



HAH Happenings

December 2023



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

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org
at the Bridgehampton Community House

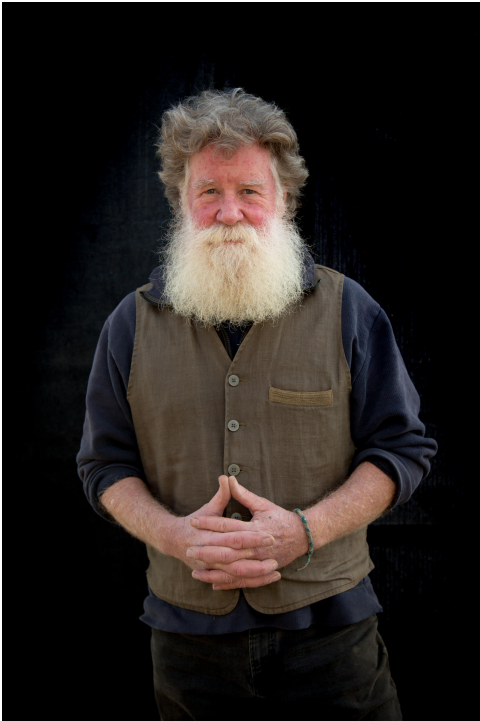


Photo: Lindsay Morris

On Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Please join us at the Bridgehampton Community House
for a talk by **Scott Chaskey** on
Soil & Spirit, Cultivation and Kinship in the Web of Life

As a farmer with decades spent working in fields, Scott Chaskey has been shaped by daily attention to the earth. A leader in the international Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement, he has combined a longstanding commitment to food sovereignty and organic farming with a belief that humble attention to microbial life and diversity of species provides invaluable lessons for building healthy human communities.

Along the way, even while planning rotations of fields, ordering seeds, tending to crops and their ecosystems, Chaskey was writing. And in this lively collection of essays, he explores the evolution of his perspective—as a farmer and as a poet.

Scott Chaskey is a poet, farmer, and educator. For 30 years he cultivated soil and community for the Peconic Land Trust at Quail Hill Farm in Amagansett, NY, one of the original CSA's in the country. Past president of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, he was honored as Farmer of the Year in 2013. He has served as a founding Board member for the Center for Whole Communities, in Vermont, Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, Shelter Island, NY, and for the Peter Matthiessen Center, Sagaponack, NY. He is the author of *This Common Ground*, (Viking, 2005), *Seedtime*, *On the History, Husbandry, Politics, and Promise of Seeds* (Rodale, 2014), *Stars are Suns* (Stoneman, 1995), and most recently, *Soil and Spirit* (Milkweed Editions, 2023). He lives in Sag Harbor with his wife Megan Chaskey, poet and musician, in the home in which they raised three children.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Annual HAH Holiday Party immediately follows the monthly lecture
Sunday, December 10, 2023

We ask that all members attending bring a dish of finger food - either sweet or savory.
Please be sure it is covered and ready to serve.
As always, wine, apple cider, coffee and tea will be provided.

Please come and enjoy the company of fellow members!!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

As we approach the end of 2023, I'm very pleased to report that HAH ends the year in a strong position. The membership has grown to over 400, the organization is financially secure, and we are fortunate to have a talented and hardworking Board -- as well as many committee chairs and volunteers -- whose energy, creativity, and dedication allow us to provide a tremendous amount of programming over the course of the year. Thank you one and all!

At the Annual Meeting in November we voted on the slate of officers and directors for 2024. Please join me in welcoming the two members who have stepped forward to join the Board next year: Kathie McGinty and Alex Sipkes. I look forward to working with them and to their future contributions to HAH!

Please also join me in thanking the members who will be stepping away from the Board at the end of this year: Rick Bogusch and Ruth Ann Stanley. I'm grateful for all they have done for HAH and I am counting on their continued active participation in the future.

Thank you all for a great year. Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to the new adventures we'll have together in 2024!

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) is: 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 - Erik Brockmeyer, Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson



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Kathie McGinty	'26
Alex Sipkes	'26

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Welcome back to the HAH Winter Book Group!
Saturday, December 16th 11am-noon via ZOOM
Please watch for the ZOOM link in your e-mail.

We have three fantastic presenters including one who will be presenting book ideas for the kiddos in our lives.

Under Western Skies: Visionary Gardens from the Rockies to the Pacific Coast
by Jennifer Jewell, presented by Sue Brackett

The Impressionist Garden by Derek Fell, presented by Carolyn Gemake

Be a Tree! by Maria Gianferrari

Trees A Rooted History by Piotr Socha and Wojciech Grajkowski

Discovering Trees, A Backpack Explorer Book by Editors of Storey Publishing,
Illustrated by Oana Befort, presented by Joan DiMonda



Why not attend the Decorating Party as well as the Holiday Party?

Volunteers are needed to help set up for the annual Holiday Party on
December 10th beginning at 11:00 a.m.
Please come with your gloves and a pair of clippers!

Also needed: Cuts of evergreens, needled or broadleaf.
Other beautiful long boughs of berries or greens are needed as well.
Small and large branches are welcome.
We are grateful for as much material as you are able to give.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Lori Barnaby



HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 10:00am – Noon

Ilex (Holly) and Other Berry-Bearing Shrubs & Trees For Wildlife and Winter Interest



From spring through fall many of us enjoy the beauty of the flowers that grow in our gardens as well as watching the many birds that call it home. But come December, the flowers have faded and it's wonderful to have something new, nature's next progression, to sustain beneficial wildlife and provide a beautiful landscape.

Outside my window is a long, south-facing border that is backed by an equally long hedge of tall, evergreen Ilex x meserveae, or Blue Holly. During the summer it is hidden behind a mass of flowering perennials and shrubs. But come December the Holly hedge is front and center, bearing striking masses of large, red berry clusters that it retains into spring. At that point, the berries are soft enough to be edible for the birds that have already devoured other food sources in the garden over the winter.

Other Ilex varieties I admire include the Eastern U.S. natives Ilex opaca (sometimes called Christmas Holly) and Ilex verticillata (Winterberry). Not all Ilexes bear red berries; some are dark blue like another Eastern U.S. native, Ilex glabra (Inkberry). There are also non-natives to consider, such as Ilex crenata (Japanese Holly), which is often substituted for Boxwood.

Did you know that nearly all Ilexes are “dioecious,” meaning both the male and female are needed for cross-pollination in order for them to bear fruit? Can you tell the difference if they are not labelled at the garden center or nursery?

Not all are evergreen; some are deciduous like Ilex serrata. The list goes on and I'm sure our attendees will have their own additional favorites. And yes, they all thrive in similar conditions.



If there is time, we will also discuss the other trees and shrubs that bear late-fall and winter berries, such as our Long Island native Juniperus virginiana, or Eastern Red Cedar.

On hand for this special conversation will be Rick Bogusch, Garden Manager at Bridge Gardens, operated by the Peconic Land Trust.

By the end of the program, if there are attendees who have unanswered gardening questions about these or any other topics, please feel free to stay a while longer and talk to one of our knowledgeable members.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, December 2nd!

Moderated and with Photos by
Pamela Harwood

Create a Holiday Mantlepiece

has been rescheduled to

Friday, December 8, 2023

10:00 a.m.

John LoGerfo Library



We have space for five additional members and friends

Please join us for this fun workshop and learn how to make a long arrangement suitable for the mantle or sideboard. You will need to bring greens (in water) from your garden to use and to share. A mix of needle evergreens and broad leaf evergreens will make a more interesting design. And please don't forget clippers, gloves and a Lazy Susan if you have one.

HAH will supply containers, Oasis, flowers, decorations and ribbons.

Please make your check out to: HAH and mail to: HAH Holiday Workshop,
P. O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

please email to rsvp:

Lydia Wallis: lydiapbw@optonline.net

cc Marie DiMonte: osprey23@optonline.net

LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Fridays, December 1, 8, 9 and Saturdays, December 2, 9, 16, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. LongHouse Illuminated. LongHouse Reserve, 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937. \$35 for members, \$45 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://longhouse.org/products/longhouse-illuminated>

Sundays, December 3 and 10, 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Wreath Making Workshop. Marders, 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. \$125 for adults, \$85 for children; all materials provided. Prepaid reservations required and space is limited. For more info and to register: <https://www.marders.com/events>

Thursday, December 7, 2:00 pm. Garden Conservancy Virtual Program: Sissinghurst Through the Seasons, Winter Episode. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/sissinghurst-through-the-seasons-a-four-part-virtual-program-winter-episode>

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Merry Madoo. Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack, NY 11962. FREE. For more info: madoo.org

Tuesday, December 12, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Beyond Bold: Inspiration, Collaboration, and Evolution with Eric D. Groft. NYBG, Ross Lecture Hall, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. \$35 for NYBG members, \$39 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/beyond-bold-inspiration-collaboration-and-evolution-with-eric-d-groft/>

Events at Landcraft Garden Foundation, 4342 Grand Avenue, Mattituck, NY 11952. For more info and to register: <https://www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org>

Friday, December 1, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Wild Dried Floral Wreaths. \$117 for members, \$130 for non-members.

Monday, December 11, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Traditional-with-a-twist Fresh Cut Wreaths. \$117 for members, \$130 for non-members.

Friday, December 15, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Gardening-Outside-Your-Zone: The Winter Wrap-Up, Literally. FREE but registration required.



REMINDER



Please note that if you do not renew your membership this will be your final newsletter.

Think about giving a GIFT of a HAH membership to a friend or colleague who loves plants and gardening. He or she will be thrilled! Play Santa!!

Head to our website now for an easy online renewal or new order for a friend. Go to hahgarden.org and open the tab JOIN US. The pictures of flowers will guide you to the membership level you want. We may be the only bargain in the HAMPTONS anymore so don't forget to give a gift of HAH in addition to renewing if you haven't already.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

Have a Sustainable and Joyful Holiday

Alicia Whitaker

Many of us want to have more environmentally-friendly holidays this year. At the same time, we need joy more than ever! So many things happening in the world have led to sadness, rage, and a feeling of hopelessness. And it's getting darker and colder – all good reasons to find ways to connect with others, celebrate and find the light in our lives. We can do a few things to be kinder to the earth while we find the warmth we're seeking.

Presents: quality versus quantity. How many gifts do we need? Think of all the children's toys and fast fashion clothes that end up in a landfill. I'm not a Grinch and I love giving and receiving presents, but we can be more selective. Gifts for gardeners can include seeds, bulbs, cuttings, well-made garden tools (Sneeboer!), or gift certificates to local nurseries.

Think about sustainable materials. Don't buy plastics that can't be recycled and look for clothing that can be handed down or at least recycled. Reduce packaging if you can and use cards and paper that can be recycled, avoiding foil-backed or glittered materials. How many of us keep a box of old wrapping paper to use from year to year? I do. Not to mention ribbons....And you can recycle beautiful Holiday cards as gift cards!

Think "experiences" and "presence" versus presents. A great meal, a membership to one of our splendid gardens – Madoo, Landcraft, LongHouse, Bridge Gardens – or tickets to events.

Real or artificial Tree? Real wins every time. After we use a tree, branches can be cut off to be used as mulch on our gardens. Many towns accept trees to shred and compost, or use them to help beach erosion projects. If you have an artificial tree, plant to keep it for a very long time. Use real greens for your wreaths and door swags, perhaps using natural materials such as winter berries for decoration. Invest in gorgeous ribbons and use from year to year. Use LED lights for significant cost savings.

Use decorations that you can keep for the longer term. Menorahs, Christmas tree ornaments and LED lights can be used from year to year. Paperwhites, amaryllis and houseplants can be used to adorn our houses and head for the compost heap after the holidays unless we grow them on. Garlands made from plants, not plastic, may be messy but can be composted.

Reduce food waste by being selective and realistic about what you plan to cook and serve for the holidays. Send guests home with leftovers. Use the turkey carcass for soup! Buy locally grown food where you can; we are lucky that so many of our local farms have gorgeous winter vegetables.

Celebrate the Winter Solstice, which this year occurs on Thursday, December 23. It has the fewest hours of sunlight and marks the start of winter, but it also astronomically marks the beginning of lengthening days and shortening nights. We can see and feel the difference by early January.

Let's use this time of year to spend time with people we love, to reflect on the past year, and to be grateful for all that we have.



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

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

HAH Lectures 2024

January 14 – Deborah Chud - *New Perennials: A Love Story* - ZOOM

February 11 – Dan Benarcik – *Design Principles of the Pros that can be Applied to the Home Landscape*

March 10 – Dan Jaffe Wilder – *Kill Your Lawn*

April 14 – Susan Barton – *Sustainable Landscaping*

May 5 – Abra Lee – *Conquer the Soil*

June 9 – Jenny Bakshi – *Botanical Latin*

September 8 – Darrel Morrison – *Beauty of the Wild*

October 13 – Jeff Epping – *Gravel Gardens – Gardens that Rock*

November 10 – Michael Hagen – *Native Plants for the Rock Garden*

December 8 – April Gonzales – *The American Chestnut*



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 **100% Recycled**

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