HAH Happenings
April 2017

The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons
631.537.2223 hahgarden.org
P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202
at the Bridgehampton Community House

HAH Monthly Lecture - Sunday, April 9, 2017 - 2 pm

Lawn Alternatives:
Creating a Successful Groundcover

Larry Weaner has been creating award-winning native landscapes since 1977, and has a national reputation for combining expertise in horticulture, ecological restoration, and design. His work at public facilities and private residences through the eastern U.S. has received numerous recognitions and been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Garden Design, Landscape Architecture Magazine, and American Gardener, among other publications, and been included on tours with The Garden Conservancy and the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Larry is an active guest lecturer and instructor for horticultural and environmental organizations throughout the U.S. and in 1990 he developed New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL), an educational programming series with a national following. He recently coauthored Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change (Timber Press, 2016).

SAVE THE DATES
HAH ANNUAL PREVIEW PARTY AND GARDEN FAIR
FRIDAY MAY 19 - 6-8 PM SATURDAY, MAY 20 - 9 AM - 1 PM

HAH APRIL CALENDAR
Saturday, April 1, 10 am - Roundtable, in the HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 2.
Sunday, April 9, 2 pm, Monthly Lecture at the main hall of the Bridgehampton Community Center, see above.
Monday, April 10, 10 am FOG, Friends of the Garden first meeting of the season, see p. 2.
Saturday, April 22, 10 am - Camellia Friends, in the HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 3.
Tuesday, May 9, Tour to NYBG, see insert
PRE-SALE ORDER ANNUALS NOW - SEE INSERT INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER!!
“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.”
Margaret Atwood

One more month until the HAH Preview Party and Plant sale and I cannot wait! It’s difficult to keep up with all of the many behind the scenes activities taking place, but here are a few: Trips to New England to procure some unusual plant material, plants being dug from members’ gardens, walks through the greenhouses and fields of local growers to see what is new and exciting, vegetable starts being reviewed, auction planter donations being secured, and very importantly, volunteers signing up! If you haven’t signed up for a volunteer spot, please contact Jeffrey Glick at jeffreyglickmd@gmail.com. If you have plants you would like to donate as a member dig, please contact Bettina Benson at HAHMember@optonline.net. Finally, don’t forget to send back your RSVP to the first and most fabulous social event of the Hamptons gardening season, the May 19th Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons Preview Party!

See you in the garden,

Janet
Camellia Friends

Our Spring meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at the HAH LoGerfo library at 10 am. All are invited to attend and hopefully we will have some blooms to display. Your experiences and questions about camellias are encouraged. Novice or expert, collector or curious, please feel free to join our discussion.

Bridget DeCandido

Library Footnotes  April 2017

Susan Kennedy Zeller

Since we had a taste of beautiful weather I bet everyone’s mind is churning over ideas for what you want to do with CONTAINERS this season! Of course…the easiest way to have inventive containers is to bid on those we shall have for the HAH Plant Benefit May 19 – Friday evening (mark your calendars.) BUT if you need ideas to refresh your older pots with some of the wonderful Plant Sale choices, then here are suggestions of great authors available from our HAH Library. You may check out the book or peruse on the spot and copy a page or two on the Xerox machine! And don't forget to start your planning by placing a Presale Order for special priced annuals from the order blank in this newsletter!

No-nonsense Container Gardening, Christine Walkso. A primer for the starting gardener with flowers and herbs into pots with unusual ideas. Especially for beginners but also old hands.

The Vegetable Gardener’s Container Bible, Edward C. Smith. Who says veggies cannot be used in pots! Not this author. Here is a plethora of juicy ideas.

Gardens to Go, Sidney Eddisen. A former speaker at HAH shows how containers can be perfected for the fun of it and you can re-use them over and over again with a different look each season.

The Outdoor Gardener, Rupert Golby. OK…even his name suggests more formal presentations so this British sounding tome is full of ideas and diagrams of how to achieve that Downton Abbey effect.

The Ultimate Container Garden by Stephanie Donaldson shows step by step how to construct your container from potting soils to finish presentation.

The Container Gardener, Kenneth Beckett, David Carr and David Steves. Comprehensive information on where to locate containers, control pests, start from root divisions, and more.

The New Terrarium, Tovah Martin- Another speaker for HAH, this is for the gardener who has small spaces and wants a focal point.

The Encyclopedia of Container Plants, Ray Rogers. OK…I include this as I can spell encyclopedia if I sing the Walt Disney Mickey Mouse Club song….BUT it does have a huge listing of what works well in pots and what the plants require…different needs from when in the ground.

GARDEN BOOKS DONATIONS: If you have clean, in good condition, garden books you would like to donate to HAH you may bring them to the Library on the following dates: Saturday April 8 morning: After the lecture Sunday April 9: Saturday April 15 morning,: Saturday April 29 morning. These can be tax deductible for you. We are happy to give you the donation form.
Pamela Harwood

Thank you to the many who attended this next-to-last session of the season, and for the great questions and input. We had three topics. The more articles I read on the first two subjects the more I learned about chewing, gnawing, sucking, excreting, and slimy residues. I learned even more from our attendees. So now that I’m totally creeped out, I would like to say that the conventional wisdom seems to be that prevention is the best cure. If that is not all together possible, then there are organic controls that you can use so that you don’t “throw the baby out with the bathwater.” I’m glad to say that the session ended with the sharing of lovely photographs of late-winter flowers.…

ORGANIC CONTROL OF INSECT AND ANIMAL PESTS AND FUNGAL DISEASES

1) Healthy Soil*

- A healthy soil will promote healthy plants, which are more disease-and pest-resistant. The best way to know the components of your soil is to take a soil test either yourself or through Cornell Cooperative Extension in Riverhead. The right pH for each plant will allow the nutrients in your soil to be absorbed by that plant. Nutrient-rich soil includes the right levels of minerals, water, air, microorganisms, beneficial insects, and organic matter. Good soil will not only provide nutrients but also adequate moisture retention and good drainage.

- Apply compost and mulch (preferably your own – see recent newsletters for how to make your own compost and leaf mulch, or use pine needles) to enrich and correct your soil. Since plants use up the nutrients in the soil to grow and flower, adding compost and mulch replenishes the soil.

- Use fertilizer sparingly: even organic ones can contain salts which kill microorganisms, including the beneficial ones, but sometimes plants, especially flowering ones, need extra nutrients.

2) Promote Beneficial (or Predator) Insects and Organisms that Feed on Insect Pests*

- Beneficials include praying mantids, ladybird beetles (ladybugs), lacewings, while the enemies to target include mites, aphids, scale, mealy bugs, and leafhoppers. The eggs of these insects often overwinter on the ground or on your plants, while others overwinter as adults in your garden debris. One attendee asked if debris gathered in fall should therefore be added to the compost pile or thrown out. I believe it’s partly a matter of proximity: if the pests are away from their host plant, they can’t jump right back on when the weather warms in spring. And you do want material to add to the compost, but not diseased material.

- Create favorable conditions. Plant diversity and various microclimates like moist areas, shady areas, protective nooks and crannies attract insects. Besides prey on which to feed, beneficials—at various stages of their development—need nectar and pollen from, for instance, single-flowered blooms in the daisy family like Echinacea (purple coneflower); the carrot family (such as dill and parsley), Achillea (yarrow), Tanacetum parthenium (feverfew), Coriandrum sativum (cilantro). Spray even organic pesticides sparingly, as they may kill the beneficials as well as pests. Some kill more beneficials than pests, leaving the pests to thrive.

3) Organic Pest Controls

Insects

Spray aphids away from the plant using a strong jet of water - they probably won’t be able to climb back onto the plant. Hand-pick beetles, crush them, or drop in soapy water or beer to drown them. Horticultural oils suffocate eggs, larvae, and soft-bodied insects. As one attendee pointed out, diluted castile soap that contains essential oil of peppermint or lavender is also effective. Japanese beetles: apply milky spore to the ground. Scale: spray with horticultural or dormant oil. Attract birds to feed on insects: make sure your garden has enough water sources, plant varieties, and evergreen shelter to make them feel at home. Grubs are the larval stage of beetles: apply beneficial nematodes, which are ordered on the internet and arrive on sponges packed in dry ice and must be kept cold until used. Beginning of August is best, but can be applied when temperature is above 60 degrees. Organic insecticides and insecticidal soap are also effective. Since many insects appear at the beginning of spring, another method to prevent them from attacking your plants right from the start is to cover plants with fabric, sealed to the ground, attached to arching hoops. You’ll see many farmers and commercial nurseries use this method. Remove these coverings after about a month. Keeping up with your weeding will also eliminate another home where insects reside. If your plant does become infested, especially in spring, you can prune off the infested portions and dispose.

Slugs

Natural predators besides unwanted small mammals include ground beetles, snakes, toads, salamanders, and birds. Set traps for them overnight, then hand pick them (with gloves on) in the early morning as a new family activity (laugh). Leave saucers filled with beer (they are attracted by the odor of fermentation) at night so they will drown. They are soft-bodied, so don’t like barriers of crushed eggshells, diatomaceous earth, wood ashes. Prevention: eliminate dark, moist, and large-chip mulch hiding places.

Moles and Voles

Moles are not considered rodents. According to Horticulture magazine, they are insectivores who, in one day, can consume their weight in grubs (the larval stage of beetles), insects, and worms. They burrow tunnels to search for food (the bright side is that these tunnels do aerate the soil and improve water penetration; the downside is that the tunnels disrupt plants and are colonized by weeds) and, if you decrease your population of grubs, then moles will not be as attracted to your property. The biological control of grubs is beneficial nematodes. As they are live organisms, they are
not available in nurseries but are purchased on the internet. We discussed how to apply these to your lawn and
garden beds, but space prevents me from doing so in this newsletter. So make sure to follow package directions very
carefully. Castor oil-based sprays are also an effective control if sprayed onto a pre-watered ground for better
penetration. Use 6 oz. of castor oil, 2 tbsps of liquid detergent, and one gallon of water, spraying one oz. per 300 sf of
turf.

Voles are smaller and use the tunnels already built by the moles to feed on the roots and bark of plant material. So if
you don’t have grubs to attract moles, then you will not attract the voles. If you have them, one method to reduce their
numbers, that doesn’t hurt the environment or other wildlife, is to set spring traps baited with apple slices at the
entrance to the tunnels. This also works for mice and chipmunks. These rodents also find protection from predators
under thick layers of mulch, so keep your mulch layer thin during the winter.

4) Controlling Fungal and Bacterial Diseases (powdery mildew, downy mildew, black spot, rust)

Good garden hygiene: in fall remove debris from underneath and around diseased plants like roses, squash family,
phlox, etc. so that fungal spores and bacteria do not overwinter. Moisture on leaves promotes fungal diseases. Drip
irrigation that gets water directly to the soil above the roots rather than on the leaves is suggested, but I for one move
my plants around too much to use this system. When using overhead automatic irrigation, set the timer for very early
morning so that the sun dries the leaves by late morning. Never water in the afternoon or evening. When using a
hand-held hose or watering can, aim for the roots, not the leaves. Choose disease-resistant varieties. Choose the
right location in your garden—good air circulation, good drainage, and sun if required are essential. Some insects like
leafhoppers can spread viral diseases to your plant, so minimizing insect pests can also lessen the likelihood of
disease.

WINTER-BLOOMING PERENNIALS AND SHRUBS (*= deer resistant generally speaking )

• Bulbs - crocus, galanthus* (snowdrops)
• Camellia sasanqua (winter camellia) - needs protected location, facing east or north, zones 7-9
• Chaenomeles* speciosa or hybrids (flowering quince) hardy to zone 4
• Chimonanthus praecox* "Concolor" (wintersweet) zones 6-9, fragrant, 12 ft H, lemon yellow blooms, full sun
• Corylopsis pauciflora* (buttercup winter hazel) – dappled shade, moist, slightly acidic soil, 4-6 ft H
• Cyclamen coum and cvs* (hardy cyclamen), zones 5-9, part to full shade, fertile soil (but dry in summer), low but
  wide
• Daphne odora* (winter daphne)
• Edgeworthia chrysantha (paperbush) fragrant blooms in February-March before leaves develop
• Erica carnea* (winter heath) blooms January-March,
• Hamamelis* (witch hazel)- 8-12 ft H, zones 5-9, full to part sun, moist and fertile soil
• Helleborus* foetidus, niger, and orientalis (Lenten rose) –part shade; moist, neutral to slightly alkaline soil high in
  organic matter
• Jasminum nudiflorum* (winter jasmine)-yellow blooms, zones 6-9, 9 ft H, full to light sun,
• Lindera benzoin* (native spicebush)-yellow, fragrant blooms
• Lonicera fragrantissima* (winter honeysuckle)- creamy, fragrant blooms, 6-8 ft H
• Mahonia bealei* (leatherleaf mahonia)
• Ranunculus* spp and cvs (winter aconite)- zones 4-9, yellow blooms, moist soil under deciduous trees
• Salix caprea (pussy willow) fuzzy catkins, can be cut to the ground each year
• Skimmia japonica* (the males, although they do not fruit, have larger, dusty-rose flowers from fall throughout
  winter)

Although we did speak at length about Growing Roses on the East End, we decided to extend the discussion to
the next Roundtable.

OUR FINAL HAH ROUNDTABLE OF THE 2016-2017 SEASON WILL BE APRIL 1ST (NO FOOLING!) 10am – Noon.
THE TOPIC WILL BE:
• AN ADVANCE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PLANTS THAT WILL BE FOR SALE AT THE HAH GARDEN FAIR
  IN MAY.* Come learn about the plant varieties that will be available so that you can make sure you buy the
  right plant for the right location in your garden, and don’t miss out on garden treasures. *Subject to

Spring! Glorious Spring!
Our Garden Fair in its exciting new location at the Bridgehampton Community House is almost here and a
wonderful selection of Annuals from our prized purveyors, Landcraft Environments and Beds and Borders, has
been carefully chosen to grace your gardens and containers.
Hummingbird magnets to consider are Agastache, Cuphea, Salvia and Nicotiana. And, of course, we have also
included treasured gems such as Coleus, Fuchsia, Verbena, Lantana and deer resistant Penta.
Our wonderful volunteers will be on hand to assist. We look forward to seeing you!

See you at the Fair!

Marie DiMonte
THE HAH ANNUAL PLANT FAIR will be at a new location - inside and outside - at the Bridgehampton Community House

SATURDAY, MAY 20th  9 AM - 1 PM

OUR ANNUAL PREVIEW PARTY FUND RAISER WILL BE ON FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 19th   6 - 8 PM

Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs, Trees, Roses, Natives, Veggie seedlings - for sale

Amazing SILENT AUCTION of container plantings on Friday evening
plus a 50/50 Raffle - so you can win money to buy more plants!!

PLANT DONATIONS FOR THE FAIR

One of the most important contributions you can make is a donation of potted plant material from your own gardens, labeled correctly. Here are some easy guidelines:

Containers – clean clay or plastic, 1 qt. minimum
Potting – complete potting at least two weeks prior to sale so plants can acclimate. Make sure there is a strong root system to support the plant.
Label – make one label for each variety of plant you bring. We will make more labels on the day of the Fair if necessary. Include the botanical and common names along with the cultivar, growing conditions, mature plant size, and bloom time and color and if deer resistant.
Care – Protect your newly potted plants from sun and wind and be sure they do not dry out. Always ask yourself if you would buy these plants yourself or give them as gifts!
Please bring them to the Fair site on Thursday or Friday morning. THANK YOU!!

PLEASE……..VOLUNTEER!

Plant Digs from members’ gardens are an extremely important part of our PLANT FAIR! All proceeds are pure profit for our programs. If you would like to host a dig at your garden, or help with digging and potting at a host garden, or plant-sit dug plants until the Fair - please contact: Bettina Benson at bbettina@optonline.net or at 631.728.1981

If you would like to volunteer at the Preview Party on Friday night or at the Saturday Sale OR help with set up on Thursday or Friday mornings or take down on Saturday afternoon please contact our volunteer chair Jeffrey Glick at jeffreyglickmd@gmail.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS YEAR’S GARDEN FAIR ANOTHER GRAND SUCCESS FOR HAH. AND YOU WILL ENJOY THE FUN OF HELPING OUT WITH OTHERS!
Musings & Ramblings

Resurrection

George Biercuk

The garden is resurrecting and I use that term pointedly. I’m sure that you noticed, as we entered the new year, the “mummy” shrouding of shrubbery accelerating at a dizzying pace. One moment there was a landscape clothed in myriad forms, shapes and colors of evergreen foliage and that of a deciduous nature. The next, a sea of beige burlap mimicking the general outline of the “corpses”. Truth be told most of the guys are excellent seamsters. Did you ever look at how they so artistically sewed the shroud? Everything was nice and taut, no wrinkles or slack. All the branches, limbs and foliage carefully (one hopes) tucked into the shroud. Where once a row of a hedge was shielded in a single shroud now each and every plant was lovingly encased. Kaa-ching!

Most of what is being shrouded now is unnecessary. It seems to have started with Buxus hedges that are prone to splaying under the weight of heavy snow. As a rule the plants are winter hardy here (some newer cultivars might be a little more prone to winter burn or turning golden) so the protection is mainly to maintain their shape. The good old fashion winter we experienced a few years ago that devastated the macrophylla hydrangeas appears to be the tipping point that today is fueling this craze locally. You don’t find this happening elsewhere.

A couple years ago when I saw my first shrouding of a privet hedge I knew we had entered a new level of “keeping-up-with”. To some, perhaps seeing these totems on estates of the anointed, then surely this is something to be emulated. Not. Protecting from deer and roadside salt spray is understandable but to wrap, almost willy nilly, plant material that historically has successfully withstood “old fashion” winters seems to be nothing more than an attempt at upward stock manipulation of burlap manufactures. Kaa-ching! Get in now before others connect the dots.

I can see taking this trend to another level. What if landscape burlap were to be manufactured in colors. Imagine the creative possibilities. Most of the “burlapers” hail from regions that favor BRIGHT colors. Just think how the (to many) dreary colorless (?) winter landscape could be transformed (for them) into a festive tableau. Those luscious, hot tropical colors heating up our optic brain centers when it’s 15° outside could help assuage the winter doldrums until, maybe, we reach subtropical conditions.

Orange. Yellow. Purple. Red. Lime Green. Violet. Blue. Pink. Myriad shades in-between. Whatever the manufacturers wanted to produce. Psychologically we would move through a landscape that could transport us to the tropics, thus helping to camouflage the receding reality of our most recent northern hemisphere’s ancestral evolution in and to cold. Back to today. Think what a boost this would be for the local economy. No longer would we have a snow bird population (sorry Florida you’re eventually going to be underwater anyway) that abandons our environs causing the local economy to go into hibernation when the calendar advanced to the new year. Eventually the roads, then pothole free due to the absence of real freezing, would allow us to creep along with our fellow Hamptonites and others twelve months of the year. The upside no pothole flats. Downside-duh!

By then we’d have to radically change our plant pallet. Members of East Coast plant families adapted to current southern climes would most likely do well in our newly remaining above seawater landscape. Since the melting of the glaciers which dramatically pressed down on the interior of the North American continent, subsequently uplifting the continent’s edge, now melted, resulting in interior uplifting and accelerating coastal subsidence and erosion, the worst confluence of conditions possible has occurred. We’ll have progressively less real estate for gardening, but what the heck. Remember we (Long Island) are SO geologically young that we couldn’t possibly register with Gaia. We have no more permanence than what is referred to as a zit- a momentary cosmetic irritant soon to be forgotten, hopefully.

Perhaps this is why we are embracing the enshrouding/encasing of our landscapes? The illusion of preservation future-ward? Odd since our collective attention span is largely strained by a thirty minute commercial laden sitcom.

Well back to the now moment. The wondrous array of leaf shapes, textures, winter coloration, as well as natural forms and soon to be emerging colorful new growth will begin to explode in our surroundings. The unshrouding of the mummies will add immensely to our appreciation of the landscape’s resurrection. The beige blight will be banished, at least for a while.

To Spring’s munificence and magnificence. Enjoy.
**HAH 2017 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM - BH Community House**

**April 9** - Larry Weaner - *Lawn Alternatives: Creating a Successful Groundcover*

**May 7** - Ruth Rogers Clausen - *Essential Deer Resistant Perennials for Outstanding Gardens*

**June 11** - Edwina von Gal - *Perfect Earth Project*

**no lectures in July & August**

**September 10** - Daryl Beyers - *Fabulous Fall & Winter Containers*

**October 15** - Panel Discussion – Putting Your Garden to Bed for Winter - Elizabeth Lear, Peter Bertrand, R.B. Boyle, Paul Wagner

**November 12** – Ellen Ecker Ogden – *The Complete Kitchen Garden*

**December 10** – Jan Johnsen – *Serenity by Design*

All lectures are free to members, $10 for not-yet-members. Memberships start at $45.

**LOCAL GARDEN EVENTS**

**Spring 2017**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22,** 2 - 5 PM, Garden Club of Shelter Island, judged Daffodil Show, $10, Quinipet Camp, 99 Shore Rd. SI, more info at 631-278-3202, 631-749-0229

BRIDGE GARDENS, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, 631.283.3195 ext 19 or email to events@peconiclandtrust.org

Tuesdays, 2:30 - 5 - Lawn Care Expert Advice, Paul Wagner of Greener Pastures Organics

Saturday, April 29, Organic Rose Care, Step 1, 10 am - 1 pm. Reserve please. $5 pp, free to BG members.

LONGHOUSE RESERVE, 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937 (631) 329-3568

Saturday, April 15, 1 pm - 3:30 pm - Springing to Life: Horticulturist’s Tour of LongHouse Reserve, $10 pp, members free. 25 person limit.

Saturday, April 29, 2 - 5 pm - Rites of Spring, Season Opening

MADOOS, 618 Sagg Main St, Sagaponack. www.madoo.org 631-537-0082 - Opening May 15


Sundays, 10 am - Free Garden Lectures. 4/23- Irrigation, 4/30 Yum Yum Gardening

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Open Minded Organics, Mushroom Cultivation Class, space limited. For registration contact David Falkowski, 631-255-0990, dave@openmindedorganics.com