



HAH Happenings

March 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, March 13, 2022 at 2:00 pm
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM

Renny Reynolds

Gardens in England & Their Influence on Hortulus

Our March speaker, **Renny Reynolds** will discuss garden design elements and explore their importance to all good gardens. Sharing slides of many English gardens, he will examine how these notable gardens have influenced him in creating his own garden, **Hortulus Farm**.

Renny Reynolds was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in Landscape Architecture in Urban and Regional Planning. After touring the world for three years as a travel guide for the firm Intrav, Renny moved to New York City where he started a small plant and garden shop in Greenwich Village. Bill Blass was an early client and Renny's design for his terrace was featured in *Architectural Digest*. Many magazines including "W", *House and Garden*, *Veranda*, *Elle Décor*, *House Beautiful*, *Fine Gardening*, and *Flower* have featured his flower, event, and garden designs. Renny has worked for several presidential administrations for events both in and out of the White House. In 1992, he wrote the book entitled "*The Art of The Party*", which some designers still use as their bible. The business in New York City, Renny & Reed, became known across the country for the large and dramatic scale of the events.

Renny then turned his attention to designing many large-scale gardens and landscapes. With his partner Jack Staub, the noted garden author, Renny continues the work on his spectacular 18th century farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which features twenty-four gardens. They have written a book about the gardens entitled "*Chasing Eden*". **Hortulus Farm**, which includes a nursery on its one hundred acres, has received the accreditation of being an affiliate of The Garden Conservancy. Renny has served on the Board of Overseers of the Graduate School of Design at The University of Pennsylvania and the boards of The Royal Oak Foundation, The Heritage Conservancy, P.S.1-Museum of Modern Art, Bucks Beautiful, The Hetrick- Martin Institute and Fishermans Mark. He was awarded the Great American Gardeners award by the American Horticultural Society.

HAH MARCH EVENTS

HAH Roundtable, Saturday, March 5, 10:00 am. ZOOM - watch email for link - see p. 3

HAH Montauk Hike with Vicki Bustamante to Oyster Pond, Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 am - see p.6

HAH Lecture, Sunday, March 13, 2:00 pm - ZOOM - watch email for link - see above

HAH and CCE, Saturday, March 19, 10:00 am. Rick Darke on 'Dynamic Design & the Art of Observation' - ZOOM - watch email for link - see p. 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

There is much to look forward to at HAH this month: a Roundtable about meadow gardens, Renny Reynolds lecture about the influence of English gardens on the acclaimed Hortulus Farm, a walk with Vicki Bustamante to Oyster Pond in Montauk, and a special bonus lecture by Rick Darke that HAH is cosponsoring with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

By now you should have received the "Friends of HAH" letter regarding the upcoming Garden Fair in the mail. Please consider donating early in support of our ongoing programming. Being a friend comes with extra benefits: you and a guest can arrive to the Friday Preview an hour early to beat the rush to purchase the most coveted plants! And if we receive your donation by March 15th, your name will appear on the invitation that is mailed to the membership and on the Donor Board at the Fair. If you've misplaced the letter, you can make your donation online by visiting the Events tab on our website.

I always find March to be a challenging month as we struggle, fitfully, to emerge from winter into spring. One day it seems like a good idea to purchase the Pansies and Ranunculus that call my name from the nursery and the next day they're covered in snow. Our gardens are waking up, though, and the days are getting longer. We'll "spring forward" overnight on the 13th (don't forget to set your clocks ahead so you don't miss Renny Reynolds' lecture!) and at some point the Spring Peepers will begin their chorus. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for signs of spring!

All my best,
Erik

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

Pamela Harwood, Janis Murphy, Elaine Peterson

FOG – Friends of the Garden

Thank you to Joan DiMonda, Bettina & John Benson, Marie DiMonte, and Ruth Richards for tending the HAH garden (weeding, pruning, etc.) during this past year despite Traffic issues and Covid.

Anyone who enjoys gardening is always welcome to join.

The gardening dates for 2022 are Tuesdays:

April 5, May 3, May 31, June 28, July 26,
August 23, September 20, October 18
and November 15.

We usually start at approximately 10AM.

Looking forward to
seeing you in the
Spring and Summer!

Cornelia Bostwick



Rick Darke

Dynamic Design & the Art of Observation

Saturday, March 19, 2022 – 10am – 11:30am - Live, Online

The ability to see deeply in focus is key for the design, enjoyment, and stewardship of a landscape. This skill is especially important when designing landscapes that support regional ecologies.

Rick Darke will present strategies you can introduce in residential gardens and community landscapes. Darke, a landscape designer, has studied and photographed North American plants for over 40 years. His expertise is captured in The American Woodland Garden and The Living Landscape, co-authored with Doug Tallamy. His most recent book is Gardens of the High Line with Piet Oudolf. Darke will be introduced by his co-author and friend, Doug Tallamy.

This program will be presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Horticultural Alliance is co-sponsoring the event. Zoom link will be emailed to HAH members prior to the event.

THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM CONTINUES

Join Us on Zoom

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10am - 11:30am

From Lawn to Meadow: Enhancing Biodiversity in our Gardens

As we are all active in the fields of gardening and horticulture, we have heard from many experts that more is needed to be done to increase biodiversity, to reduce our use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and to support our beneficial and endangered pollinators. And although many of us do not have acres to spare, we do have an opportunity to turn at least part of our properties into small meadows, borders with lots of pollinator-friendly plants, and to even rethink the very nature and composition of our lawns. So I'm pleased to announce that HAH member Erich Winkler has prepared a special presentation on this topic.

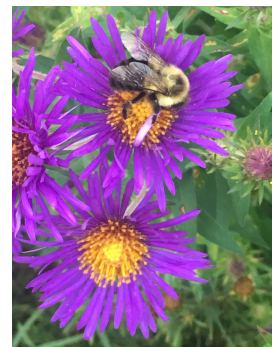
"Over the past few years, gardening has undergone major transformations from focusing primarily on beautiful plants to creating gardens that attract pollinators and include native plants – but what about our lawns? I will present various approaches to increasing biodiversity of lawns, thus creating a healthier environment, attracting pollinators, reducing maintenance, and improving soil health. While many municipalities and neighborhood associations still maintain strict ordinances on "appropriate" lawn maintenance, others are beginning to restrict pesticides, water use, and even provide incentives to convert lawns into meadows. Are we ready for the new challenge?"

Erich Winkler, who gardens in Southampton, is a long-time HAH member and garden and landscape design enthusiast. Now retired, Erich is spending an increasing amount of time gardening, and deepening his knowledge of plants and landscape design through lectures, garden visits, and courses at the NY Botanical Garden. Erich divides his time between the East Coast and Hawaii, and also serves as an Advisory Board member of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization.

In addition, it will also be a pleasure to once again welcome **Brian Smith, Vice President of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative**, who will mention his work with Rick Bogusch to create a new meadow area at Bridge Gardens.

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

Moderated by Pamela Harwood



Monarda - Bee Balm - a cheery native for your garden!

Janis L. Murphy

The genus **Monarda**, Native to North America, contains many species, both **annuals** and **perennials**. Monarda are known by various names: bee balm, wild bergamot, horsemint and oswego tea. Monarda are in the **genus of the mint family** and share the same square stems. The crushed leaves smell like bergamot oranges. Native Americans used bee balm to season poultry and for its medicinal properties, including preventing excessive flatulence! The plant's strong aroma makes it **resistant to deer browse**.

Monarda plants grow best in full sun to partial shade and like well-drained soil. They tend to get powdery mildew so give the plants good circulation.

All Monarda species attract pollinating insects and some species attract **hummingbirds**. Below are four different species that do well in our area.

Monarda punctata - Spotted Bee Balm (1' - 3' tall) is more drought resistant than most bee balms and will survive neglect. It thrives in sandy soil and will reseed readily. The whorled tiers of flowers and long petal-like bracts contrast with other flower shapes. Last summer my spotted bee balm was covered with wasps, especially great black, great golden digger and paper wasps.

Monarda didyma - Scarlet Bee Balm (2' - 5' tall) quickly grows to a tall, colorful sturdy clump with flowers that look like jesters' hats. It is very attractive to hummingbirds as well as bees and butterflies.

Monarda bradburiana - Eastern Bee Balm - (1' - 2' tall) Shorter than most Monarda, this sturdy clump forming plant does best in full sun and will succeed in dry locations. It is resistant to powdery mildew. Considered a **superior plant**, Piet Oudolf used this Monarda species at The Highline, New York City.

Monarda fistulosa - Wild Bergamot (2' - 4' tall) is often found in meadows and prairies. It also makes a lovely care-free addition to the garden with its lavender to purple flowers which appear in early summer and last for weeks. It is one of the best forage plants for bumble bees. Its flowers open continuously during the day and thus provide a daylong supply of nectar. In addition, black sweat bees have a specialist relationship with this plant. Mason wasps, great black wasps and bee flies also visit. It is the host plant for the larvae of the hermit Sphinx Moth and Snout Moths and many other adult butterflies feed on the nectar.



M. punctata



M. didyma



M. bradburiana



M. fistulosa

A selection of *Monarda* plants will be available at our Garden Fair on May 13!

Betula spp.

Birches

Birches have been popular trees for landscaping for decades, though their popularity may have waned recently. There are several species native to northeast North America and beyond that are worth knowing and planting, including *Betula papyrifera* (paper birch), *B. nigra* (river birch) and *B. lenta* (sweet birch). Like all birches, they provide important sources of food for wildlife. Insect larvae, including those of hundreds of moths and butterflies, feed on leaves and to the delight of woodpeckers, overwinter in bark crevices. Many songbirds and small mammals feed on the abundant seed birches produce.

Paper birch has the classic, chalky white, peeling bark admired by all, especially when it's seen against an evergreen background, certainly a standout in the winter landscape. A medium-sized tree, paper birch is taller than wide, pyramidal in youth and irregularly rounded with age. Leaves are typical of birches, roughly triangular, 2-4 inches long, deep green in summer and yellow in fall. Flowers are borne in catkins and bloom in early spring.

A nurseryman's delight, paper birch transplants and establishes with ease. It grows readily in cool, moist, acid soils in full sun and is more resistant to devastating birch borers than the more commonly planted European white birch (*B. pendula*). It is best grown in climates cooler than Long Island's, but if white bark is required, then native paper birch is a better choice for a multi-stemmed specimen or for planting single-stemmed in groups.

River birch has been planted almost as much as paper birch and is a common feature of residential and commercial plantings. It, too, has attractive peeling bark. It is not white, but rather a lustrous cinnamon brown, which darkens with age and develops deep furrows. Most river birches planted these days are likely the cultivar 'Heritage,' whose bark is superior to the species, starting out ivory white on young trees and aging to warm pink and then to dark orange-brown. With arching branches, river birch resembles paper birch in size and shape and both trees are often multi-stemmed. Unlike paper birch, river birch leaves are shiny and fall color is often a disappointing and fleeting yellow. Average soil conditions are fine for river birch. As its name implies, it grows best in moist sites, but it also grows easily on sites that undergo wet/dry cycles. Though some feel it has been overplanted, river birch makes a great specimen and is attractive planted in groups and anywhere dappled shade is desired.

Sweet birch is not well known and not an easy plant to find in the nursery trade. Its bark does not stand out in the landscape the way paper and river birch bark do, but it is attractive in its own way, starting out dark reddish brown and aging to charcoal, much resembling black cherry bark in color and with its scaly texture and horizontal banding. Borer-resistant and about 50 feet tall and 40 feet wide, sweet birch becomes a rounded, short-trunked tree with age. Branches are upright-spreading, attractively pendulous at the tips. Leaves are birch-like, dark green in summer and a striking golden yellow in fall. Abundant, pendulous and exceptionally long catkins in early spring provide a subtle beauty for those who notice.



I remember a perfectly rounded tree that grew alone by a path in Cornell's Newman Arboretum. Its branches arched over the path, making it easy to pull down a twig, scratch its bark and enjoy the pleasant wintergreen aroma. A long, long time ago, sweet birch was an important source of wintergreen oil. For a birch, sweet birch is more adaptable than the others. Growth is best in deep, fertile, moist soils (like Bridgehampton loam), but it also thrives in rocky and heavy soils. It is a good tree for naturalizing in hedgerows and along woodland edges.

Other native birches to know are yellow birch *B. allegheniensis*), common in cool northern forests and once an important timber tree, and short-lived gray birch (*B. populifolia*).



IN THE SHADE OF A TREE...a book review

BE A TREE!

WRITTEN BY MARIA GIANFERRARI

ILLUSTRATED BY FELICITA SALA



After Thanksgiving, Marder's Garden Shop in Bridgehampton invites the public to an Open House. It is a magical time with the melodious sounds of live music streaming down from a second floor balcony, homemade cookie smells wafting through the air and shimmering and glistening very unique gifts awaiting purchase. It all provides a glorious feast for your senses.

I usually share the experience with my mother or grandchildren but this year I went alone. I had the best time ever! In the children's area I found a book, Be A Tree! by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Felicita Sala. I knew from the cover this was a unique book. I knew from the word "fiction" on the copyright page this was a most unusual book and I knew from the gorgeous illustrations this was no ordinary book. Rather it was a lyrical, poetic look at the beauty and majesty of trees. If you heard the Yale University School Of Forestry panel discussion earlier this week on Zoom, you will recognize the this is exactly the way Sumana Roy, one of the panelists, proposes we study trees. By their beauty, by their majesty, by how much they share with humans, by understanding how they build communities. And yes, she says humans have a lot to learn from trees.

Maria compares the human form to that of a tree. We both have a trunk, limbs, crown and skin/bark. We are both fueled by the sun, air and water. We both experience social interactions. She discusses the interconnectedness and dependence of trees in a forest. She writes about how they care for each other, share resources, and build communities. Finally she urges the reader to treat others in their community with the same attention. Her writing inspires us to be better people. It is a lovely departure from the commonly read non-fiction tree books. I can't help but believe you will love this book.

Recommended ages: 4-8 years

Reviewed by Joan DiMonda

REMINDER

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

Call Marie DiMonte at 631.728.0292 or
Email osprey23@optonline.net to register.
SEE February Newsletter for full details.



MARCH EVENTS OF NOTE - around the East End and Beyond

Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Protecting our Native Forests (Online). FREE. For more info and to register: <https://peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/protecting-our-native-forests>

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Winter Walk & Warm-up: Experience the Virtues of the Dormant Garden & A Greenhouse Stroll (In-person). Garden walk led by Vincent Simeone, Greenhouse Stroll led by Dennis Schrader. \$112.50 for Landcraft Garden Foundation members, \$125 non-members, participants will receive a signed copy of Vincent's new book. Limited to 20 attendees. For more info and to register: <https://www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org/upcoming-workshops/>

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Clean Composting for Small Gardens (Online). \$19. For more info and to register: <https://mtcubacenter.org/event/clean-composting-for-small-gardens-online/>

Thursday, March 10, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Garden Conservancy Virtual Program: The Sill and the House Plant Revolution (Online). \$5 for Garden Conservancy members, \$15 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/the-sill-eliza-blank-virtual-program-3-10-22>

Saturday, March 12, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. The Trees of Bridge Gardens - A Winter Identification Walk (In-person). Free for Bridge Gardens members, \$5 non-members. More info: <https://peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/the-trees-of-bridge-gardens-a-winter-identification-walk>

Tuesday, March 15, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Shavaun Towers: Gardens Within The Garden (In-person). NYBG, Ross Lecture Hall, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. \$23 for NYBG members, \$26 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/2021-22-landscape-design-students-alumni-series/shavaun-towers/>

Saturday, March 26, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Early Spring Care of Fruit Trees (In-person). Free for Bridge Gardens members, \$5 non-members. More info: <https://peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/early-spring-care-of-fruit-trees>

Saturday, March 26, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Cornell Cooperative Extension Spring Gardening School 2022 (Online). Keynote by Margaret Roach plus 9 other speakers. Tickets starting at \$50. For more info and to register: <http://ccesuffolk.org/gardening/spring-garden-trio>

Wednesday, March 30, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Wave Hill 2022 Horticultural Lecture Series: Little Island -- A Garden Rises (In-person). \$27 for Wave Hill members, \$30 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.wavehill.org/calendar/wave-hill-2022-horticultural-lecture-little-island-a-garden-rises>

Wednesday, March 30, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The Mysteries of Fungi Revealed (Online). \$19. For more info and to register: <https://mtcubacenter.org/event/the-mysteries-of-fungi-revealed/>

Thursday, March 31, 10:30 am to 11:30 am. James Burnett: Envisioning Landscapes: Making the Unseen Seen (In-person). NYBG, Ross Lecture Hall, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. \$32 for NYBG members, \$35 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/22nd-annual-winter-lecture-series-adapting-to-a-new-climate/james-burnett/>

HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2022 - Sundays at 2 pm

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*

SAVE THE DATE! THE HAH SPRING GARDEN FAIR IS COMING BACK!
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 5-7 PM and SATURDAY, MAY 14, 9 AM - 1 PM
WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION

HAH Happenings
March 2022
100% Recycled 



Snowdrops - *Galanthus*
'Lady Primrose Warburg'

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