH, died on March 5, in Vieques, Puerto Rico. In 1986, Bill and his Amagansett neighbor, John Whitney, talked over the back fence about all matters related to gardening and horticulture. Together they founded The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons, bringing together a small and dynamic group of devotees dedicated to fostering the art and science of horticulture. We are grateful for Bill's leadership in the early days of HAH. In the photo Bill is chatting with Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House, her famed garden in England.*

*Condolence notes can be sent to:*

*The Bailey Family  
98 Summit Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231*



*Jim Gemake, beloved husband of Carolyn Gemake, a former HAH President, died suddenly on March 8. Jim was a talented artist and tireless HAH volunteer, often working in the holding area at our annual Garden Fair.*

*Condolence notes can be sent to:*

*Mrs. James Gemake and Family  
P.O.Box 1812  
Quogue, NY 11978*



## Redbud *Cercis canadensis*

Redbuds are small trees, 20-30 feet tall and 30 -35 feet wide, members of the pea family, native from the mid-Atlantic states south to Florida and west to Missouri and Texas. They are one of our most ornamental natives and provide four seasons of interest in gardens and landscapes.

In winter, redbud's rounded, spreading crown, graceful branching and scaly, charcoal gray bark create a distinctive and pleasing silhouette.

Spring, meaning April/May here, brings a showy abundance of purple-pink, pea-like flowers which become flat, dark brown pods, 3 inches long by October. Seedlings often appear under mature trees.

Redbuds are easily identified by their large, simple, heart-shaped leaves, lustrous dark green in summer and in autumn, a clear yellow.

Because of their ornamental qualities and because they transplant so easily, even as large trees, redbuds are popular in the nursery trade. Though they do best in deep, fertile, moist, well-drained soils and full sun, they are very adaptable, tolerating both acid and alkaline soils, sand and clay and partial shade.

Redbuds make a great specimen tree, planted to view at a distance or to enjoy close-up near a patio or walkway. They are also appealing planted in groups or naturalized along a woodland edge. They bloom at the same time as flowering dogwood and make an attractive companion. Their leaves and flowers provide forage and nectar for numerous insects, including moth and butterfly larvae and carpenter bees. Both the flowers and roasted seeds are edible and were enjoyed by early Native Americans.

Bridge Gardens planted several redbuds in the vegetative buffer along Mitchell Lane and has a mature specimen of 'Forest Pansy,' a variety with purple-tinged summer leaves. There is a beautiful, white-flowered variety worth seeking out.

Because they are vigorous, adaptable and relatively pest-free, redbuds are often planted now as street trees, especially in sites under wires. Look for several to be planted this spring, near the bus stop in Bridgehampton.

Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens



## HAH Tree Initiative

The HAH Board of Directors has considered what we could do to make a significant difference with a very generous donation from one of our members. In addition to helping us to meet our financial obligations during the past challenging year, we debated what we could do that would truly add value not only to our members, but also to our communities. Our decision is that we will begin a multi-year initiative to focus on trees. One of the challenges we face on the East End is continued development, with a resulting loss of trees and other wildlife habitats. We see a need to help rebuild “the forest” on the East End, and whenever possible, to replant it using native trees. And we believe that what individual homeowners and gardeners do can contribute mightily to the effort.

Our effort is part of a truly global movement, including the Trillion Tree initiative, that has the goal of addressing deforestation and reforestation, Drawdown, with an emphasis on carbon sequestration, and many other conservation initiatives with goals that are similar to ours. Action has to be global and local. Here are a few reasons why trees are so important:

### **Trees benefit the environment**

Trees are sometimes called the lungs of the earth. Trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow, and the carbon stored in their wood helps to slow the rate of global warming. Planting trees is one of the cheapest and most cost-effective means of drawing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They also produce oxygen through photosynthesis.

### **Trees improve water quality and reduce flooding and erosion**

Trees serve as natural sponges, collecting and filtering rainwater and releasing it slowly. A tree’s leafy canopy catches rain before it reaches the ground, reducing the force of storms and the amount of runoff into sewers, streams and rivers. Tree roots hold soil in place, reducing erosion.

### **Trees provide shade and cooling**

Trees lower air temperature and humidity and can influence wind speed. Evaporation of water from trees has a cooling effect. Having shade trees in your yard can help reduce your energy bill by saving on air conditioning, and by reducing the energy demand, we reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions from power plants. They also provide a screen from harsh winds.

### **Trees host and protect wildlife**

Trees host complex microhabitats, providing shelter and food for birds, insects, lichens and fungi. Native trees host significantly more insects than exotics, providing more food for birds.

### **Trees benefit our health**

The canopies of trees act as a physical filter, trapping dust and absorbing pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Communities with fewer trees have higher rates of childhood asthma. We also know that being surrounded by trees causes our stress levels to come down, our heart rate to slow and blood pressure to drop. Merely looking at trees helps hospital patients heal faster and with fewer complications.

Our plans to date include some targeted tree giveaways to not-for-profit organizations and a school in the Bridgehampton area. We’ll start there – our home base – but soon share our offerings with other East End communities, particularly those that are underserved. We will continue to educate our members about trees – selection, planting, pruning, watering and other forms of care – and we’ll continue to profile attractive native trees. Be on the lookout for information about trees in our lectures, round tables and workshops. Rich Bogusch, leader of this initiative, has been profiling native trees in our newsletter for more than a year and will continue to do so. We hope to do a broader “giveaway” for our members and the public later this fall and in 2022, and when we are able to resume our Plant Fairs, we’ll include more trees in the inventory available for purchase. We hope that you share our excitement about this initiative and will enjoy the process of learning more about trees.

If you want to be involved, please let us know. We know that many of our members are fellow Tree Lovers! We welcome your ideas and support and will surely have events in the future that will require volunteers.

Rick Bogusch    Lori Barnaby  
Joan DiMonda    Janet Ollinger  
Alicia Whitaker    Susan Kennedy Zeller

## Bloodroot

Lydia Wallis

Spring ephemerals are easily some of my favorite garden flowers. I have loved their quiet, magical and fleeting beauty since I was a child. They fascinated me then and still do after all these years. What is an ephemeral plant? Ephemeral means transitory or quickly fading. These plants emerge quickly, bloom, set seed, and die back to the ground. One I especially favor and grow is Bloodroot.

Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, is a member of the Poppy family and is indigenous to Eastern North America. There is also a double flowered white form offering two cultivars that I'm aware of: *Sanguinaria canadensis* 'Multiplex', or 'Florepleno', and a pink single flowered form that I purchased from the HAH Garden Fair. I am anxiously awaiting their arrival this spring. The double flowered form seems to be stronger with the flowers lasting a bit longer. They derive their common name, Bloodroot, from the color of the sap in the rhizomes although the leaves and stems also contain blood colored sap. Native Americans once used this red sap for war paint. Early colonists used the red sap to dye cloth.

Emerging in April, the budded stalk and single leaf rise together with the leaf tightly rolled around the flower bud. As the leaf slowly unfurls, the flower stem pushes up the bud beyond the leaf and then opens into a graceful bloom of 7-8 petals. The white star like flowers close in the evening and open with the morning sun. The leaves are a lovely blue-olive green color, rounded with an irregular margin and deeply cut lobes. As the plant ages and the flowers drop, the leaves continue to expand in size to about 7"-10" across before disappearing for the year and are so beautiful they create as much interest as the flower had, particularly with the double flowered form. The fruit is a narrow one-celled capsule about 1" long and pointed at each end.

Bloodroot form colonies by way of rhizomes, preferring humus rich, slightly acid (PH of 6 to 7), slightly moist soil with good drainage. They prefer shade where they seem to last longer than in more open areas. A deciduous woodland setting is preferable. Propagation is by seed which should be sown as soon as it is ripe; by division in spring or fall though fall is preferable; and by root cuttings in the early spring. It self-sows readily.

Bloodroot bloom April-May enticing early spring insects with their showy flowers and fluffy anthers full of pollen at a time when not much else is in bloom. But since they have no nectar, they resort to trickery to get bees and other insects to provide pollination services. As the insect flies from flower to flower searching in vain for the nectar, they become covered with the pollen, thus pollinating the plants. Clever! However, the bees don't lose out here, the protein rich pollen they bring back to the hive on their bodies provides essential food for native bee larva.

Under cold spring conditions, Bloodroot may bloom before the pollinators are active. It is not uncommon for Bloodroot to self-pollinate and go to seed without pollinators. Other insects then help to spread the seeds. In a process called myrmecochory, ants help disperse the seeds of bloodroot and other spring ephemerals. The seeds have a fleshy covering of fats and other nutrients called the elaiosome. The ants bring the seeds back to their nest, eat the elaiosomes, and leave the seeds intact. Bloodroot germinates readily from the seeds moved around by the ants. Large colonies can form when left undisturbed.

Bloodroot are beautiful candidates for the front of the woodland or shade garden simply because they are so interesting and only grow to about 10" tall. But please do not gather plants from the wild unless in danger of eradication, but rather purchase them from a reputable nursery or at the HAH Garden Fair.



# Blueberries for the Birds and everyone else!

Janis L Murphy

## Lowbush blueberry - *Vaccinium angustifolium*

This small attractive native shrub/perennial, cousin to the highbush blueberry and member of the heather family (Ericaceae) supports **294 species of caterpillars and provides copious fruits for birds and mammals** according to Doug Tallamy.\* What an attribute!!



On the South Fork, lowbush blueberry thrives in sandy, acid soil, in full sun, as well as in dry, mixed oak woodland. It grows from 12" to 18" tall and has bright green alternate leaves which are lance-shaped and minutely serrated with fine bristly-tipped teeth. The short-stalked leaves are usually smooth, somewhat shiny,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, about  $\frac{1}{3}$ " wide. The yellow-green, warty twigs rise from a creeping rootstock. In May or June, clustered flowers appear: greenish to milky white, pink-tinged and bell-shaped. The fruit, delicious for birds and humans alike, appears in July. The berries are rounded  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", blue, black and sweet, covered in a whitish powder known as bloom. It should be noted that the fruit from the lowbush blueberry is higher in antioxidants than its cousin the highbush blueberry\*\*. The leaves turn color in October and November, and where the plants grow naturally in masses, this creates glorious drifts of maroon-red fall foliage.

Lowbush blueberry plants can be propagated from semi-hardwood cuttings, starting in late fall. Alternatively plants can be grown from seed, which is apparently a challenge: I have ordered some seeds - fingers crossed!

**LongIslandNatives.com** in Eastport (wholesale or retail by appointment) sells lowbush blueberries and so does **Warren's Nursery** in Water Mill although their plants are not the same as the local genotype we see in the wild. *Vaccinium angustifolium* is also available **online** from distant sources. The photos in this article were taken in eastern Canada and show *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton.



\*Rick Darke & Doug Tallamy, The Living Landscape, 2014, Timber Press, Inc.

\*\* National Institutes of Health

Photos: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)



## Learning to Love Natives -- It took me a while.

Susan Brackett

In one of his early talks, Doug Tallamay showed that loss of native plants at a particular site corresponded with a drastic loss of pollinators, caterpillars and birds. (Baby birds need caterpillars). That talk, full of graphs and charts, drove the message home for me. Living things are part of an intricate web that is much subtler and more complicated than we may understand, and we take that web for granted at our peril. I saw a video of that talk, this winter, as part of Suffolk County Extension Service's Master Gardener Volunteer Course.

It has taken time for the pro- insect, pro-caterpillar, pro-diversity, pro-native message to sink in with me. At first, I was interested but skeptical. Then I was defensive. After 40 years of backyard gardening, I am ready to relax and enjoy the fruits of my labors -- not feel uneasy whenever I look at my groundcover, a non-native and mono-culture: *Vinca*.

I "garden" (with husband, Ron) just north of the village of Southampton. About 15 years ago, I started working at it in earnest. I tore out invasive honeysuckle and roses, but most of what I planted instead was exotic. I found plants the deer did not eat. When I wanted to hide the wood pile, I planted a few sprigs of forsythia and waited. (I had plenty of time.) I moved plant "babies" (farmers call them volunteers), especially *Viburnum tomentosa* and *Osmanthus*. These exotics were among the few shrubs the deer did not chew to the ground. I took to heart advice not to grow lawn where lawn doesn't want to be, and I planted ferns. Unfortunately, I did not know about all the lovely ferns that are Long Island natives. And I will always treasure anything from an HAH member. I love the *Abelia* that was five inches tall and is now 5 feet. I love the swath of hellebores at the foot of an oak tree. And I love Fran Himmelfarb's *Styrax japonicas* and *Kousa* dogwoods. If only *Kousas* fed birds.



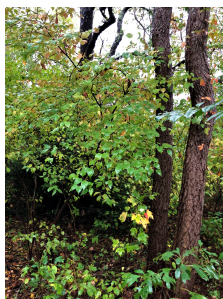
Blueberries from Pat Wood

As luck would have it, I have done some things that turned out to be helpful to our local bugs and birds. I encourage trees, and we now have oaks (supporter of the largest number of species of caterpillar), cherries (second largest number), sassafras, cedars, *Ilex opaca* (American holly) and even a few shads. I also have some volunteer *Viburnum* that I think are *dentatum* (arrowwood), a native. I have planted *Ilex glabra*, *Clethra* and blueberries. I've left in place trunks of trees snapped off in hurricanes. You should see all the wonderful holes. I love leaf litter and winter seed heads. And a few years ago, we started mowing fallen leaves (mostly oak) so they would break down faster. We rake some and leave some on the lawn. One of my favorite tips, from an HAH Roundtable, was to pile mulched leaves near where I would use them in the spring. Saves a lot of hauling.



This oak was 3 feet tall when I found it.

I am happy that my garden has developed slowly over time, and I wouldn't wipe it away and start over, even if I could. But I wish I had been more aware of natives from the start. And I am looking for things I can do now, as my bit in supporting diversity. 1.) I can **get to know the natives specific to the East End of Long Island**, so I know all my options when choosing plants. A *Guide to the Native Plants, Natural Plant Communities and the Exotic and Invasive Species of East Hampton Town* is available online. The Town of Southampton Environment Division has lists of plants to be used to restore native habitats. Not all American or Northeastern natives are necessarily native on Long Island. And I can **look for species plants** since some cultivars may not perform the same supportive function as the species. 2.) I can **plant natives, too**, if for whatever reason, I choose to use a non-native. I recently had to block a bad view created by storm damage -- I had to look at the empty space every morning as I made my coffee. A non-native *Osmanthus* was about three times fuller and wider than the *Ilex opaca* that was available. The *Osmanthus* blocked the view instantly, but I put in the *Ilex*, too. In the past that might have seemed an extravagant self-indulgence, but not now. 3.) I can **train my eye to appreciate the look of natives, and I can try to learn from gardeners who are working with native plants**. Thank heavens they are doing it! What fun to be able to do some small bit, too!



From left to right:

\**Viburnum* volunteer, I think *dentatum*, in front of sassafras trees

\**Clethra*

\*Trunk of a dead pine with a crown of Virginia Creeper

\**Osmanthus* on right hides the gap; *Ilex opaca* is for birds and beauty





# One Gardener's Fresh Take on the 3 R's in Celebration of Earth Day

Valerie Hanley

Thursday, April 22nd is Earth Day. In the weeks prior to Earth Day, I am usually busy preparing to host our school's annual Earth Day celebration. It is a day spent teaching students about the wonders of nature and the importance of the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.) The yearly event has long included the same activities: beach clean-ups; student-generated writing and art projects related to Earth Day; a lunchtime National Geographic movie; and of course, plenty of discussions on how students can help the environment by practicing the 3 R's.

After a year like 2020, when everything was turned upside down and inside out, I decided that the 3 R's are in need of a change. So, after many walks in the yard and looking back over my garden photos from the past year, I came up with my own gardening version of the three 3 R's. From this day forward, at least for me: 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle' will now be known as 'Repurpose, Redesign, and Realign.'

**Repurpose-** Repurposing, sharing some similarities to recycling, requires one to take an enlightened look at the materials you have on-hand to see how they can be used in different ways. This is the 'R' that I look most forward to embracing this April. My repurposing plans are designed to give me the opportunity to create whimsy and magic in my yard and gardens using items I already own. And if we're all being honest here, let's face it, after this year, we all need to add more fun and joy into our lives.

This spring I plan to create gardenscapes and sculptures that are centered around using unconventional items and repurposing them for flowers, vegetables, and garden decor. Some dreams I have are: a pallet garden of herbs; a curtain of dried flowers that hangs along a fence; a few broken clay pot terrariums; a worn-out shovel turned climbing vine post; a broken birdbath transformed into a candle holder or planter; hollowed out tree stumps turned flowering displays, and tree branch arbors for climbing roses.

**Redesign-** My redesign plans have one goal: To allow my plants the opportunity to live their best lives. Like many plant lovers, I am a collector. Looking at photos of my gardens from last year, it is clear that the size and number of plants in my garden beds is excessive. Too many wagon-fulls of plants purchased at the annual May HAH garden show and plant sale and just as many trips to Halsey Farm, Fowler's, and Marder's over the past few years, have resulted in gardens that are cluttered with far too many plants. It pains me to say 'far too many plants' but it is clearly the case at my house.

This is my reality: Clumps of bearded Irises and daylilies that provide foliage but few flowers; ornamental grasses that tower and spill over other plants in a suffocating and unsightly way; flowering shrubs that are competing so fiercely for space that their true shape and form is unapparent; and raised vegetable beds filled with dozens of pepper and tomato plants that end up rotting rather than making their way into a nice salad. In the spirit of Earth Day, I vow to thoughtfully redesign my garden beds by decreasing the number of plants they contain to give those that remain the freedom to grow, breathe, and flaunt their own personal style. And in the spirit of true gardeners, the plants I can't keep will be gifted to other plant lovers who can give them the space and care they need.

**Realign-** The calculated reductions that were central to my redesign plans will provide me with a chance to look for ways to introduce new native species, to invite pollinators to my garden, and to conserve water as much as possible. Inspired by many of this year's online guest lecturers at HAH and other garden organizations, I am making a promise to Mother Nature to try to realign my gardening habits and garden choices with what is in the best interest of our planet. This 'R' will be the most challenging of the three, but it is the one that could possibly yield the most lasting and important outcomes.

Admittedly, my spring garden plans are quite ambitious, but who doesn't dream big in the chilly, damp days of March before we dig into our gardens? So I leave you with a challenge: Celebrate Earth Day 2021 like no other before. Don't forget the original 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), and if you can, embrace my new ideas and look for ways to Repurpose, Redesign, and Realign! Happy Earth Day!

## HAH Sunday Lectures for 2021- 2pm

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*

### Garden Conservancy Programs

**Thursday, April 1, 2:00 pm. Jennifer Jewell: Under Western Skies.** \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-jennifer-jewell>

**Thursday, April 15, 2:00 pm. Ximena Nazal: StudioXero.** \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more information and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-ximena-nazal>

**Thursday, April 29, 2:00 pm. Christopher Spitzmiller: A Year at Clove Brook Farm.** \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more information and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-christopher-spitzmiller>

### Other Programs

**Wednesday, April 14, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Fergus Garrett: Wild at Dixter.** \$20. For more information and to register: <https://www.wavehill.org/calendar/horticultural-lecture-series-wild-at-dixter>

**Saturday, April 17th at 10 a.m. Southampton Rose Society Rose Planting and Pruning Session,** Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton.

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HAH Happenings  
April 2021  
100% Recycled



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