



HAH Happenings February 2022



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org
at the Bridgehampton Community House



**On Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 2:00 pm
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM**

Ruth Rogers Clausen

Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast

The benefits of native plants are plentiful—less upkeep, more pollinators, and a better environment. In *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*, Ruth Rogers Clausen and Gregory D. Tepper provide a list of native plants that have one more benefit—they are proven to help prevent your garden from becoming a deer buffet. From annuals and perennials to grasses and shrubs, every suggested plant includes a deer-resistance rating, growing advice, companion species, and the beneficial wildlife the plant does attract. Let these beautiful natives help your landscape flourish!

British-trained Ruth Rogers Clausen is the author of *50 Beautiful Deer Resistant Plants*, and co-author of *Essential Perennials* and *The Proven Winners Garden Book*, with Thomas Christopher, and *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*, with Gregory Tepper. For 10 years she was horticulture editor for *Country Living Garden* magazine and was a long-time contributor to *Country Gardens* magazine. Ruth lectures widely at horticultural symposia, to garden societies and clubs. In 2017 she was awarded the Garden Media Award by the Perennial Plant Association. Her interest in deer-resistant plants resulted from relocating to Westchester County, NY where deer pressure is heavy.

HAH Sunday Monthly Lectures, 2 pm - see backpage

HAH Roundtable dates for 2022 - see p. 6

Saturdays at 10:00, February 5, March 5 & April 2

HAH Book Discussion Group dates for 2022 - see p. 3

Saturdays at 11:00, February 19

HAH Montauk Hike with Vicki Bustamante to Oyster Pond ► Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 - see p. 7

Jim Jeffrey Camellia Friends, Saturday, April 23, 2022

HAH Plant Fair, May 13, 14





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

February may be the shortest month of the year but we're still packing it with programming, including: a Roundtable focused on gardening in the shade, Ruth Rogers Clausen's timely lecture about deer-resistant natives and an informative and eclectic Book Group. Behind the scenes, the Board is busy too: planning workshops and garden tours as well as putting together all of the components for the return of our Garden Fair in May. At the end of this month we'll have a strategic planning meeting to review your responses to the recent member survey and do some Big Picture thinking.

In my own garden this month, I'll be looking for signs of snowdrops. Two of my HAH mentors gifted me plants from their gardens 'in the green' last year and I eagerly await their emergence. I have no doubt it will spur a Galanthus obsession in the process! Another mentor shared Eranthus hyemalis, the Winter Aconite, from his garden last year. I'm hopeful those yellow drops of sunshine are happy where I planted them and that the ants will help me grow the colony in the coming years.

It brings me such joy to have plants from other members in my garden and it reinforces for me the sense of community and sharing and encouragement that so many of us experience through our association with HAH. A heartwarming thought to get us through these cold days!

All my best,

Erik

PS: While I primarily intend to use this space to look forward, I want to tell you about the January Roundtable. Member Jane Corrarino shared her knowledge of, and passion for, winter seed sowing outdoors. It was an engaging and inspiring presentation and best of all this method doesn't require grow lights, heat mats or any of the other intimidating aspects associated with indoor seed starting. If you missed it live, there is a recording that's accessible from our website. You can find it — and a number of other recorded programs — at <https://hahgarden.org/hah-zoom-lecture-roundtable-and-workshop-videos/>

HAH 2022

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

President	Erik Brockmeyer
First Vice President	Erika Shank
Second Vice President	Rick Bogusch
Recording Secretary	Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Joan DiMonda
Treasurer	Bettina Benson

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

Sarah Alford	'22
Pamela Harwood	'22
Marie DiMonte	'23
Michael Longacre	'23
Janis Murphy	'24
Janet Donohoe Ollinger	'24

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 EDITOR - Elaine Peterson

WEBSITE EDITOR - Michael Longacre

MAILING - John Benson

PHOTOS this month

Sarah Alford, Susan Brackett, Janet Ollinger, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank

Library Chat

Dear HAH Members,

Because of covid we have been keeping our HAH library closed except when a safe meeting is scheduled for picking up a book. FYI.....you can access our Library contents on line at www.HAHgarden.org and should you want to borrow a book we can pull it, sanitize it and arrange pick up for you. When you return it then we reverse the process.

You might also want to attend the Book Report ZOOM sessions (see page 3 for our last one this winter.)

Should you be interested in our acquiring a recently published book, please email the author and title to me at SKZeller@aol.com. We do like to keep up to date on new information and authors and will continue to do so with your help.

Happy reading, Susan

HAH Winter Book Group

Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 11am- noon Via ZOOM

Join us for the third and final Winter Book Group of 2021/22 season. We have three amazing books, presented by three wonderful readers. At our December Book Group Harriet Edwards noted that Book Group was started 13 years ago! I'll look forward to our 14th season back at the HAH library!

A Year at North Hill: Four Seasons in a Vermont Garden by Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd, presented by Alex Eames

Napoleon: A Life Told in Gardens and Shadows by Ruth Scurr, presented by Alejandro Saralegui

Beauty of the Wild: A Life Designing Landscapes Inspired by Nature by Darrel Morrison, presented by Julie Sakellariadis

Book Group will take place via ZOOM. A link will be sent the week of the event.

Reintroducing Liatris

By Sarah Alford

There's a striking flower that we hope you'll see around more in the coming years. *Liatris*' tall spikes of vibrant purple-pink flowers provide color and height for gardeners to enjoy, but more importantly they sustain pollinators and songbirds. *Liatris*, also called gayfeather or blazing star, is indigenous to our region.

Blooming between August and October, *liatris* is a perennial in the aster family. Instead of button-like flower heads similar to traditional asters, *liatris* have clusters of wispy petals along slender stalks. There are two varieties common to our region: ***liatris spicata*** which resembles a bottle brush and ***liatris scariosa*** which has clusters of pompom heads along its stalk. According to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, both are considered native to our region, with *scariosa* more closely targeted.

Last summer, I planted *liatris* for the first time. It had been on my list of plants to add to my garden, but they're not so readily available. When Tony Piazza mentioned during HAH's lecture on naturalistic gardens that *liatris* was one of the plants he wished was grown more often, I added *liatris* corms to an online order. After discovering that the rabbits in my yard enjoyed nibbling on *liatris*' slender leaves, I moved them to tall pots and into a fenced in garden. I still hope for a planting guide that mentions rabbit grazing, as it can be a perennial frustration. In their new spots, *liatris* thrived and put on a late summer show that attracted bees, butterflies and a hopeful praying mantis. As a wonderful grand finale, the chickadees and goldfinches returned in the late autumn to eat the thistle-like seeds. Given that some of the pots were on my front porch, I had a front row seat to watch them from my living room window.

Liatris thrives in full sun and well-drained or sandy soil. They can be fairly drought tolerant once established. They may get leggy and top-heavy if fertilized, so consider staking if needed. Don't deadhead and let the songbirds feast on the seeds. What's not to love? A showy pollinator-loving bloomer that prefers no special treatment.



Interestingly, the Arnold Arboretum launched an effort with Zoo New England to reintroduce the New England *liatris* (*Liatris nova-angliae*), a variation of *liatris scariosa*. Brendan Keegan, Arboretum Horticulturalist, noted in their journal that while once quite prevalent through self-seeding, *liatris* faded from the landscape due to habitat loss. The Arnold Arboretum in Boston is well-worth a visit for its collections of lilacs and spring bloomers and majestic specimen trees; how wonderful to have a fall attraction for human visitors as well as pollinators and songbirds.

Vicki Bustamante, native plant grower extraordinaire and HAH member, donated *liatris scariosa* seeds to share with HAH members. We hope to make it easier to add this striking native plant to our gardens.



Nathaniel Rogers House in Bridgehampton is now surrounded by a beautiful grove of trees thanks to Marders Nursery.



Remodeled in 1840 by Nathaniel Rogers, the house has been an inn, gas station and private home. It is being renovated by The Bridgehampton Museum. Marders has donated and planted more than 43 mature trees and shrubs. Plants include linden, magnolia, dogwood, spruce, Chinese elm, horse chestnut, deciduous conifers, tree hydrangea and viburnum. The House, at the corner of Route 27 and Ocean Road, hopes to be open in 2022. Grounds can be visited now.

How Marders plants a tree:



Dig hole with deep well in center.



Add sand to create a sand wick for good drainage.



Measure.



Place tree.



Backfill.



Trees are balled and burlapped when dug. The macrame method of tying is ancient. It is essential not to plant any tree too deep. These will be planted high so they can settle. Burlap will be pulled back after about 6 months.

By Janet Ollinger and Susan Brackett
All photos, except root ball, by Janet Ollinger

Bayberry Loves Long Island

By Susan Brackett

Myrica pensylvanica, or bayberry, is a native that thrives on Long Island. It does well in poor soil and sand, flood or drought, sun or part shade, wind, and salt spray. Albert Hostek (*Native and Near Native Plants*) describes its natural habitat as abandoned fields where it grows with orange milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), shining sumac (*Rhus copallina*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). As it spreads, it helps to stabilize sand dunes and is often seen on pathways to the beach. If you leave a sunny garden bed empty, you may find bayberry starting to sprout. There has been some concern that bayberry can be too successful and outcompete other natives, especially grasses on sand. Because it puts nitrogen back into the soil, is undemanding and spreads by suckering, bayberry is good for revegetating damaged sites.

This shrub is deciduous with fragrant, grass-green to gray-green leaves that are 2- to 4-inches long and toothed at the point. The plant can be round or upright, growing 5- to 10 feet tall and wide, depending on soil fertility. Birds and small mammals love the shelter of its dense branching. It is an important host to larva of the Columbia silkmoth (*Hyalophora columbia*).

In order to form berries, male and female plants must be present. Inconspicuous catkins that look like tiny pinecones appear in spring. On the male plant, the catkins open into clusters of tiny staminate (stamin-only) flowers that are pale green with a tinge of peach. On the female plant, clusters of silver-gray, wax-coated berries appear in fall and last through much of the winter if not eaten. They are a main source of food for swallows migrating along the coast. Ground birds such as quail, grouse and pheasant depend upon them, especially when branches stick up through the snow.

In the garden, bayberry works well in informal hedges, borders and naturalized settings such as rain and woodland gardens. It needs plenty of space, as it dislikes competition and can be weakened by heavy pruning. The USDA advises that beds should be cleared of potential competitors before bayberry is planted. But Hostek says that bayberry does well and looks wonderful with our native Sweet Fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*) planted at the base.



THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM CONTINUES

Join Us on Zoom

Saturday, February 5, 2021 at 10am - 11:30am

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

Creating a Beautiful Shade Garden

I used to think that for the many gardeners that live on woodland properties, designing with plants that thrive in shady conditions was an imperative, “needs must” situation. After all, don’t most plants thrive in sun and in a sunny garden? Wouldn’t we all choose to have a sunny garden? But it was not until I spoke with our next presenter, Lydia Wallis, that I learned that many gardeners also choose shady conditions, because working in the shade makes garden work possible and enjoyable during the heat of summer, or because the plants that thrive in some form of shade are irresistible standouts, or sometimes we start out with a sunny, open space and then we plant trees and shrubs that create shade as they mature.

Lydia Wallis, who gardens in Southampton, is a Master Gardener, a past president of HAH, a former president of the Southampton Garden Club (member of The Garden Club of America), a past president of the Wilton Garden Club (member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut), a former Inland Wetlands Commissioner in Wilton, and an Approved Horticulture Judge of the Garden Club of America. Lydia has also competed in many flower shows, winning several top awards.



I am so pleased that Lydia will guide us through her top selections of plants that thrive in shady conditions, including bulbs, rhizomes, and corms; perennials; groundcovers; and shrubs. She will also discuss such topics as why we garden in shade, types of shade, how to create shade if your garden does not have it, creating a true woodland garden with a natural style, incorporating colorful foliage plants, and how low light can show off plants to their best advantage.

Abby Jane Brody, a leading figure in the world of horticulture on the East End, will also be on hand to offer commentary and answer questions.

Winter Pruning

Last year, I visited Bridge Gardens and took several videos of Rick Bogusch demonstrating winter pruning techniques. Later, the staff at the Peconic Land Trust was able to combine these into one video. For the first time, I will “screen share” this video with HAH members at the February Roundtable. This is such an important garden task, and since our members always have questions about which plants should be pruned now, where the cuts should be made, etc., I really look forward to sharing this footage with you.

So please join the Zoom Roundtable on February 5th, and if you have experiences of your own to share, or any other gardening questions, we welcome your input.

Ostrya virginiana **American hophornbeam**



A member of the birch family, the native hophornbeam grows in hardwood forests throughout eastern North America, from Ontario west to Minnesota and south to Texas and Florida. A small to medium understory tree growing 25 feet tall and 20 feet wide, it does best in cool, moist woodland soils, but can also be found on dry, rocky slopes and in full sun.

Pyramidal in youth, a mature hophornbeam has a rounded outline and numerous horizontal and gracefully drooping branches. Its gray-brown bark peels in narrow, vertical strips attached to the trunk in the middle and free at both ends, a great clue for winter identification.

Hophornbeam's leaves are birch-like, hairy, and narrowly oval with serrated edges. In summer, they are dark green above and paler beneath. In fall, they drop early after turning a dull yellow.

Blooming in spring, flowers are insignificant and clustered in separate male and female catkins on the same tree. Male catkins occur in three's and are most noticeable in winter. Female catkins are smaller and become pendulous clusters of inflated, hop-like sacks, each containing a single seed. These pale green clusters, 2-3 inches long, stand out from the dark foliage and are perhaps the tree's most ornamental characteristic.

Hophornbeam has no pests or diseases and is deer-resistant. A handsome tree, it is difficult to find in the nursery trade, perhaps because it can be slow to re-establish after transplanting. Good for woodland gardens, naturalizing or as a lawn tree, it also performs well in urban plantings and as a street tree.

Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens

A Winter Walk with Vicki Bustamante to Oyster Pond In Montauk Point State Park Saturday, March 12, 2022, 10 am



Oyster Pond is the largest, highest quality example of the coastal salt pond community in New York State. The pond is 136 acres and the second largest pond in Montauk. Oyster Pond lies mostly in Montauk Point State Park in a completely undeveloped watershed. Due to its proximity to the shoreline, it periodically opens to Block Island Sound by natural processes making it brackish. Oyster Pond is host to many rare and unusual plants which have adapted to survive in this habitat. We will walk down to the east and perhaps south shoreline and admire the plants, trees, and birds along the way.

Note: This walk will be limited to 15 persons, pre-registration required. Rain cancels. Current COVID-19 guidelines will be adhered to including mask and social distancing. Vaccination required. There will be no fee for this Workshop.

Recommended: Sturdy walking shoes/boots, preferably waterproof, as we will be navigating through wet areas and puddles, walking sticks, binoculars, water, and snack (for lunch), tick protection.

Directions: From downtown Montauk Village, continue east on Rt. 27 for 4 miles. Turn right onto Camp Hero Road. Follow straight ahead and park on the right side of the road where we will meet.

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the Montauk Winter Walk on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at 10am. Respond by Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

Name(s) _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

E-Mail _____

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

HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2022 - Sundays at 2 pm

February 13 – Ruth Rogers Clausen – *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*

March 13 – Renny Reynolds – *Gardens in England & their influence on Hortulus*

April 10 – Thomas Christopher – *Nature Into Art – Lessons To Be Learned From the Gardens of Wave Hill*

May 1 – Andrew Bunting – *Belvidere: Evolution of a Plantsman's Garden*

June 12 – Jennifer Jewell – *Cultivating Place, How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places and Their People*

September 11 – Lori Chips – *Troughs: Gardening in the Smallest Landscape*

October 16 – Lois Sheinfeld – *Outstanding Trees for the Home Garden*

November 13 – C. L. Fornari – *The 21st Century Flower Garden*

December 11 – Stephen Scanniello – *The Rose Garden Chronicles*

MORE HORTICULTURAL PROGRAMS IN FEBRUARY 2022

Fridays, February 11 and 18, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Understanding and Managing Soils (Online). \$108 for Native Plant Trust members, \$132 for non-members. For more info and to register: <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/events/understanding-and-managing-soils-live-virtual/>

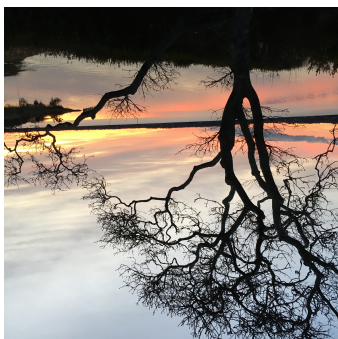
Sunday, February 13, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The Making of a Meadow: Considerations, Complications, Compositions (Online). \$15. For more info and to register: https://www.untermeyergardens.org/store/p482/The_Making_of_a_Meadow.html

Tuesday, February 15, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Plants and Placemaking: Matthew Cunningham (Online). \$23 for NYBG members, \$26 for non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/2021-22-landscape-design-students-alumni-series/matthew-cunningham/>

Tuesday, February 15, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Climate Change and Native Plants (Online). \$38 for Native Plant Trust members, \$45 for non-members. For more info and to register: <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/events/climate-change-and-native-plants/>

Wednesday, February 16, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Wave Hill 2022 Horticultural Lecture Series: The View From Federal Twist -- A New Way of Thinking about Gardens, Nature and Ourselves (Online). \$18 for Wave Hill members, \$20 for non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.wavehill.org/calendar/wave-hill-2022-horticultural-lecture-the-view-from-federal-twist-a-new-way-of-thinking-about-gardens-nature-and-ourselves>

Thursday, February 24, 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Claudia West: Rebuilding Abundance (Online). \$32 for NYBG members, \$35 for non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/22nd-annual-winter-lecture-series-adapting-to-a-new-climate/rebuilding-abundance-claudia-west/>



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