HAH Happenings
March 2017

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

HAH Monthly Lecture - Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 2 pm

The Living Landscape of LongHouse Reserve

Since opening his property to the public in 1991, LongHouse Reserve in East Hampton has been Jack Larsen’s experiential case study of living a nonconformist lifestyle surrounded by art in all its forms. The marriage of art and nature is continually evolving and growing as new art and garden elements are adopted each year throughout the 16-acre museum and public garden. Working directly with founder Jack Lenor Larsen, Horticulturist Alex Feleppa will speak to the four-seasons of interest throughout the numerous garden areas, give insights into the design process, and share new additions to the ever-changing landscape.

Alex Feleppa is an Amagansett native who began in horticulture as a sales representative at Marder’s Nursery in the late 1990’s. Alex relocated to New York City where he gained his formal training from the School of Professional Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Before moving back to the east end in 2012, Alex spent close to 10 years in the horticultural nonprofit sector between the Horticultural Society of New York and the Central Park Conservancy. Passionate about the role public gardens play in people’s lives, it was his mission upon returning home to learn more about LongHouse Reserve and how he could help inspire others as he has been inspired. Alex has been an integral part of the organization’s small staff since the fall of 2014.

HAH MARCH CALENDAR

Saturday, March 4, 10:00 am Roundtable, in the HAH Library - see p. 2 for details.
Saturday, March 11, 10 am - HAH Workshop “Tick-Borne Disease-What You Need to Know”, in the HAH Library - see p. 9 for details and sign-up.
Sunday, March 12, 2:00 pm - Monthly Meeting and Lecture, “The Living Landscape of LongHouse Reserve”, Main Hall at Community House, look above for details.
Saturday, March 18, 11:00 am Book Group, in the HAH Library, see p. 2 for details.
Saturday, March 25, 1-3 pm, Workshop, “Pruning with Jackson Dodds”, see page 9 for details and sign-up. Joint with Bridge Gardens.
“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when its summer in the sun and winter in the shade.” Charles Dickens

March fills me with anticipation. I can see, feel and smell the beginnings of renewed life, of spring, but it’s still just beyond my reach! Before spring truly arrives, please take the time to attend one of our many programs. Pamela Harwood’s Roundtables are fantastic! Our workshop program is in full swing and our book group has hit its stride! Also, don’t forget to visit HAHGarden.org for wonderful content and information about HAH.

You should have received the “friends of HAH” letter in the mail. Please consider donating early to the HAH Preview Party! Your gifts allow us to continue our amazing lecture series and programming. This year’s party is going to be extra special!

See you in the garden, I’ll be the one in overalls and covered in mud!

Janet

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - THE HAH ANNUAL PREVIEW PARTY AND GARDEN FAIR
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 6-8 PM and SATURDAY, MAY 20, 9 AM -1 PM
AT THE BRIDGHAMPTON COMMUNITY HOUSE AND GROUNDS

HAH 2017

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

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE EDITOR
Elaine Peterson
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
George Biercuk, Janet Donohoe Ollinger, Elaine Peterson, Alicia Whitaker, Susan Kennedy Zeller

HAH ROUNDTABLE
Saturday, March 4 at 10 am in the Library
All are welcome.

TOPICS:
• ORGANIC CONTROL OF PESTS AND DISEASES
• WINTER-BLOOMING SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, AND BULBS
• GROWING ROSES ON THE EAST END

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

HAH WINTER BOOK REVIEW GROUP
Saturday, March 18 at 11 am in the Library.
All are welcome. The reviewers and the books they have read are:
Alicia Whitaker: The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben
Scott Sottile: All the Presidents’ Gardens by Marta McDowell
Elaine Peterson: A Curious History of Vegetables by Wolf D. Storl
Bridgehampton Community Gardening Opportunities

There are two exciting gardening experiences right in our own backyard. The Good Shepherd Farm, which is managed by HAH member Jay Hunt, is a co-operative garden located behind the Catholic Church in Bridgehampton, right across Main Street from HAH. As a group, Good Shepherd members plant, weed and tend to the one-acre plot twice a week. At harvest time, they share the bounty as well as donating a share of it to local food banks. Good Shepherd only has a couple of open spots; please reach out to Jay at jayhunt125@yahoo.com if you are interested.

The second gardening opportunity is at the community garden plots at Bridge Gardens. Members tend to their own individual plots by planning, planting, weeding, watering and enjoying a lovely harvest. This is all done under the watchful eye and assistance of Bridge Gardens’ manager, Rick Bogusch. Rick’s experience and willingness to help and share his knowledge will make even the most novice of gardeners look like a pro. Contact Rick at rbogusch@peconiclandtrust.org if you are interested in growing your own plot. These go quickly so contact him soon.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure to garden with the Good Shepherd crew and at Bridge Gardens. Both experiences have been educational and rewarding, and I highly recommend both of them!

Janet Donohoe Ollinger

HAH Email Notification

Last minute events pop up occasionally that are not received in time for our monthly Newsletter, therefore, our only option is our ‘blast emails’ to our membership. Examples include tours or event changes due to weather. If we don’t have your email address, we can’t contact you.

If you would like us to add you to our list or have not been receiving email notifications because you’ve changed your email address, you may contact us by sending an email to hahmember@optonline.net and we will add you to our list.

Please be assured that we make every effort not to inundate your in-box. In addition, we never share your email address with any other organizations. Thank you.

DO YOU KNOW A DESERVING STUDENT?

The Paul Karish Education Fund of the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons is now accepting scholarship grant applications from qualified students of horticulture and related fields (such as botany, landscape architecture, garden design, and environmental science.) Graduating high school seniors and current college level students are eligible to apply.

Additional information and application forms may be obtained on the HAH website: www.hahgarden.org under the Education tab.

Application deadline is Earth Day - April 22, 2017.

AND….IN APPRECIATION….Many thanks to all who made donations to the Karish Scholarship Fund when renewing their memberships. Contributions are accepted all year - we appreciate your participation in growing this important program.
Pamela Harwood

We had a great turnout for this session, really interesting topics, and the weather cooperated!

GREENHOUSES

I extend my thanks to Bobby Wallace and Jay Hunt for giving fantastic presentations and providing great photos of their respective structures. Both members were motivated by a wish to extend their gardening efforts into the winter: in Bobby's case to shelter tender and tropical plants and in Jay's case to germinate seeds for his garden in Southampton and for Good Shepherd Farm in Bridgehampton. We discussed affordability, size, style, energy costs, and systems like passive solar or active heating, even dehumidifying. It is clear that having a greenhouse involves effort and expense, but provides many rewards. These were definitely presentations worth hearing in person!

We will have the opportunity to see Bobby's Tudor-style greenhouse when we visit his garden in July, and I reminded the group of Jay's February HAH workshop on Seed Germination and Greenhouses.

THE HOW-TO AND BENEFITS OF MAKING YOUR OWN COMPOST

- Picking a location on your property --mostly shady and out of view
- Choosing compost bins or piles -- closed bins work well for small spaces, but they have limited room and it can be difficult to access the finished product. Multiple open bins require transferring the product at various stages of decomposition from one bin to next, but finished compost is easy to access from the "finished" bin.
- What to add: all plant materials will break down eventually, say in two years, but if you wish to speed up the process you can shred or chop all materials before adding, put in 2/3 carbon materials to 1/3 nitrogen materials, turn the pile at least once per week, and keep it moist but not soggy.
- Nitrogen, or green, matter includes leaves from hedge trimming, flowers after deadheading, perennials that have been cut back or annuals removed at the end of the season, coffee grounds, tea leaves (the bags can go in too as carbon), raw fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells, grass clippings.
- Carbon, or brown, matter includes dead leaves, non-treated wood ashes, paper
- Additional activators are not necessary, but they can include finished compost, soil, manure, alfalfa, blood, and bone meals. But you must make sure the materials get enough oxygen, hence the direction to turn the pile with a pitchfork, and water. The pile should be kept moist but not wet. Beneficial bacteria and fungi, worms, and insects will do the rest.
- Do not add: food containing grease and animal matter as they attract rodents, weed seeds, tree or shrub branches as they decompose too slowly, or any diseased plant material (avoid roses, squash, and phlox)
- The benefits of applying compost to your garden include nutrients from the decomposed plant matter and worm castings, improving the structure of the soil for better moisture retention but not sogginess, and reversing compacted soil by aeration.

KEEPING GARDEN RECORDS

Examples of ways to keep garden records include taking photographs, preparing Excel spread sheets and Word documents, hand-written journals, and hand-or-computer-drawn garden plans. Some of the information that is useful to record includes:

- Date of purchase, source, price, how many, planting time, location in your garden
- Info on the tag or label such as species, hybrid, cultivar, Latin and common names, mature height and width, light , soil ph, and water requirements
- Bloom time, color
- Date and location of transplanting from one garden area to another
- Did the plant survive? If not, what was the cause of failure?
- Weather conditions: temperature, rain, snow, ice, freeze, thaw, wind

As I've learned from my own record keeping, the possibilities are infinite, and you may either tire of such work, keep along at a steady pace, or you may grow more and more enthusiastic about it, as I have.
Musings & Ramblings

George Biercuk

There are times in all our gardens’ cycle of life when we are compelled to, in some way, memorialize a particular moment, maybe with a photo or a note in a journal. In this age of climate change that we now are enveloped within there are consequential recuperations that are manifested differently from year-to-year that might be worth recording, dependent upon how the myriad factors come into play. What was it that, despite temps that entered the single digits and several bouts of snow, allowed our prized Camellia ‘Jean May’ to continue her floral display into early February (when I reached fifty in my count of open flowers I stopped) despite that in years past the first deep cold snap (freeze) (one year early-mid December) aborted her further flowering? How was it that in our garden her flower buds survived Gaia’s “testosterone fueled season of cold”? Perhaps the prolonged resurgent post freeze warmth sustained prepubescent flower buds which eventually exploded into a profusion of blooms, much later than historically, as the cycle of all our gardens’ rejuvenation continued advancing.

Gaia’s seasonal progression was exhibiting a bit of profound, somewhat convoluted, overlap. Fall blooming camellias, Helleborus niger and late winter/early spring blooming H. x hybridus do not bloom concurrently in early February along with the usual mid-winter players Hamamelis ‘Orange Peel’ and ‘Robert’ and Helleborus foetidus. Something was just a bit off, nonetheless welcome gardener’s winter eye candy. The holdout in this tableau was Daphne odora aureomarginata whose buds held steadfast, just barely open for weeks now with only the merest hint of red along the edges. One now mature mahonia seedling bravely broke bud at the base of the flower column and a careful poke of the nose, avoiding the very sharp leaf spines, was rewarded with its trademark lemon/citrus fragrance, intoxicatingly delicious on an early February day. Even small leaved and statured Pieris japonica ‘Evie’ was adorned with elongating and reddening floral racemes.

Since it’s said that a picture is worth a thousand words here are my next five articles, photos capturing moments in early February.

Happy Spring.
Confessions of a Stoned Gardener

Susan Kennedy Zeller

This is a confession …and a prime example of how HAH makes connections!…… I have an addiction. I am totally entranced by stone…that hard, solid, non-metalic mineral of which rock is made and especially used for building material…or can be used for artistic endeavors! My affair started in childhood growing up on the edge of Lake Erie where instead of a sandy beach we had stones. Smooth on top but if you turned certain ones over you found fossils of lake creatures, shells and plants! I would walk barefoot along the beach at sunset, wade out to my large, sitting rock with a fossil in hand and imagine what the world may hold for me. In the late 1970s, for a holiday, I joined Earthwatch, a non-profit organization which sponsors scientific research all over the world. You pay your own way as a volunteer (yes, tax deductible) to help the professionals in all sorts of quests. I traveled to Munsungunn Lake, Maine, to join a team under archaeologist Rob Bonnichsen studying an early lithic site. My assignment was to excavate and map a firepit. After 2 days of scraping soil (which felt more like mud!) I revealed the stone fire circle. Rob asked me to stop as we had found all there was to see. But I had a hunch and lifted up one more of the large stones. Underneath was a long, red chert, fluted edge, projectile point … Clovis! Clovis people reached Maine!

In 1983, I joined another Earthwatch expedition recording rock art in Cape York Peninsula, Australia. Of course I had heard of cave paintings in Europe-Lascoux, France, and Altamira, Spain, but I had never seen rock art out in the open. My first sight was on a large boulder, engraved turkey footprints were in a row as if they were walking and next to them, red painted death adders, characteristically rocking before striking! I was hooked! We hiked the rugged gorges looking for undiscovered sites making amazing discoveries, painted and engraved cliffs that hadn’t been seen for centuries. Since then I have done more recording in Australia, Easter Island, Chile, North America, and the Cook Islands. Anywhere I go I look for art on the rocks- and find it! There is something so special about the artists’ choice of place and material! They feel about the earth the same way gardeners do.(see photos adjourning this page for some site examples)

HAH has been a major contributor to my addiction. Member Erika Shank suggested Dan Snow as a speaker and we were able to have him come in April, 2016. A world renowned, certified Rock Waller he gave an inspiring talk with amazing photos of his creations along with the tales of how he found his passion and talent with stone – all creations with no matrix to hold together, just the balance of the rocks themselves. He mentioned The Stone Trust, a dry walling school in Vermont. I investigated, discovered they not only do certification courses for landscape professionals but also for amateurs and one just for women-having the only certified female instructors in North America. I signed up last April for a one day basic course, learned the fundimentals and had a ball! Stone Trust courses are held under their barn so they happen rain or shine. We participants worked in teams of two. I am going to let a few photos speak for what we did. I have listed contact information for Earthwatch and the Stone Trust in the footnotes. ……………I urge everyone…get stoned!

The Stone Trust  www.thestonetrust.org  email:  info@thestonetrust.org  call Exec Director Brian Post 802-490-9627
Earthwatch Expeditions  www.earthwatch.org/expeditions  call 1-800-776-0188

HAH Library- copies of Dan Snow books (photography by Peter Mauss ) “In the Company of Stone”, and “Listening to Stone.”
Carved, Pecked and Painted Stone Art

Much of this art cannot be accurately dated except by association with nearby archaeological sites where carbon dating may be used. These probably range in age from 30,000 years old to 800 years old. If you visit any sites, tread softly, do not touch the works with anything or your hands, but DO bask in the artistry of our ancestors. It is our human heritage.

Just a few of the thousands of photographs I have taken as I travel our world.

Mesa Prieta, N.M. Engravings: possibly solstice sun ceremony, with Lion with snake crossing the neck, top knot

Wind River, WY., Etherial figure insectlike arms, legs wearing skirt

Petroglyph National Monument, N. M., macaw, star faces, mask face wrapped over the stone edge
HAH PLANT SEED SALE PROGRAM
Continues prior to our monthly Sunday Lectures. Donated seeds from our Members' Plants will be on sale. All proceeds from seed sales benefit our educational programs. PLEASE NOTE: We encourage all members to donate any extra plant seeds you may have collected and overwintered. PLEASE CONTACT: pamharwood@aol.com

Field Report: Plantorama 2017
Alicia Whitaker

The new year for many gardeners in the New York area begins with Plantorama, the annual event that is part trade fair, lecture series and networking event. Held at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the event attracts several hundred people. The East End was well represented by Beds and Borders, Glover Perennials and Landcraft Environments. Here are some insights about a few of the many plants they are bringing to the market this year:

What caught my eye at the Landcraft table was a Regal Elkhorn Fern, a large structured fern in the staghorn family that grows long “antlers”. The 2017 catalog also has a number of new Begonias, Salvias and Super Angelonias that grow significantly taller than the 18” plants we’ve been using for several years.

Beds and Borders has expanded its orange annual list to include orange petunias, an apricot mandevilla, and cosmos. New petunia additions include P. x ‘Sophistica Lime Bicolor’ with unique hot pink and lime blooms, and P. Surfinia ‘Heartbeat’, with white flowers that have a pattern of pink hearts.

Glover Perennials has continued to expand its list of perennial sedums that can serve as low ground covers and has an unusual small scale ground cover, Coliseum Ivy, a quick spreader with pale purple flowers.

Rare Find is a New Jersey nursery that was a destination on a recent HAH garden tour to Pennsylvania. It’s a mail order nursery with a wide variety of unusual woody plants and perennials. Their Hamamelis selection, H. x intermedia ‘Rochester’ has coppery orange flowers with a strong scent.

LOOK FOR MANY OF THESE PLANTS AT THE HAH GARDEN FAIR ON MAY 19 AND 20 AT THE BRIDGEHAMPTON COMMUNITY HOUSE
Spring Pruning with Jackson Dodds
Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton
Saturday, March 25, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.   Rain Cancels

Meet Jackson Dodds, Certified ISA Arborist and current President of the L.I. Arborist Association, and learn the basic steps to spring pruning of your deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Jackson will present detailed information and lead a guided walk with our Garden Manager, Rick Bogusch, to identify and explain proper techniques, timing of pruning for various plants, and general tree and shrub management. Bring your questions for discussion.

$10/person, free to Bridge Gardens and Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons members. Reminder: Bridge Gardens is offering a reduced membership fee for HAH members in good standing for 2017. A family membership (good for a family of 4) to Bridge Gardens at a reduced rate of $50 (a $75 value); an individual membership valued at $50, can be purchased for $35.

To rsvp, please call Robin Harris at the Peconic Land Trust at 631.283.3195, ext. 19 or email to Events@PeconicLandTrust.org.

HAH Workshop
Tick-Borne Disease – What You Need to Know
Saturday, March 11, 2017
Time: 10 am

Chances are that you, or someone you know, has been diagnosed with Lyme or another tick-borne disease. Dr. Anna-Marie Wellins, a member of the Medical Advisory Panel of Southampton Hospital’s Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center, will speak about the types of diseases that are carried by the different species of tick found on Eastern Long Island, and the symptoms, diagnostic tests, and treatment options that are available. Tips on preventing tick bites will also be shared. Each attendee will receive a free tick kit.

We need participants to RSVP so that we will have enough kits and literature on hand for all attendees. There will be ample time for Q & A to address any concerns.

Date:  Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 10am
Location:  John LoGerfo Library, Bridgehampton Community House, School Street Entrance
Cost:  Free for Members; $5 Non-members
Payment must be made by March 1, 2017

Registration Form:
Please sign me up for the Tick-Borne Disease Workshop on Saturday, March 11, 2017
Name(s) _______________________________________________________________
Phone (cell preferred) __________________________________________________________
E-Mail_______________________________________________________________________
I would like to purchase tickets at:
$5 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 March 1, 2017. Attention: Workshops Questions: Call Marie DiMonte at 631.728.0292, e-mail osprey23@optonline.net and please copy in hahmember@optonline.net also. Thank you.
Care and Cultivation of Hydrangeas  
To be held at Summerhill Landscapes  
342 Town Lane, Amagansett  
Saturday, April 8, 2017  
Time: 1-3pm  
Rain Date: April 29, 1-3pm

The Peconic Land Trust is partnering with Summerhill Landscapes for a complete overview to de-mystify hydrangea maintenance. Learn about the care of different varieties, including Tardiva, Pee Gee, Annabelle, Endless Summer and Nikko Blue.

Find out what the experts say about when to prune, how much to take off, whether and when to deadhead, and learn about issues like pest control and disease control that will ensure big beautiful blooms every year.

This program is co-sponsored by the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons & Peconic Land Trust/Bridge Gardens.

$5/person, reservations required. For more information and to reserve, please call Robin Harris at the Peconic Land Trust at 631.283.3195, ext. 19 or email to Events@PeconicLandTrust.org.

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A Bonus and a Delightful Invitation from  
Our Community Partner  
The Bayberry Nursery  
50 Montauk Highway, Amagansett – Free Admission  
Spring will have sprung and inventory will be just arriving!  
It will be a great opportunity to shop & take advantage of your 10% discount  
Bring your own brown-bag lunch and enjoy it while viewing the pond.
The deadly Oak wilt disease which has been making its way eastward across the country for several years has reached the East End of Long Island. It was recently found in Riverhead, Islip and Southold, so we all need to be on the alert. It can be as relentless as the Dutch Elm disease has been in destroying our magnificent Long Island oak forests as well as individual trees. Winter pruning is the only proactive step we can take to prevent infection with the fungus. Please read and follow these guidelines from the DEC.

Protect your oak trees from deadly disease: prune in winter

Oak wilt, a deadly fungal disease for oak trees was discovered in six new locations in New York last year. This disease can be spread by beetles that are attracted to freshly cut or injured trees. Pruning in winter protects oaks from becoming infected.

Benefits of winter pruning:

- Diseases are rarely spread during this time, since insects and fungi are inactive.
- A tree’s branch pattern and damaged limbs are easier to see without leaves.
- Leafless cut branches are lighter and easier to carry.
- Nearby plants are less likely to be damaged by falling branches and trampling.
- Removing weak and damaged branches before heavy snowfall reduces additional breakage.
- Trees pruned in winter respond more vigorously in the spring, putting out new growth.

How does oak wilt spread and kill trees?

The oak wilt fungus clogs the trees’ transport vessels, cutting off water and food from leaves and the rest of the tree. One way oak wilt spreads is when fungal spores hitch rides on insects. Sap beetles, one of the main culprits, are extremely attracted to fresh tree wounds. Pruning oaks during the growing season greatly increases the chances of insects infecting them with oak wilt.

What else can I do to protect my oak trees?

1. Prune oaks between October and February – NOT during the growing season.
2. Follow existing regulations and quarantines meant to protect our trees and forests.
3. Don’t move firewood. Firewood can transport oak wilt and other deadly pests and diseases to new areas.
4. Learn to identify the symptoms of oak wilt which include discoloration around the entire leaf edge and sudden loss of a substantial portion of leaves during the summer.

For questions, contact the DEC Forest Health office at 1-866-640-0652, or email photos of tree symptoms to: foresthealth@dec.ny.gov.

Visit the DEC website for more information on oak wilt.
HAH 2017 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM

March 12 - Alex Feleppa - The Living Landscape of LongHouse Reserve
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

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 non-members

MORE EAST END GARDEN EVENTS  March 2017

MADOO Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main St, Sagaponack.  www.madoo.org  631-537-0082
Madoo Talks: House & Garden  Sundays at noon. $20 members, $25 non-members
March 26 - Margie Reddick, Wild By Design: Strategies for Creating Life-Enhancing Landscapes