



HAH Happenings

December 2024



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, December 8, 2024 at
2:00 pm**

Please join us
at the Bridgehampton Community House
for our **HAH Members Holiday Party**

Due to a last-minute scheduling conflict,
April Gonzales will not be able to join us

in person on December 8th to speak on **The American Chestnut**. Instead, our December lecture has been pre-recorded and will be available to watch online at your convenience. The recording link will be circulated via email soon or you can visit the Education page on our website for the link. We will still meet on Sunday, December 8th at 2 p.m. for our annual holiday party—please join us! Read more about April and the American Chestnut on page 3.



HOLIDAY PARTY

**The Annual HAH Holiday Party begins at 2:00 pm
Sunday, December 8, 2024**

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!!



DECORATE



HOLIDAY



PARTY



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 8th 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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

Serving as president these last three years has been a tremendous privilege and a source of joy in my life. I am grateful to so many for supporting me in this role. Working with talented and hardworking Board members past and present—as well as the committee chairs and volunteers—whose energy, creativity, and dedication allow us to provide the tremendous amount of programming we offer year-round has been inspiring and fulfilling in more ways than I can say. I am grateful to be a part of the long tradition of HAH presidents and look forward to a bright future with Michael Longacre at the helm.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Solstice this month, one thing all of these traditions recognize is the need to celebrate the light during the darkest (shortest) days of the year. I hope that your gardens, and this community of like-minded garden enthusiasts, are a source of light in your lives; they are in mine.

All my best,

Erik

HAH 2024

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	Marie DiMonte
Treasurer	Patricia Matheson

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

Valerie Hanley	'24
Erika Shank	'24
Pamela Harwood	'25
Michael Longacre	'25
Kathie McGinty	'26
Alex Sipkes	'26

The Library Chair person (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: Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson



HAH 2025 Officers and Board of Directors

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

President	Michael Longacre
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Erik Brockmeyer	'25
Kathy McGinty	'26
Alex Sipkes	'26
Laurie Gibbs	'27
Olivia Motch	'27

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WINTER BOOK GROUP IS BACK!



December through March, the 3rd Saturday of the month
11:00 am - noon on ZOOM
Mark your calendars and look for the email with the ZOOM Link
All are welcome!

December 21st at 11am join us for the first presentations

**** E.A. Bowles & his Garden at Myddelton House 1865-1954**, by Mea Allan,
presented by Sue Brackett

****Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants**,
by Robin Wall Kimmerer, presented by Laurie Gibbs

****The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition**, by William Robinson, Rick Darke, presented by Scott Sottile

The American Chestnut

April Gonzalez is the President of April Gonzalez Garden Design, a boutique company based in Southampton that has been partnering with architects, landscapes architects, arborists, and other associated professionals since 1984. April received her Bachelor of Arts from Southampton College but has amassed most of her learning from running a business and traveling across the US—and around the world—researching agriculture and landscape traditions. Her focus remains on the value of the natural environment and ecological restoration.

April's presentation is focused on her interest in **the American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata***, a native species that is in decline and endangered. She has sprouted chestnut seed from Route 9 Cooperative in Ohio which is run by Greg Miller, the President of Northern Nutgrowers Association. Additional seed and guidance came from both Bill Cullina of Morris Arboretum and Dr. Sandra Aganostakis from Lockwood Farm in Hamden, CT. All chestnut saplings have been planted or given to friends to date. In this spirit, there will be a raffle of three chestnut saplings donated by April on December 8th; don't forget to place your name in the bowl at the door when signing in at our Holiday Party.

While April won't be speaking to us in person this month, there will be an opportunity for you to meet her when she participates in a chestnut hike led by Tim Corwin of the Southampton Trails Preservation Society on Saturday, December 28th. The group will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Emma Rose Elliston Park, 40 Millstone Brook Road, Southampton. All members are welcome to join the group. Text Tim Corwin at (631) 204-7821 to register.

Phyllis Burke Davis, a gracious member of our community, died on August 8th. A longtime supporter of HAH, Phyllis lived a life full of love, adventure, laughter, friendship and community. She had an amazing front yard perennial garden full of birds, bees and butterflies. In her back yard was a huge specimen Tulip tree and an amazing Peony collection that she loved to share with her friends. When you would pick a wonderful bouquet she would smile and say, "oh that's not enough, please take more"! She will be missed and fondly remembered.





HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10:00am – Noon

A Year in the Garden

A Look Back at our Successful and Less-than-Successful Efforts

One year ago, member Lois Sheinfeld wrote in her garden blog, Floragloria: “I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past” -- Thomas Jefferson. “For gardeners, the history of the past informs the dreams of the future. While we tend to throw caution to the wind when we fall in love with plants, we benefit greatly by reviewing what worked and what didn’t before investing in additions to the garden.” Lois suggested this would make a great Roundtable topic and I agree! One year later, we have the perfect opportunity to share our garden experiences and adventures during 2024. And because we gardeners are already thinking “there’s always next year,” December is the perfect time, when our gardens have been put to bed and we can look back and think about fresh starts next year. What would we do again, and what would we do differently or not at all?

Plantings that thrived are always the most joyful things to admire and remember. If they are trees, shrubs, or perennials we expect they will return next year in all their glory. If they are annuals or bulbs, then we look forward to buying or propagating even more next season. Here are some thoughts to share:

- Self-seeded annuals and perennials that grew in just the right places! Think *Verbena bonariensis*....
- Plants we grew from seeds that thrived...think *Papaver somniferum* and *Cosmos*
- Plants that attracted lots of pollinators and other beneficial insects
- The native plants we incorporated into our garden to enjoy and help the environment
- Plants that provided just the right colors, shapes, and textures
- Trees, shrubs, and perennials that provided a dazzling fall foliage display
- That shady, sunny, dry, or wet area that benefitted from just the right plant
- Those deer-defying plants that thrive in exposed spaces

There are also stories to share of added hardscaping, water features, garden furniture, planters, and ornaments.

And yes, we all experienced plants that failed to thrive or return! We’ll share those stories too.

- Damage by critters, insects, disease, soil conditions, and just plain mysterious causes
- Trees or shrubs that grew beyond their allotted spaces
- Areas once sunny became shady or vice versa

We welcome all samples/photos for show and tell. And for those who expressed interest last month, I’ll be bringing free seeds so you can do your own fall or winter sowing of *Papaver somniferum* (Opium Poppy) for a gorgeous spring display.

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

Moderated and with Photos by Pamela Harwood

Looking forward to seeing you on December 7th!



Fall Tasks and Putting the Garden to Bed for Winter

Sometimes There's a Clear Path and other Times There are Choices to be Made

By Pamela Harwood

Pruning Woody Shrubs and Trees

- Do: Pruning dead or diseased wood can be done now or at any time.
- Wait until dormancy in winter or early spring to prune summer-blooming or non-blooming, woody shrubs and trees, as pruning spurs growth, which you don't want prior to the cold of winter.
- Don't: Prune spring-blooming trees and shrubs now. Wait until after spring flowering.

Cutting Back Perennials

There is debate about whether to leave all of your plants in place over the winter to protect insect pollinators and other beneficial wildlife and to add winter interest. But there can be moderation, including:

- Leave perennials that remain upright and have attractive dried flowers and seeds for winter garden interest and to feed the birds.
- Cut back now suggestions are plants that will flop over during the winter and become matted, or mushy, and/or have powdery mildew or other bacterial or fungal diseases. Dispose of the latter.

Pull Weeds

While the ground is damp and roots are easily pulled, remove unwanted weeds & vines, and invading grass.

Clean up Vegetable Beds: Dispose of plants that are diseased, but the rest can be added to the compost.

Plant Winter and Spring-Blooming Bulbs and Perennials

Divide and Transplant

Fall is a good time because the entire plant is still visible, as are bare spaces, and the cool weather help roots establish so that come spring, the plants are ready to thrive.

"Tender" bulbs, corms, tubers can be dug up, labelled, and stored in a basement or garage over the winter.

Tropicals: If you are fortunate to have a greenhouse or sunroom, many of your tropical plants can be saved!

Fallen Leaves: keep this valuable resource on your property!

- Use a lawn mower shredder attachment & the leaves will decompose and feed the soil.
- Leaving a mat of un-shredded leaves in your garden beds can shelter rodents from natural predators like hawks, ospreys, and owls; harbor disease; and make it difficult to rake out in spring without damaging early emerging perennials like daylilies, epimediums, and sedum.
- Instead, you can rake leaves from your garden beds, shred them, add them to your compost pile, or return the shredded leaves to the garden beds as free mulch.
- Clear leaves from around the trunks of trees and shrubs, as they shelter rodents that eat the bark during the winter.

Composting: Why not start a pile with leaves or the plant materials you've just cut back or pulled up?

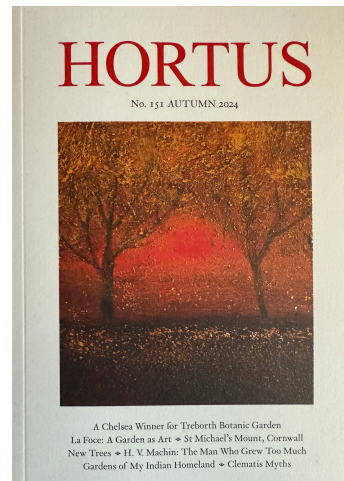
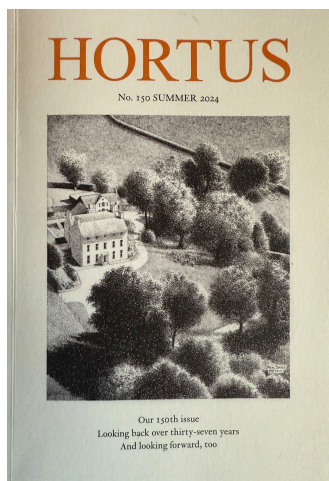
Collect and Save Seeds

Winterize Garden Equipment, Irrigation, Water Features, and Decorative Accessories

Protect Plants from Deer and other Animals during Winter

Certain evergreens that are left alone by deer and other animals during other seasons are eaten during the winter. These include some broadleaf evergreens like Azaleas, Ilex (holly), and Rhododendron. I've also had the woody branches of my Fothergilla and Callicarpa eaten. Protection can include temporary fencing like chicken wire, wrapping plants with burlap or plastic deer netting, and spraying with deer repellant.

Label or mark plants and bulbs now so that come next spring you know what's there.



HORTUS (the Garden)

Under the windows of the HAH Library, behind the upholstered armchairs, below the seductively illustrated horticultural magazines arranged alphabetically by title, and along the bottom shelf there is a row of unpretentious, white-covered booklets side-by-side by date. This is our run of HORTUS, privately published four times a year in England by proprietor, editor and gardener David Wheeler. He is also a champion of that uncommon category, the gardening journal.

Not a typical garden journal - a personal record of one's gardening life, plans, successes and failures - each issue of HORTUS contains a variety of submissions from garden writers, some familiar, English, Irish, American and more, all accomplished. Subjects include garden history, advice gently given, recollections, and the humorous. Was Wheeler's choice for his journal's name a bit of English understatement, a nod to Linnaeus who codified the realm of plants in scholarly Latin? I particularly look forward to the serialized "Digging with the Duchess" by Sam Llewellyn, the misadventures of a headstrong, perepetetic noblewoman as seen, perhaps, by her head gardener.

Do, when you have an opportunity, drop by the library, reach down for a HORTUS and get comfy in one of our upholstered chairs. In short, most of HORTUS' content reflects our own experience with a most welcome glaze.

CCS, library volunteer (and artist above)



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!

OTHER LOCAL GARDEN EVENTS DECEMBER 2024

- **Thursday, December 5, 10 am to noon. Fresh Cut Wreaths and Swags.** Landcraft Garden Foundation, 4342 Grand Avenue, Mattituck, NY 11952. \$117 for members, \$130 non-members. For more info and to register: landcraftgardenfoundation.org/upcoming-workshops/
- **Fridays December 6, 13, 20 and Saturdays December 7, 14, 21, 4:30 pm to 7:30 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: longhouse.org/products/longhouse-illuminated
- **Thursday, December 12, 2:00 pm. Garden Conservancy Virtual Program: The Serge Hill Project** with Tom and Sue Stuart-Smith. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more info and to register: gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-talk-the-serge-hill-project
- **Saturday, December 14, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Merry Madoo.** Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack, NY 11962. FREE. For more info: madoo.org
- **Saturday, December 14, 11 am to 12:30 pm. Tree Identification Walk.** Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. \$5/person suggested donation. Space is limited, reservations required. Rain cancels. For more info and to register: peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/tree-identification-walk
- **Sunday, December 8, 10 am to 11 am & 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm and Sunday, December 15, 10 am to 11 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: marders.com/events

Ancient Heirloom Seeds

Michael Longacre

Recent years have seen startlingly old seeds sprout and produce plants in several parts of the world.

- Most recently, in September of this year, a report was published about a now 14-year-old tree grown in Israel from a seed found in the 1980s by archeologists working in a cave in the Judean Desert. Radiocarbon analysis of the seed indicated it was about 1000 years old. In 2010 a decision was made to try growing the seed. It sprouted five weeks after planting and is now a 10-foot-tall tree. DNA analysis shows the tree is a member of the Commiphora genus, which myrrh and frankincense are derived from. It is "unique from all other species sampled to date." The historical trees in the area that produced those substances are known to have died out about 900-1000 years ago although there are about 200 living species in Africa, Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula. Various resins from the tree appear to likely have medicinal properties and the researchers speculate that it is the Biblical "tsori" tree used for medicines and cosmetics ("tsori" translates as "balm"). They have named the tree "Sheba."
- Lotus seeds as old as 1,300 years have been germinated by a team at UCLA. They've sprouted other lotus seeds that were 400 years old. The seeds had been preserved in a dry lake bed in China.
- In 2005, back to Israel, an ancient date palm seed, one of several found in the remains of the ancient fortress of Masada, was germinated and named Methuselah. The seeds were radiocarbon dated at 2,000 years old. As per Sheba, the species does not currently still exist. The historical date palm is known to have gone extinct in the region, around 500 AD. One explanation was the Romans killed them all to impoverish the population, but it's not clear what happened to them. The tree is male, as per the name, and was crossed with a contemporary relative to produce seeds. Since the first success with Methuselah, the team managed to grow 6 additional 2,000 year old seeds that came from Masada and the Qumran Caves, the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Last news about these trees was in 2020.
- Seeds encased in permafrost in Siberia for roughly 32,000 years were sprouted in 2012 using tissue manipulation techniques by scientists at the Russian Academy of Sciences. The plant not only grew, it flowered. Interestingly, DNA showed it's a type of plant that still grows in the Arctic, *Silene stenophylla*, although it is a distinctly different phenotype from any contemporary plant.

HAH Sunday Lecture Program - 2 pm

At the Bridgehampton Community House, Main Hall

2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY

2025

January 12	Merlin Sheldrake - <i>A Conversation with the author of 'Entangled Life'</i>
February 9	Carolyn Summers - <i>Native Plants: From the Wild to the Garden</i>
March 9	Heather Holm - <i>Native Predatory Wasps - Their Role as Pollinators and Beneficial Insects</i>
April 13	Sam Hoadley - <i>Knockout Natives</i>
May 4	Beronda Montgomery – <i>Lessons from Plants on Human Thriving</i>
June 8	Noel Kingsbury – <i>Planting Wild Style Gardens – What We Need to Know</i>
September 7	Nick McCullough – <i>American Roots</i>
October 19	Katherine H. Kerin – <i>Innisfree: Lessons in Slow Gardening</i>
November 9	Signe Nielsen – <i>Little Island: More than Meets the Eye</i>
December 14	Stephen Searl - <i>Sylvester Manor: Past, Present and Future</i>

New Moon 🌑 Dec.1 morning

First quarter Moon 🌒 Dec. 8 morning

Full Moon 🌕 Dec. 15 morning

Last Quarter Moon 🌘 Dec 22 evening

New Moon Dec. 30 🌑 evening



100% Recycled
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