



HAH Happenings

March 2023



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org

P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

at the Bridgehampton Community House



On Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Please join us at the Bridgehampton Community House

for a talk by **Sara Cedar Miller** on

Before Central Park

Want to know what was there before Central Park? Well, you will after you've heard the lecture with historian and author of *Before Central Park*, Sara Cedar Miller, who has spent almost 40 years uncovering the secrets and stories of the most celebrated 843 acres in New York City.

In this informative and entertaining illustrated lecture, you will learn about eons of geologic history and over 250-years of social history: the clash of Native and Dutch culture, the first European family's tobacco farm, colonial roads and taverns, a secret Revolutionary War meeting, the butchers who helped to build the War of 1812 forts, epidemics, slavery, immigration, canal and reservoir building, real estate speculation, the Black community of Seneca Village, Jewish burial grounds, Irish Sisters of Charity, German bone-boiling factories, women's property rights (or lack thereof), and the many schools, farms, piggeries, churches, orchards and gardens. You will meet con men, greedy speculators, corrupt officials, strong women, heroes, activists, and dreamers and many extraordinary New Yorkers that history had almost forgotten.

You will also learn about the people and politics behind the creation of Central Park, the financial awards to the landowners, and the conflicts and compromises behind creating the nation's first major democratic space and its celebrated design, one of the great masterpieces of American art.

Sara Cedar Miller has been the Historian emerita of the Central Park Conservancy since 2017. She was the Conservancy photographer from 1984 and also its historian from 1989 to 2017. Her photographs have been distributed world-wide and she had appeared on radio, TV and many documentaries on Central Park. She gives specialized tours and lectures on the prepark and the Park's history and art. In 2020, Miller was honored with the "Preservation Hero" award by the Library of American Landscape History.

She is the author of *Central Park: An American Masterpiece* (Abrams, 2003), *Strawberry Fields*, *Central Park's Memorial to John Lennon* (Abrams, 2011), *Seeing Central Park: The Official Guidebook: Updated and Expanded* (Abrams, 2021) and *Before Central Park* (Columbia University Press, June, 2022). Her website is beforecentralparknyc.org.

HAH MARCH EVENTS

Saturday, March 4, 10:30 am - 12:00 HAH Roundtable - in person at the HAH Library - see p. 3.

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 - Montauk Winter Walk - see p. 5 for details and registration.

Sunday, March 12, 2 pm - Talk by Sara Cedar Miller- see above.

Saturday, March 18, 11:00 am - HAH Book Group - ON ZOOM - see p. 4 and watch your email for ZOOM link.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

There is much to look forward to at HAH this month: an exciting Roundtable about woodland ephemerals and other early bloomers, Sara Cedar Miller's lecture about Central Park, a walk with Vicki Bustamante to Oyster Pond in Montauk, and Joan DiMonda, our new library chair, will host a series of gatherings to (re)introduce members to our exceptional horticultural library; I encourage you to take advantage of these offerings! On the 18th we'll have our last meeting of the Book Group for the current cycle. I want to take a moment to thank Janet Ollinger for being a fantastic moderator and cheerleader for this program, as well as thank the members who have contributed reviews. Join us on Zoom on the 18th to see what it's all about!

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 Boards at the Fair. If you've misplaced the letter, you can make your donation online by visiting our website.

Our gardens are waking up and the days are getting longer. We'll "spring forward" overnight on the 12th (don't forget to set your clocks ahead so you don't miss Sara Cedar Miller's lecture!) and the vernal equinox is on the 20th. Spring is coming!

All my best,

Erik

HAH 2023

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

President	Erik Brockmeyer
First Vice President	Greg Wiseman
Second Vice President	Janet Ollinger
Recording Secretary	Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Ann Stanley
Treasurer	Patricia Matheson

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

Marie DiMonte	'23
Michael Longacre	'23
Erika Shank	'24
Valerie Hanley	'24
Pamela Harwood	'25
Rick Bogusch	'25

The Library Chairperson (who serves on the Board with a vote) will be: Joan DiMonda

On occasion the board may appoint someone to fill an unexpired term if necessary.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Elaine Peterson

WEBSITE EDITOR - Michael Longacre

MEMBERSHIP & MAILING - Bettina and John Benson

PHOTOS this month - Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson, Greg Wiseman

HAH 2023 GARDEN FAIR

Preview Party - Friday, May 19 - 5-7pm

Garden Fair - Saturday, May 20 - 9am - 1pm

SAVE-THE-DATE

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 am
Spring Camellia Group Meeting
at the HAH Lo Gerfo Library

FOG – Friends of the Garden

Anyone who enjoys gardening is welcome to join.

The gardening dates for 2023 are Tuesdays

April 4, May 2, May 30, June 27, July 25,
August 22, September 19, October 17 and
November 14

We usually start at about 10 AM

Looking forward to seeing you in the Spring!

Cornelia Bostwick

HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM IN PERSON AT THE HAH LIBRARY

Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10:30am – Noon

LATE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING IN THE GARDEN Outstanding Plants and Important Tasks

As I write this in February, I am so excited that March (and daylight saving time!) is around the corner, and here by the time you read this newsletter. While last month we focused on how we can garden inside using greenhouses, etc., March is the time to enjoy our late winter flowers and to begin outdoor garden work.

One plant group on which we'll focus is woodland "ephemerals" and late winter/early spring bulbs. These bloom for a brief time and then both the flowers and leaves die back and go dormant until re-appearing the next year. Some examples that thrive on the East End are *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Galanthus nivalis*, *Iris reticulata*, *Anemonella thalictroides*, and *Crocus*.

We will also discuss other early bloomers like *Abeliophyllum distichum*, *Camellia*, *Daffodils*, *Edgeworthia*, *Forsythia*, *Hamamelis*, *Jeffersonia dubia*, *Pieris japonica* (Andromeda), and *Skimmia japonica*.

Another popular March activity is "forcing" branches of spring-flowering trees, so that you can enjoy their blooms extra early indoors.

We are so fortunate that member **Erika Shank**, photographer extraordinaire, has agreed to participate and share her fabulous images of many of these beautiful flowers.



Pruning is an important late-winter/early spring task, as deciduous shrubs and trees are still dormant and pruning will maintain their health, shape, and size, and will spur their growth at this time. At the Roundtable I'll be showing a video (which was prepared as a joint venture of HAH and the Peconic Land Trust) of Rick Bogusch showing us how and which woody plants he prunes at this time.



And finally, we'll discuss spring garden clean up, including how to shred leaves so they can be returned to your garden beds as a spring and summer mulch.

So please join us in person on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10:30am and, if you have experiences of your own to share, we very much look forward to hearing your stories. Other gardening questions are also welcome, as are guests.

Regards, Pamela Harwood, Moderator

Photos by Pamela Harwood

HAH BOOK GROUP
Saturday, March 18 at 11:00 am
Via ZOOM

When the March Book Group convenes it is merely days until spring!
Welcome my lovely bookworms! Before we bound into our gardens join me on March 18th for the final
book group of the '22-'23 series. 11am, 3 books, 3 presenters, 1 hour.
Watch for the ZOOM link in your email. ALL are welcome!

**The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest
by Rick Darke, presented by Scott Sottile

**Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots: The Stories Behind the Common Names of Some of Our
Favorite Plants by Allan Armitage, presented by Joan DiMonda

** Notes From Madoo: Making a Garden in the Hamptons by Robert Dash, presented by Janet
Donohoe Ollinger

The HAH LoGerfo Library News

By now, you have received an e-blast from HAH inviting you to a mini-celebration and welcoming
you back to the LoGerfo Library. Please use the e-blast to RSVP to one of the three suggested
dates...

Saturday, March 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 16, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Joan DiMonda

SAVE - THE - DATE

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10:00am - 12:00pm
An "Earth Day" Walk Down Main Street in Bridgehampton
Led by Julie Greene, Southampton Town Historian
Rain or Shine

Please join us for a special "Earth Day" walking tour down historic Main Street in Bridgehampton.
Julie Greene, Southampton Town Historian, will speak at each of our stops, expounding on the rich history of
Bridgehampton. This moderately paced walk will include stops at the Corwith Museum, the Revolutionary
Marching Ground, the Rogers House and the Windmill on Ocean Road. The tour starts at 10:00am in the
Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons (HAH) Library in the Bridgehampton Community House, Montauk
Highway, corner of School Street. See you there!

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

**A Winter Walk with Vicki Bustamante to Oyster Pond
In Montauk Point State Park
Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10am**

**This walk will be limited to 15 persons, pre-registration required. Rain cancels.
There will be no fee for this Walk.**



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.

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 11, 2023, at 10am.

Respond by Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Name(s) _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

E-Mail _____

Questions and to register, please call:

Marie DiMonte at 631.728.0292 or Email ospsey23@optonline.net or

Bettina Benson, 631-728-1981 or Email bbettina@optonline.net

SAVE - THE - DATE

Sunday, April 23, 2023, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Please join us for a ZOOM presentation on

“Effective Solutions for Dealing with Deer” Presented by Brad Roeller

April is a prime time to talk about deer deterrent strategies as deer begin to transition from a primarily browsing animal to a grazing one. Brad Roeller, a Board member of Innisfree Garden, has spent 40+ years of gardening in deer country and has created an experimental “Deer Browse Garden”. He will share his findings about the environmental and biological factors which influence deer and their food choices so that you can implement informed strategies to deer-proof your landscape.

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

HAH Garden Tour to Connecticut Monday, May 1, 2023

Please join us for a trip to Fairfield, Connecticut where we will tour the garden of Lois Baylis followed by a visit to Oliver Nurseries, where Lori Chips will, hopefully, be on hand to greet us.

We'll start the day with a visit to the Darien garden of Lois Baylis. Her garden is featured in Lori Chip's book *Hypertufa Containers: Creating and Planting an Alpine Trough Garden* and contains hundreds of troughs filled with miniature alpiners, conifers, and succulents. Afterwards we will stop at Oliver Nurseries which specializes in plant material for troughs and also includes a wide selection of woodland plants, dwarf conifers, shrubs, and trees set in a landscape-like setting. Lori Chips spoke to HAH members in September 2022, giving a lecture entitled 'Troughs: Gardening in the Smallest Places'. She has been committed to the exploration of alpine plants since her student days at NYBG and has been alpine manager at Oliver Nurseries for more than two decades.

7:00am Pick up at the Bridgehampton Community House (School St. side of building)
7:30am Pick up at the Macy's Department Store Parking Lot, Hampton Bays
9:00am Port Jefferson to Bridgeport Ferry / Arrival 10:15am
11am-1pm Baylis Garden
1:30pm-4pm Oliver Nurseries
4:45pm Bridgeport to Port Jefferson Ferry / Arrival 6pm
7pm-7:30pm Approximate arrival in the Hamptons

- Cost: \$140 Members, \$165 Non-Members – payment must be received by April 1st!
- Cost is based on 20 participants; *we will reduce the price if more participants sign up.*
- Pack your own brown bag lunch or plan to purchase food on the ferry.

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the Fairfield, Connecticut Tour on Monday, May 1, 2023

Name(s): _____

Phone (cell preferred): _____

Email: _____

Pick up at: Bridgehampton _____ Hampton Bays _____

I would like to purchase _____ member tickets at \$140/person. Subtotal: _____

I would like to purchase _____ non-member tickets at \$165/person. Subtotal: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to: HAH, P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932 Attention: Tours **Payment must be received no later than April 1, 2023.**

Questions? Contact Bettina Benson at 631.728.1981 or email: bbettina@optonline.net or Marie DiMonte at 631.728.0292 or email: osprey23@optonline.net

Some Local East End Gardening Programs in March

Ongoing through April 1. Winter Garden -- A Collaboration. An exhibit in the sculpture garden exploring a garden in the winter as a magical experience of space and light. The Leiber Collection, 446 Old Stone Highway, East Hampton, NY 11937. For more info: <http://www.leibermuseum.org/winter-garden-a-collaboration/>

Saturday, March 25, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Everything About Composting. Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. Suggested donation of \$5/person. For more info and to register: <https://peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/everything-about-composting>

The Case for Leaving Dead Trees and Fallen Leaves in Place

During recent years, we've heard about the benefits of leaving fallen leaves in place. They provide winter cover for insects and small animals. Last year I accidentally uncovered a turtle that had made a winter nest under a pile of leaves nestled up against a pile of logs.

Leaves also indirectly provide winter food for our feathered friends. I love watching them as they flick over a leaf hoping to find a tasty bug to eat. During summer, the fallen leaves also help retain moisture and keep the soil cool for the roots of perennials and shallow rooted trees like dogwood, laurel and others.

Equally important to a sustainable and organic garden is nutrient retention on the land that we are stewards of for the short time we call it ours. The nutrients and minerals that make up those many thousands of leaves were taken up from the soil by the trees on our property. If we take those leaves off of our property, all of the nutrients go with them and our soil is that much more depleted.

The same logic and more applies to dead trees!

There are certainly times when cutting down a dead tree is necessary. When the tree poses a safety hazard to people or structures the tree should come down. The tree should also be properly disposed of when it has been attacked by invasive insects such as Emerald Ash Borer or the Southern Pine Beetle.

In the case of the Southern Pine Beetle, the remains of the dead tree can remain where it was cut because the beetle is a weak flyer and the benefits of leaving the nutrients on the land and hosting other bugs and critters can be achieved.

In the best-case scenario, the entire dead tree can sometimes be left undisturbed and nature will slowly reclaim it. During that process, insects nest in the bark and burrow into the decaying wood. Those insects provide food for birds that check out the crevices and woodpeckers that drill into the wood to get the tasty and high protein morsels.

Woodpeckers, of course, also drill into the wood to create nest cavities for themselves. Generally speaking, woodpeckers only create nest cavities in dead trees so cutting down the tree removes future nesting opportunities. After the woodpecker raises its brood in the cavity it created, that nest is available for other birds like chickadees, bluebirds and wrens that nest in cavities but can't drill out the hole themselves.

If leaving the entire tree standing isn't an option, consider leaving the main trunk and branches while removing the outer branches. If possible, have your arborist place those branches on the ground for bird and animal cover while they decompose and release the nutrients onto your property. Or, have the branches chipped and returned to your property to be used as mulch.

Even in the case when the entire tree must be removed, the logs can be stacked or tossed into a random pile thereby creating "bug hotel" sites and crevices for critters.



If you've ever turned over a partially decayed log, you've seen an entire world of activity that is happening as the wood is slowly broken down and the nutrients are returned to the soil. The insects and fungi doing this work are all part of a balanced ecosystem that provide benefits to our sustainable garden and nature more broadly.

Next time that you're faced with what to do with a dead tree, consider just leaving it!

Greg Wiseman



HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2023 - 2 pm
At the Bridgehampton Community Center, Main Hall
2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY

March 12 – Sara Cedar Miller - *Before Central Park*

April 16 – Fred Landman – *Sleepy Cat Farm: A Gardener's Journey*

May 7 – James Golden – *The View from Federal Twist: A New Way of Thinking About Gardens, Nature and Ourselves*

June 11 – Karl Gercens – *365 Days of Flowers*

No lectures in July or August

September 10 – Bridget Wosczyzna – *Introduction to the Plants You Should be Growing: Hardy and Tropical Aroids for Northeast Gardens*

October 15 – Rebecca McMackin – *Brooklyn Bridge Park: Lessons in Constructed Ecology*

November 12 – Ulrich (Uli) Lorimer - *The Northeast Native Plant Primer: 235 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden*

December 10 – Scott Chaskey – *Soil & Spirit, Cultivation and Kinship in the Web of Life*



Iris reticulata 'Alida'

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 **100% Recycled**

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