



# HAH Happenings

## April 2022



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

631.537.2223 [hahgarden.org](http://hahgarden.org)  
at the Bridgehampton Community House



On Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2:00 pm  
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM

**Thomas Christopher**

***Nature Into Art – Lessons To Be Learned***

***From the Gardens of Wave Hill***

The gardens of New York City public garden Wave Hill are celebrated worldwide; Thomas Christopher has followed their development since he was a horticultural student at the New York Botanical Garden in the mid 1970's. In 2017-2018 he spent a year joining the gardeners of Wave Hill in their daily routines, studying the techniques and concepts that could be translated to the home garden. Join him for a tour of Ngoc Minh Ngo's award-winning photographs of Wave Hill and an exploration of how this landscape's lessons can inform your own horticultural ventures.

If he's not planting or pruning, Tom Christopher is probably in the WESU FM radio studio, working on his weekly program and podcast, **Growing Greener**. Each week, Tom brings listeners an interview with one of the leading voices of gardening with nature – the goal is to make your landscape healthier, more beautiful, more sustainable, and more fun. **Growing Greener** currently broadcasts on a dozen radio stations and downloads as a podcast to 5,000 listeners a month.

Tom is also the author of 16 books about gardening, most recently Nature Into Art, a celebration of Wave Hill, New York City's ground-breaking public garden, and the lessons it has to offer to gardeners everywhere. He also writes a syndicated weekly gardening column that appears in newspapers throughout central New England and upstate New York.

Outside the garden, Tom's interests extend to stone wall building and making vintage hard cider every fall from heirloom apples with his wife Suzanne. A long-time resident of Middletown, CT, he gardens there and, on the weekends, in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts.

### HAH APRIL EVENTS

Saturday, April 2, 10:00 am - **Roundtable** on ZOOM - watch email for link - see p. 3  
Thursday, April 7, 4 pm - **Wild Bees Lecture** on ZOOM - watch email for link - see p. 3  
Sunday, April 10, 2 pm - **Monthly Lecture** on ZOOM - watch email for link - see above  
Saturday, April 23, 10 am - **Camellia Friends** - watch email for confirmation - see p. 6  
Monday, April 25, 10:30 am - **Member Garden Tour** - see p. 7

**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**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

April will be busy at HAH: our last Roundtable until the fall, not one but two lectures, the Camellia Group's spring meeting, Friends of the Garden will meet to take care of our garden, and Pamela Harwood has one garden tour lined up and more in the planning stages. Read on for more details and keep an eye on your email for updates, Zoom links, etc.



April showers bring May flowers... and our Garden Fair! We couldn't be more excited about the return of this beloved event. Invitations to the Preview on Friday, May 13th, are in the mail and should reach you in the next few days. Please come! As always, we need your help as volunteers to make the Fair a success. Thank you to those who have already offered help and if you haven't signed up for a volunteer spot yet, please do! Many hands make light work... and you will have fun working alongside fellow members, surrounded by beautiful plants. One last request: if you have any special pull with Mother Nature, please put in a good word for the weather the weekend of the Fair...

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)

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

Susan Brackett, Pamela Harwood, Janis Murphy, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank, Jill Thayer

## Discover What's New on Our Website

Visit [www.HAHGarden.org](http://www.HAHGarden.org)

### Zoom Videos of Prior Events That You May Have Missed

Visit our website for videos of Zoom Lectures, Roundtables and Workshops that you might have missed or would like to see again. Their location page can be found under the 'Education' menu. Simply click on the link and copy and paste the passcode. Make sure there is no space before or after when you copy, or the code will not work.

## HAH | The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

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### Zoom Videos: Lectures, Roundtables, Workshops

Click links below and follow passcode instructions to watch videos

> [Lectures](#)

> [Roundtables](#)

> [Workshops](#)

## The Secret Lives of Wild Bees

Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 4pm

### Special Presentation by Nicholas Dorian on ZOOM

Zoom link will be emailed prior to the lecture



You've probably heard "save the bees!" as news reports of insect declines flood the media. But do you know which bees need saving? Over 4000 species of bees inhabit North America, and most of them don't live in hives or make honey. In this lecture, PhD student and New England bee expert Nick Dorian will teach you about the natural history and conservation of wild bees that call Long Island home. Together, we'll examine closely their varied lifestyles, their habitat needs, and their intricate relationships with flowering plants and other insects. You'll come away with clear action items for creating habitat for native bees in your gardens and with a newfound appreciation for these charismatic pollinators.

Nick Dorian is an ecologist, an educator and a naturalist. He is a PhD student at Tufts University where he studies the population ecology of cellophane bees and runs the Tufts Pollinator Initiative, an urban pollinator conservation and community outreach group.

## THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM CONTINUES

Join Us on Zoom Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 10am - 11:30am

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

### Digging into Soil



Please join us for our last Roundtable of the season. Our focus will be all about soil, which Merriam-Webster defines simply as "the upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow." But we gardeners know that there is so much more to be said about the material on which our plants depend for all their nutrients and good health. In addition to soil, we will discuss making and using compost and even touch on the subject of gravel gardening.

Our principal speaker, Pat Nadosy, has become intrigued with the life under our feet in our gardens. She will discuss the critical role of soil microorganisms: their interaction with each other and with terrestrial plants, the networks they create, and their destruction by man-made soil 'improvements'. She will also touch on cover crops and the effect on soil of different animals, and will refer to her favorite books on these topics.

**Patricia (Pat) Harrigan Nadosy** started her professional life as a Foreign Exchange trader at JP Morgan. After burn out as a currency options trader, she obtained a PhD in Botany, studying the antioxidant compounds of Rosemary. She is currently Vice Chair of the Board of the Carl Schurz Park Conservancy and a Zone Gardener, Chair of the Committee of Trustees of the New York State Board of TNC and Trustee emerita of Barnard College. She and her husband Peter are now living primarily in Southampton where Pat is Co-chair of the Grounds Committee of St Andrew's Dune Church and helps out with the gardens at St. John's Episcopal Church. Pat is also a former President of the Southampton Garden Club (one of the Tri's with Marge Sullivan and Tish Bliss). Pat is also an HAH member.

So please join the Zoom Roundtable on April 2nd, and if you have experiences of your own to share, or any other gardening questions, we welcome your input.

*Photograph by Pamela Harwood.*

*ZOOM link will be emailed prior to the program.*



## Two Native *Spireas*: Shrubs I wish I had Known Long Ago.

Susan Brackett

*Spirea tomentosa* -- Steeplebush -- has blue trumpet-shaped flowers clustered on 4-inch spikes -- the steeples. The shrubs grow to about 4 feet high and wide, though some stems may die to the ground in winter. They need full sun.

*Spirea alba* var. *latifolia* -- Broadleaf meadowsweet -- blooms with flower spikes that are white or pale pink and mildly fragrant. Leaves turn yellow in fall. Plants grow 2- to 5 feet high and wide. They flower best in full sun but take some shade.

I wish I had known these Northeastern natives when I was busy planting pretty, Asian *Spireas*, then considered somewhat deer-tolerant! Unfortunately, Asian plants are less supportive of our native wildlife, and many are proving invasive.

The two native *Spireas* bloom from early summer into fall, providing a long season of nectar for birds, butterflies, moths and other bugs. These plants support 89 species of caterpillars, that essential food for baby birds, say Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy in *The Living Landscape*. Found in wet meadows, bogs, stream and lakesides, these natives are not very tolerant of dryness. They can take almost any soil, including clay and sand, and even some compaction. They are considered very low maintenance, though removing blooms after flowering prolongs bloom time, and pruning promotes compact shape. *Spireas* flower on new wood so they can be pruned in late winter or early spring.

The natives sucker and can be vigorous spreaders. North Carolina Extension says some *albas* are invasive there. None are on New York State's invasive lists.

Interestingly, East Hampton Town lists *Spirea tomentosa* as native to Montauk moorland, grasslands and old fields. *Spirea latifolia* is in Southampton Town Environmental Division's list of accepted natives. My (admittedly old) books and many favorite websites included nothing on these native *Spireas*. The best sources were North Carolina Extension and Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center websites.

I have seen *Spirea tomentosa* in local garden centers and love its blue spikes. In pictures, both plants in nature look a little rangy. But mixed with perennials or naturalized in a mass, they would provide a long season of color and attract an abundance of wonderful wildlife to the garden.

Photos, clockwise from upper left:

Steeplebush - *Spirea tomentosa* blooms. Charles Wohlers, North Carolina Extension  
Naturalized *Spirea tomentosa*, North Carolina Extension.

*Spirea alba* var. *latifolia* - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Broadleaf Meadowsweet - *Spirea alba latifolia*. Native Plant Trust.





## Go Native not Invasive!

Janis L. Murphy

***Miscanthus sinensis***, Chinese silver grass, Eulalia is **INVASIVE**. **Please do not plant *Miscanthus*!** Despite being labeled as invasive in at least half the USA, *Miscanthus* cultivars are still being sold by many nurseries. Admittedly, *Miscanthus* is a handsome plant but it spreads aggressively, competes for space with native plant species and **does not support our native wildlife**. Suffolk County added *Miscanthus sinensis* to its **Do not Sell/Transfer list of Invasive Species** on January 1, 2016, however. *Miscanthus* is already thriving in our neighborhoods. Below is an example I see every time I drive down my road in Shinnecock Hills.

Left: *Miscanthus sinensis* in cultivation.



Right: The *Miscanthus* has spread to a vacant lot on the opposite side of the road.



Instead of planting *Miscanthus*, please consider a native alternative such as:



### ***Panicum virgatum*, Switchgrass**

- Perennial warm season bunchgrass native to North America, from Canada to Mexico, east of the Rocky Mountains
- Hardy in Zones 3 - 9
- Long-lived. Rhizomes spread slowly
- Typically grows 2.5 - 5' tall
- Grows best in full sun and moisture but adapts to many soil types and weather conditions
- Drought tolerant when established
- Blooms mid-summer: pink tinged flowers rise 1 - 2' above foliage
- Birds eat the tiny seeds
- Propagate from seed
- In warm weather, seeds germinate in 2 - 3 weeks
- Use switchgrass in masses, in perennial border or native garden.
- Year-round interest

Several Switchgrass cultivars are available such as 'Shenandoah', 'Northwind' and 'Apache Rose.'

**Look out for Switchgrass and other Native Plants at our Garden Fair!**

## Member Survey Insight

By Sarah Alford

Thank you to all the members who responded to the member survey. The HAH Board met in late February to brainstorm strategic planning and to discuss the survey results. We are grateful that so many of you shared your thoughts about HAH via the nine-question survey. It is helpful to know what resonates and made for a fruitful strategy session.

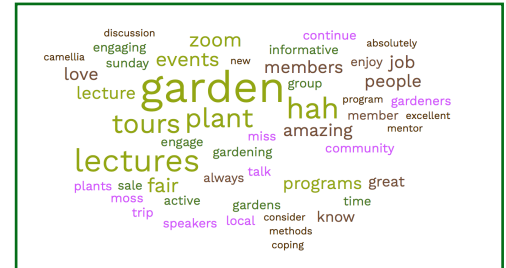
Topping the list of favorite HAH programming: Sunday lectures (86%), garden tours (75%) and the garden fair (58%). HAH is thrilled to plan the garden fair this spring, after last year's break.

(I, for one, appreciate the member digs as a way to share my own plants while making room for my new acquisitions, all while helping HAH raise funds for programming. How wonderfully efficient. I digress, with enthusiasm!)

Recurring themes in the responses included learning more about plants, landscapes and gardening (93%) and information about gardening events and initiatives in the East End (40%). Respondents valued HAH as a way to connect with a community of gardeners (77%). Erika Shank, one of HAH's founders, mentioned that this was one of the guiding principles when HAH was created so it's wonderful that it remains a keystone.

Zoom has been an immeasurable tool to keep programming on track and members connected, yet many noted they miss in-person events. The comfort level is strong for in-person events (would attend 55%; might 34%) and we look forward to offering lectures available via zoom and in-person when the time is right. Several wrote that the newsletter was a special feature of HAH, and that garden tours are a welcomed experience.

*Above: the "word cloud" reflects words most frequently used by members in this survey's response.*



## The Jim Jeffrey Camellia Group Visited the Camellia Greenhouse at Planting Fields Arboretum

Before cold-hardy camellias became widely available, wealthy horticulturalists built greenhouses for their collections. The one at Planting Fields was built in 1917 as part of the W. R. Coe estate and was modelled on one at Chatsworth in England. The Coe greenhouse has been added to and refurbished, and now houses the largest collections of non-cold hardy camellias in the Northeast. Our Camellia Group visited on February 14, near the height of bloom season, for a tour led by Vincent Simeone, horticulturalist and manager of Planting Fields Arboretum State Park. Planting Fields is in Oyster Bay, a 1 1/2-hour drive from Bridgehampton.

The Camellia Group plans to meet to display our own spring blooms on Saturday, April 23 at 10:00 at the HAH Library, but watch HAH Reminder emails for confirmation and details.

*The Greenhouse and camellias in bloom during our visit. Photos by Jill Thayer and Susan Brackett*

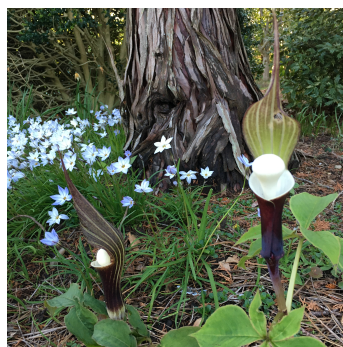


## A few of the many online programs this month focused on Native Plants:

**Thursday, April 7, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Resilient LI Symposium.** A Symposium on Invasive and Native Species for Long Island's Future, hosted by the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) and Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA). \$75. For more info and to register: <https://liisma.org/events/liisma-linpi-conference-resilient-li/>

**Wednesdays, April 13 and 27, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Revitalizing the Garden: Incorporating Native Plants into Existing Landscapes.** \$90 for Native Plant Trust members, \$108 non-members. For more info and to register: <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/events/revitalizing-garden-incorporating-native-plants-existing-landscapes/>





## HAH Members Spring Garden Tour in Montauk Monday, April 25, 10:30 am

HAH members are welcome to view the lakeside garden of members, Elaine Peterson and Richard Kahn, which they have worked on together for the last 45 years. Spring blooming flowers are favorites of theirs and there are many delights to savor. Among them are daffodils, fritillaria, scilla, ipheion, hyacinths, leucojum, species tulips, blood root and many other bulbs and spring ephemerals. Early rhodys plus hellebores, epimediums, primula, early iris, violets and more perennials will be at their prime. Possibly the native Montauk beach plums, blueberries and shad will be starting their bloom by then in this year's early spring which is usually a spectacular display in early May.

The garden, begun when the house was built in 1931, reflects varied styles and areas of plant interest from the past 90 years and includes native local plants as well as non-natives established many years ago. It is enclosed by great oaks and maples now 100 years old and also includes a rock garden, herb gardens, a vegetable garden and many plants for birds, bees and insects. Elaine will be present to elaborate on their efforts and and answer questions.

Location: 224 West Lake Drive, Montauk. Take Rte. 27 past the village about a mile, then turn left on West Lake Drive (Cty Rd 77). Go 1.2 miles to #224 on right. Please park along the road. Members and their guests will be checked in at the front gate.



Many thanks to Ernie Cavallo for showing his extraordinary collection of *Galanthus* to hardy HAH members in love with Snowdrops. What a treat it is to see their bloom in chilly March!



**FOG – Friends of the Garden**  
Anyone who enjoys gardening is  
always welcome to join us.

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.  
Just outside the HAH Library!  
Looking forward to seeing you in the  
Spring and Summer!

Cornelia Bostwick



## HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2022 - Sundays at 2 pm

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*

### SOME LOCAL - IN PERSON - EVENTS IN APRIL

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 am. Southampton Rose Society** *Rose Planting and Pruning Session with Peter Bertrand.* Rogers Memorial Library, 91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton, NY 11968. More info: <https://southamptonrose.org>

**Saturday, April 23, 2022, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Raised Beds and Container Gardens.** Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. Free for Bridge Gardens members, \$5 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/raised-beds-and-container-gardens>

**Saturday, April 30, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Cornell Cooperative Extension** *Garden Workshops & Master Gardener Plant Sale.* Includes workshops led by HAH members Alicia Whitaker and Janis Murphy. Suffolk County Farm, 350 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980. For more info and to register: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/ifobx/lqfr/#p=18>

**Events at LongHouse Reserve, 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937.**

For more info: <https://longhouse.org/pages/events>

**Saturday, April 2, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Hellebore Walk** led by Holger Winenga.

**Saturday, April 9, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Daffodil Walk** led by Holger Winenga.

**Saturday, April 23, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Late Spring Bulbs Walk** led by Holger Winenga.

**Saturday April 30, 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Rites of Spring / Season Opening.**



100% Recycled

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