



# HAHappenings



## January 2016



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

### HAH MONTHLY LECTURE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016 - 2 pm

#### Landscape Thoughts and Current Work

**Deborah Nevins** is the president of Deborah Nevins & Associates, the New York-based landscape design firm she founded in 1991. Her firm's current work includes the 40-acre Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center and Park in Athens, a collaboration with the Renzo Piano Building Workshop, and the expansion of the campus of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The firm's extensive residential work includes significant gardens and estates around the United States, the Caribbean, and Europe. Nevins's work is noted for exciting visual experiences, a sophisticated use of plants, and a dedication to sustainability. A historian of landscape and architecture, Nevins lectures often and her writing has appeared in numerous books, journals, and periodicals.



#### WINTER CALENDAR AT HAH

- SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 - BOOK GROUP - 11 am
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - LECTURE - 2 pm upstairs hall
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 - ROUNDTABLE - 10 am
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 - 10 am  
WORKSHOP/HUPERTUFA (see p. 7 to register now)
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 - 10 am  
WORKSHOP/SOCIAL MEDIA 101 (see p. 2 for details)
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 - BOOK GROUP - 11 am
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - LECTURE - 2 pm upstairs hall
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - ROUNDTABLE - 10 am
- SATURDAY, MARCH 5 - BOOK GROUP - 11 am
- SUNDAY, MARCH 13 - LECTURE - 2 pm upstairs hall

#### BOOK GROUP - 11 AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

Susan Kennedy Zeller :

Listening to Stone, Dan Snow

Jay Hunt:

A Small Farm in Maine, Terry Silver

Carolyn Gemake:

My Favorite Plant, Jamaica Kincaid



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Warm greetings for the New Year and a happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons!

As we settle into the quieter rhythms of winter, I am thinking about the origins of HAH. From two friends talking over a fence, discussing how gardeners share information, HAH has grown to more than 350 members with an office/ library and a newly updated website.

While gardening can be a solitary activity, I have found that being a gardener is quite the opposite. HAH is based on that principle. The gardeners of HAH graciously share plants, seed and information. We read books and discuss them with other gardeners at our winter book club. HAH members bring knowledge and questions to roundtables. We share food after our monthly lecture series. We foster a greater understanding of horticulture within our membership and within our greater community. I am so very proud of what we accomplish through the HAH and I hope to share that enthusiasm with all of you during my tenure as your President.

“There are no happier folks than plant lovers and none more generous than those who garden”  
Ernest Wilson

Happy New Year!

Janet

## HAH 2016

### OFFICERS

President	Janet Donohoe Ollinger
First Vice President	Pamela Harwood
Second Vice President	Marie DiMonte
Recording Secretary	Susan Brackett
Corresponding Secretary	Patricia Wood
Treasurer	Bettina Benson

### DIRECTORS

Terry Coppola	2016
Rick Bogusch	2016
Alicia Whitaker	2017
Greg Wiseman	2017
Elaine Peterson	2018
Mary Maran	2018

### LIBRARY CHAIR

Susan Kennedy Zeller

### NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE EDITOR

Elaine Peterson  
[hahmember@optonline.net](mailto:hahmember@optonline.net)

Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please include NL in the subject line.

### MAILING

John Benson

### PHOTOS

Bettina Benson, George Biercuk, Elaine Peterson, Pamela Harwood

## SOCIAL MEDIA 101!

Social Media is important and we need to know more about it so we can represent HAH effectively and have another fun way to waste time on the Internet! Seriously, there's great gardening information out there. Please join Alicia Whitaker and Janet Donohoe Ollinger for a morning of exploring Facebook, Instagram and other interesting blogs, podcasts and apps. This is a basic 101 course. Bring your fully charged I-pad, I-phone or Android device to fully participate or feel free to just sit in and listen to the jargon. We'll be sharing ideas about interesting people and organizations to "follow" as well as learning how to upload our own photos and comments.

When: Saturday January 30th at 10:00 am

(Check the phone recording at the office if the weather is miserable or dangerous.)

Where: The LoGerfo Library

# HAH Library Footnotes

January 2016- Susan Kennedy Zeller

**Winter Library:** Ah! In addition to visiting for the Book Talks the first Saturday of each winter month check out the successful Roundtable discussions on the third Saturdays. All Saturdays are perfect times to browse the Library for the supplemental reading from both of these happenings! For instance...roundtable on Winter Gardens...here are some selections.

Wonders of the Winter Landscape by Vincent Simeone. A recent speaker at HAH from Long Island, his books are always informative, particularly for our region.

Flowers for All Seasons by Jane Parker. Elucidates what to do when you bring the plants indoors and how to do numerous winter garlands, arrangements and pots to brighten your spaces.

A Year in the Garden by Stephen Bradley. A step-by-step guide to vital gardening projects throughout the entire year.

The Overlook Guide to Winter Gardens by Sonia Kinanan. Relates developing the winter garden over 25 years. Although published in 1985, in this case the older advice stands the test of time!

**Book Discussion Group:** Mark your calendar for the **DO NOT READ THIS BOOK** talk on January 2. Yours truly shall be reviewing the works of Dan Snow, one of our upcoming speakers for 2015. I not only love his stone works, his writing is lyrical and a complete pleasure to savor. Remember- Each presenter will be doing the reading for everyone so no need to prepare anything. Just come, relax, bring your own coffee, tea or whatever and munch a cookie or two we provide and enjoy your morning. Carolyn Gemake is Moderator so if you would like to be a presenter just call our office number - 631-537-2223- and leave your contact information.

**Library Opening Hours: Winter.** Every Saturday (except the Saturdays after Thanksgiving and Christmas) from 10 AM to noon and after our Sunday Lectures. As an extra convenience we are also open most Tuesdays 10-12! If you need a special time just give us a call at 631- 537-2223.



**Nov. 21st - Fresh Greens Tree Workshop**

## HAH Member Questionnaire

**We'd like to know:**

**Workshops:**

- What kind of workshop would you be interested in participating in next year:
  - How to?
  - Hand's on?
  - Specific Subject?
  - Craft?

**Travel:**

- Where would you like to visit in 2016?
  - Duration of trip – day, over-night, two nights?
  - Botanical gardens?
  - Private gardens?
  - Please send your replies to Bettina Benson, P. O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932 or email her at [bbettina@optonline.net](mailto:bbettina@optonline.net)

## HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 21, 2015

### GROWING FRUIT TREES AND SHRUBS

By Pamela Harwood

With the increased interest in growing our own food, whether it's done on one's own property or with the several co-ops or allotments that are in our area, this seemed like a good Roundtable topic. We were very fortunate to have on hand two HAH members who have a great deal of expertise on this subject, Richard Wines of Winds Way in Jamesport, NY and Dr. Jay Hunt of Southampton. The 10am session opened on a delicious note when Jay told the group that he had woken early that morning, and with the late-varieties fallen from his trees, he had baked two apple pies for the group. Now that's a way to make friends and enliven attendees!

Also attending were Carolyn Gemake, Bettina Benson, George Biercuk, Dozie Sheahan, Marie DiMonte, Mary Petrie, Susan Brackett, Maureen Ryan, Joan DiMonda, and myself.

#### FRUIT TREES:

**Best apple varieties for our area:** The primary topic of the day was about apple trees, as that is the focus of both Jay and Richard. As there is a reciprocal disease with the East End's native Eastern Red Cedars (called apple-cedar rust), it is necessary to find disease-resistant varieties. It's also a good idea to plant early- and late-ripening varieties to extend the season. These include Enterprise, Esopus Spitzenberg, Liberty, Arkansas Black (which starts out sour but gets better after being stored for a while), Gold Rush, Matsu, Golden Russet, and Pippin. If the apples can be refrigerated for 5 days after ripening, they can last for most of the winter in an unheated garage.

Both Jay and Richard brought examples of apple varieties that they grow, but one of the most interesting parts of the session was when one of the other attendees brought several examples of a green variety that, although they appeared insect or worm-damaged on the outside skin, when sliced open the flesh was perfect.

#### **Other fruit trees:**

**Pears:** are more disease-free in general, but there is a shorter time between ripeness and over ripeness. They usually fall off the tree before they are ripe, and then must be stored until ripe.

**Plums:** Jay indicated that Japanese plums are susceptible to disease in our area.

**Peaches and Figs:** our attendees did not have any experience growing these. But I can share an anecdote about former neighbor of mine in Bridgehampton who planted a peach pit, and by the time I moved into my home in 1991 he had a mature tree bearing delicious fruit. He also had vigorous apple and pear trees as well as blueberry bushes. I might also add that he was raised in Italy, and as we noted in an earlier Roundtable when one person asked how to protect fig trees for the winter, we concluded that it helped to be Italian. Is this politically incorrect if the opinion connotes praise? I think not.

#### **Choosing Plant Sites:**

Richard notes that the most important factor is that your fruit trees get full sun, which is considered to be at least 6 hours per day, although it helps for them to have more if possible. He also advised that one shouldn't worry about the soil, since our East End soils usually have very good drainage. But you should be sure not to plant the trees too close together-give them space to mature and have good air circulation.



**Espaliered Pear**

#### MAINTAINING VIGOR AND PRODUCTIVITY:

**Pruning:** Properly done pruning is an important part of growing fruit trees, as most flowers and subsequent fruit grow on last season's new growth. One also prunes to establish the best shape, and this should begin the first year after you have planted your small, young tree and be kept up each year, especially the first 3 years. You can establish one strong vertical leader or you can have several leaders, but choose a shape and continue to encourage it. Always make sure, no matter what time of year, to prune off dead branches (as these can invite disease and insects), upward-growing branches, which are also called water sprouts, as these are not productive and can decrease sun and air circulation.

**Pollination:** It is also important to ask the grower if a specific pollinator is needed for the varieties they are selling, but apples do best in general if more than one is blooming at the same time.

### **Disease Prevention and Treatment:**

The advice given above of choosing the most disease-resistant varieties is the best way to avoid diseased fruit trees. But since we do reside where there is a lot of summer humidity, as well as moisture from our coastal proximity, there are several organic (non-synthetic) chemicals that can be used. As its name implies, dormant oil should be sprayed when the tree is dormant, but not when temps are below 40 degrees, to coat the limbs and thereby prevent rain and humidity from causing fungal diseases. The oil also suffocates insects and their larvae. When the trees are just coming out of dormancy you can spray with what is called horticultural oil, which is simply a lighter formula.

Joan DiMonda noted that if the plants are more than 25 feet away from the water, she believes that the salt spray does not harm them. The salt may also help to control bacterial disease.

You can also use a variety of fungicides. A good time to spray with these is in spring when the buds get plump and green. Gardeners should learn to recognize the difference between flower buds and leaf buds. The former are rounder and the latter are pointier. As soon as the flowers drop you can spray with Bonide's Captan. As described on their website, it's a "multipurpose fungicide for ornamentals and fruits. Controls damping-off, powdery mildew, botrytis blossom blight, anthracnose, rust, brown rots, early blight and late blight on various plants." Another is spray is called Imidan, which is described as "an organic phosphate chemical" on the website of Missouri State University.

### **FRUIT SHRUBS**

#### **Blueberries:**

These are the most popular. There are still wild, low-bush blueberries in the Hamptons, especially where the soil is the most acidic and there are bogs. Most gardeners grow the Highbush varieties, which have larger fruit.

Like all fruit trees and shrubs they like full sun, but require a moist soil. Sometimes these two requirements are difficult to achieve in the same place. But I have found that my blueberry shrubs benefit from being surrounded by the shallow-rooted groundcover of Myosotis, or Forget-me-Not, which keeps the blueberry roots moist and shaded.

One of the important things to remember about all fruit shrubs is that we are competing with the birds to get to the ripened fruits first. Therefore, many gardeners put netting around the shrub, as one sees with the commercial growers of grape vines. When a group of us went on the HAH North Fork tour last summer and visited the property of Richard and his wife Nancy, we noted that their blueberries are protected not with netting, but by being in homemade cages. This prevents the birds from poking through and tearing the netting.

#### **Raspberries, Blackberries, Elderberries:**

It was noted that there are now thornless varieties. Red currants can tolerate some shade. Some said that elderberries seem to be failing in our area, but no one knew why.

#### **Other noteworthy observations:**

- For a future newsletter, I will be sure to get Jay Hunt's apple pie recipe.
- Grilled apples are delicious with pork chops
- Wolffer Estate produces and sells hard apple cider
- Miller and Stark is a good mail order supplier
- A.M. Leonard makes terrific hand weeders

## **HAH ROUNDTABLE - JANUARY 16 - 10 AM**

Our January Roundtable will take place on Saturday, January 16th, 2016, 10am-noon and will focus on "**The Shade Garden.**" Whether your garden is carved out of a woodland location or you just have many trees that have shaded out all or part of your garden, this is a topic of great interest. We'll cover plants that thrive in deep shade and part shade, including those that are deer-resistant, are prized for foliage color, texture, or size as well as flowering plants for the shade. Our attendees are sure to come up with the tried and true as well as unusual selections.

## Musings & Ramblings - The New Hotter Norm

George Biercuk

November proved to be a HEAT record breaker for planet Earth with the year globally tracking to be the hottest since records have been kept. This is proving to have a profound effect on our garden. When rain started to become scarce beginning in April (at the end of November we were 8.77 inches below normal) we had to begin irrigating by early May and only stopped when the system was shut down in late November. With some drought stressed trees initiating leaf drop as early as late August we thought that Autumn would be characterized by the ground being heavily covered with dull colored foliage by mid/late October at the latest. Boy were we wrong. Perhaps the combination of the rains on 9/30 and 10/2-3 (two inches each event), another half inch on 10/9 and the mid-October spotty freeze “saved” Autumn for us in the most spectacular way. Without any doubt the intensity of the foliar color was the richest it has been in many many years and the foliar biomass that remained in the trees was astounding. Considering the depth of the stress that the trees were under all this past growing season it was amazing to see the volume of individual oak leaves that were gargantuanly oversized. All those leaves eventually had to leave home and set out on the next step of their life’s journey, that of becoming leaf mold that will nourish their plant communities.

The confluence of effects that resulted from the record warmth (late leaf drop and the garden’s continued vibrancy) made for a long, drawn out and tedious leaf gathering /grinding/stockpiling season. Not only did the annuals continue to flourish until the freeze of 11/22-23 ( sunpatiens ,assorted salvia, canna, cuphea, begonia, euphorbia, fuchsia) and the Encore Azaleas and Camellia “Jean May” continue to bloom, but also early blooming perennials were pushing buds as well as daffodils and snowdrops their foliage. Helleborus foetidus were in bloom by Thanksgiving. Since they have a subshrub form it was possible to work around them without causing any damage. H. orientalis were another story. Their leathery, ground hugging leaves tend to collect and hold fallen leaves which can usually be carefully raked and/or blown out. If a leaf or two or three were to break off it’s not a big deal because they get cut back in late March/early April in order to showcase the flowers. This year the flower stalks of quite a number of them were protruding prominently by mid-November, necessitating extremely careful and ponderously slow hand picking after the bulk of leaves were gently removed. This does not bode well for the flowers of both these cultivars since the weather prediction made late November was for above normal temps to continue until mid-January, at which time winter “is to arrive”. When this happened a number of years ago we lost most of our H. foetidus.

On Thanksgiving day I noticed the first flower open on Hamamelis “Robert”, a bit early I would say. H. “Arnold Promise” was tighter than a drum while H. “Orange Peel” was plump and fuzzy, close to opening. Worrysome was C. ”April Remembered” whose buds were beginning to show color at the tips. If the outer part of the bud continued to loosen its protective clench on the inner flower parts they could be lost to winter freezing. It would be most unfortunate if that were to happen because her soft pink double flowers in early spring are a most welcome sight. A few days later it was evident that the flower clusters on the mahonia had taken on a bright yellow coloration at the base of the clusters and were just starting to open – not a good sign. Bob pointed out that all the buds on the Daphne odora aureomarginata had popped. Also bad. Potentially we are poised to lose a lot, both floral and vegetative, by this upcoming spring though on December 6th golden pineapple sage was still in glorious bloom.

That is why the overriding concern for all gardeners this year is the absence of a proper gradual “chilling” in conjunction with a growing season drought, drought (mainly a tropical seasonal garden trigger) which locally can mimic the effects of northern shortening daylight and deepening cooling. When the early Autumn rains came many plants were cued to rebound because a trigger erroneously signaled that a new renewal season had begun, the unseasonal warmth triggering their resurgence genetics and thus they began to respond vegetatively. Most notably for us were the first year digitalis seedlings that commenced blooming at various sites without a winter rest period. Most disconcerting and problematic is that the age old cues to which life on Gaia has been attuned are now in a state of flux. It appears that we will probably to be the transitional forerunners who will know the brunt of this chaotic transition to a much warmer global climate. We will have to accept that we are going to lose many flora friends as a result of wildly undulating changes and gyrations in the local and global climate. It has been well documented that globally cold is in retreat from expanding heat. What will be the definition of a garden twenty, thirty, fifty, one hundred years from today? Will this be looked back upon as the swan song of a golden age when myriad forms of flora and fauna flourished providing sustenance both psychological and physiological?

Without a doubt this past Autumn was a foliar stunner. The oaks, which many denigrate for whatever reason I don’t understand, had the richest colors I’ve ever seen. Every deciduous plant’s foliage developed coloration of such depth and intensity that upon being viewed resulted in nothing less than cerebral euphoria. It was intoxicating! The dance between the sky’s light that flowed down through the canopy and that which rebounded from the fallen foliage created a sensory kaleidoscope that maybe can best be described as psychedelic. Who could have thought that the culmination of such a climatically challenging year would have resulted in such a glorious summation?

Forever gardening.



# HAH Workshop

## Make it Yourself Hypertufa Garden Globes

Saturday January 23, 2016

Time: 10am – Noon

**Workshop limited to 15 people - Materials Included**

Join us again for a fun workshop creating your own Hypertufa Garden Globes – this time around we will be using glass globes as the molds – two different sizes. The Hypertufa mixture is lighter than using traditional cement which will make it easier for you to pick up and move around your garden.

After creating your globes they will need one week to dry and set. Storage will be at the Community House and you will be able to pick your globe up the following Saturday.

Date: Saturday, January 23, 2016

Location: John LoGerfo Library, Bridgehampton Community House, School Street Entrance

Materials: All materials needed are included in the cost of the workshop  
Please bring your own plastic gloves and an apron

Cost: \$25 Premium Members; \$35 Members; \$45 Non-members  
**Payment must be made by January 8, 2016**

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### Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the Hypertufa Workshop on Saturday, January 23, 2016

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase tickets at:

\$25 Premium \_\_\_\_\_

\$35 Member \_\_\_\_\_

\$45 Non-member \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount included \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to HAH, P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, New York, 11932 **no later than January 1, 2016**. Attention: Workshops

Questions: Call Pat Wood at 631.537.0296, e-mail [patricia.wood@dilect.us](mailto:patricia.wood@dilect.us) or Bettina at 917.834.0228, email at [bbettina@optonline.net](mailto:bbettina@optonline.net)



## HAH 2016 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM

*January 10 - Deborah Nevins - Landscape Thoughts and Current Work*

*February 7 - Duncan Brine - Naturalistic Landscape Design: Breaking Rules on Principle*

*March 13 - Ernest Cavallo - Galanthophilia, A Good Kind of Love*

*April 10 - Dan Snow - Listening to Stone*

*May 1 - Michael Wojtech - Bark: Get to Know Your Trees*

*June 12 - Stephen Orr - The New American Herbal*

*No lectures in July & August*

*September 11 - Scott Howe - Geology, Natural History and Art: The Parrish Museum's Landscape*

*October 16 - Marta McDowell - All the Presidents' Gardens*

*November 13 - Bruce Crawford - Small Trees for the Home Landscape*

*December 11 - Dennis Schrader - Tropical Immersion: The Costa Rica Garden Designed by Dennis Schrader*

## East End Garden Events - January 2016

Public Gardens are all resting now. Visit HAH where there are lots of activities this winter. See page 1.

    **SAVE-THE-DATES**    

**HAH travels to PA - April 12 - 14. Three days and two nights visiting public and private gardens and nurseries. Horticultural Bliss! Watch for details.**



100% Recycled

January 2016

**HAH Happenings**

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(631) 537-2223  
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