HAH Happenings
January 2021

On Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm please join us for a lecture via ZOOM with Katherine Tracey on SUCCULENT LOVE

What is there not to love about succulents? They offer exquisite mix and match foliage colors, unique plant forms and textures, plus they are so easy to care for.

In this slide lecture, Katherine Tracey will acquaint you with some of her favorite selections, offer fresh ideas for their use in the garden as well as in container combinations, vertical gardens, wreaths and floral arranging. She’ll also discuss propagation, proper soil mixes, and indoor care.

Formally trained as a painter and textile designer, Katherine Tracey’s appreciation for color and pattern has also informed her passion for horticulture. For over 30 years, Katherine has been experimenting with the unexpected on the grounds of Avant Gardens, and her innovative designs have earned many notable honors. Driven by a life motto to grow everything at least once, she has cultivated a design aesthetic that incorporates the best uncommon plants for the northeast landscape.

Katherine has been a featured lecturer at Wave Hill, Ladew Topiary Gardens, The Horticultural Society of Maryland, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, the New York Botanic Garden, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and many other Gardening Events. Katherine has contributed articles and photography to Fine Gardening Magazine and posts regularly in the blog Garden Foreplay.

HAH January 2021 Programs Utilizing ZOOM

Due to the continued persistence of Covid-19, we have cancelled in-house lectures and group events at HAH for the time being. However, these events will be sent to you by ZOOM technology as listed here. You will receive the ZOOM link via email which you can then click on and join the meeting.

Saturday, January 2, 10 am - HAH Roundtable (see p. 6)
Sunday, January 10, 2 pm - Katherine Tracey talk on Succulent Love (see above)
Wednesday, January 13, 10 am - Cornell Program on Winter Seed Sowing (see p.2)
Saturday, January 16, 11 am - HAH Winter Book Group (see p.4)
Sunday, January 31, 2 pm - Doug Tallamy talk on Restoring Nature’s Relationships at Home (see p.4)

There will be no need to RSVP for the above events – the ZOOM link will be sent to the entire membership. It is important that we have your email address so that we can send you the ZOOM link for the above lectures. You can confirm that we have your email address by contacting Bettina Benson at HAHMember@optonline.net Finally, if we have your email address, you should be receiving the monthly blast email advising ‘coming attractions’. If you are not receiving these blasts, it means we don’t have your email address. However, some of you advise that you do not receive the ZOOM link. All of our communications have HAH in the Subject Line. Be sure your contact list includes HAHMember@optonline.net so that our emails do not go into your junk/trash in-box.
Dear Friends,

A new year, new hope, and light at the end of the tunnel. We are continuing to do our programming by way of Zoom until we can safely gather together. Many of you have told us that you are learning to enjoy Zoom and appreciate the “extra” events we have to keep us well engaged while at home. Our book group has started again online – if you haven’t been able to attend in the past, check it out, as many of us will be reading a great deal this winter.

We are thrilled to have a session with Doug Tallamy at the end of the month, whose new book, *Nature’s Best Hope*, is now available. He’ll be talking about pollinator pathways – we can easily create these by what we plant in our personal gardens and public spaces. He’ll tell us how.

I made an error in my year end letter last month. The dig and plant sale done by Lydia Wallis on behalf of HAH this past summer resulted in approximately 250 plants being dug, potted, nurtured, sold and schleppeled to our cars. Not a puny 100! So thanks again to Lydia for a great deal of work on our behalf.

Stay safe and hopeful,

Alicia

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**HAH 2021**

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

President         Alicia Whitaker
First Vice President  Erika Shank
Second Vice President  Rick Bogusch
Recording Secretary  Janet Donohoe Ollinger
Corresponding Secretary  Joan DiMonda
Treasurer         Bettina Benson

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

Erik Brockmeyer    ’21
Elaine Peterson    ’21
Sarah Alford       ’22
Pamela Harwood     ’22
Marie DiMonte     ’23
Michael Longacre    ’23

The Library Chairperson (who serves on the Board with a vote) is currently: Susan Kennedy Zeller

On occasion the board may appoint someone to fill an unexpired term if necessary.

**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**

Sarah Alford, Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson, Katherine Tracey and various wreath makers!

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**Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)**

is providing a unique program to our members. Join us to learn about:

**Winter Seed Sowing**

**Wednesday, January 13 at 10 am**

Winter is the time to start seeding, but NOT indoors. Learn how to successfully start seeds OUTSIDE in the winter. No greenhouse needed. Winter sowing techniques outside are easier than the windowsill or with light lamps in the basement. Question and answer session follows.

This special presentation will be made utilizing ZOOM technology which will be provided by CCE. This means that you can link up and see the presentation on your own computer, laptop or smart phone in the privacy of your own home. This is interactive – you will be able to ask questions following the talk.

This service is free for HAH Members - you will not have to advise that you’d like to participate. The ZOOM link provided by CCE will be sent to the entire membership prior to the session. If you do not receive the link, simply reply to the email. You will be able to log into the platform 10 minutes prior to start time so that CCE can troubleshoot issues if you are a first time user of Zoom.

This is an event for HAH members only. Please do not share link information via social media, including Facebook and Twitter. We don’t want ‘zoombombers’ to crash our session.
Remembering Beloved Members of HAH

James Kilpatric

Jim Kilpatric died on October 27, 2020, from the after effects of a pedestrian accident. He and his partner Harry Neyens had left Bridgehampton for Sleepy Hollow, NY, to continue the next phase of their retirement. Here’s what Susan Kennedy Zeller had to say about Jim and Harry when we honored them in 2011:

Jim Kilpatric and Harry Neyens, long time participating members of the HAH (Jim was on our Board 1998-2000), founded Bridge Gardens in 1988. For 21 years they gardened this special corner of Bridgehampton, designing and installing the gardens doing much of the work themselves. By 1993 they incorporated the Gardens as a non-profit charitable entity, the Bridge Gardens Trust, in order to preserve and maintain the garden in perpetuity. Open to the public, their garden attracted several thousand visitors each year and hosted numerous fund raising events for other nonprofits. In 2008, in order to move on with the next phase of their retirement, they gifted the property to Peconic Land Trust. These two quiet, unassuming, gardening men are an inspiration for all as to what imagination, determination and a lot of getting your hands dirty can accomplish.

Jim will be missed and long remembered.

Ruth Paulsen

Ruth Paulsen was a very active member of HAH, volunteering in the library and at our plant sales and attending garden tours and monthly lectures. She also served on HAH’s board of directors as a representative of the HAH library. Her gentle sense of humor, broad knowledge of all things related to gardening and her welcoming spirit made her a delightful member and friend. Ruth was known to grow enormous vegetables, beautiful flowers, and experimented with growing many exotic plants. Ruth lived to the grand age of 101, and died peacefully in her sleep on November 20, a few weeks shy of her 102nd birthday. She had a long and interesting life, filled with people who loved her deeply.
Please join us for a very special ZOOM presentation on

Sunday, January 31st at 2pm
with Doug Tallamy on

Restoring Nature’s Relationships at Home

Specialized relationships between animals and plants are the norm in nature rather than the exception. It is specialized relationships that provide our birds with insects and berries, that disperse our bloodroot seeds, that pollinate our goldenrod, and so on. Plants that evolved in concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. Tallamy will explain why this is so, why specialized food relationships determine the stability and complexity of the local food webs that support animal diversity, why our yards and gardens are essential parts of the ecosystems that sustain us, and how we can use our landscapes to connect the isolated habitat fragments around us. It is time to create landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them.

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 104 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers’ Association. The Living Landscape, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014. Doug’s new book Nature's Best Hope released by Timber Press in February 2020, is a New York Times Best Seller. Among his awards are the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence, the 2018 AHS B.Y. Morrison Communication Award and the 2019 Cynthia Westcott Scientific Writing Award.

HAH WINTER BOOK GROUP

After a fabulous start our WINTER BOOK GROUP will continue on Saturday January 16th at 11am. Be inspired and join a group of garden bibliophiles for an hour of presentations and discussion on ZOOM. Here is what will be reviewed:

- Planting the Natural Garden by Piet Oudolf, presented by Sarah Alford
- Ancestral Plants Volume 2 by Arthur Haines, presented by Terry Berger
- Spirit of Place by Bill Noble, presented by Joan DiMonda

Winter Book Group will be continue to meet at 11am on the third Saturday of the month - February 20th and March 20th. Please mark your calendars.
You will receive the ZOOM invitation with the HAH weekly email of events.
For upcoming book group details please go to HAHgarden.org and click on the library tab.

The HAH LoGerfo Library continues to be closed until we are able to open it safely again.
December Wreath Workshop
by Sarah Alford

In anticipation of the holiday season, a group of members gathered via zoom for a workshop to make wreaths and decorations out of homegrown greens. I instructed the first time wreath-makers on the steps to create wreaths and bows. Those without wreath frames opted for festive arrangements or swags to deck their homes. As we worked on our projects, we discussed evergreens we grew in our gardens, as well as plants on our wish list.

Materials included a lovely selection of magnolia, boxwood, camellia, osmanthus and native holly, as well as blue spruce, variegated juniper and red twig dogwood. Many thanks also to Rick Bogush for sharing camellia and holly branches from Bridge Gardens. A very productive and fun hour with a lively and talented group!

SEEDS

Now is the time to peruse the seed catalogs and plan your buying needs for 2021. Many seeds need to be started in January or February inside under lights or outside (learn how with the Cornell lecture, see p. 2.) But don’t linger as many companies will sell out early now that there are many more gardeners eager to grow their own vegetables and flowers from seed! HAH member Valerie Hanley suggests this link for a list of 60 free catalogs https://www.thespruce.com/free-seed-catalogs-1357756. The list has most of the well known and popular seed companies including newer ones that focus on heirloom and organic offerings. One company that is not on the list but I highly recommend is John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds www.kitchengardenseeds.com. Another one is Renee’s Garden www.reneesgarden.com. The world of seeds is as vast as you can imagine, so prepare to spend a lot of time reading up and then have fun exploring new plants! Ed.
THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM RESUMES
JOIN US ON ZOOM
SATURDAY, January 2nd, 2021, 10-11:30am

PRUNING: Tasks and Methods for Winter and Early Spring
Moderated by Pamela Harwood

While we are at home and in our gardens more during these unusual times, there is one garden task that can and should be done while shrubs and trees are dormant, and in the coming months we will have the time to take on tasks we might otherwise put off. But you may find yourself asking such questions as, "can I prune this hydrangea or other shrub now, or is it a variety that, if pruned now, will result in the loss of the spring or summer flowers?" How do I identify where to make the pruning cuts, what is the correct method, and what are the best tools for each job?

That is why I am pleased to announce that one of our participants will be Jackson Dodds, a certified arborist and founder of Jackson Dodds & Company, who will be able to help answer such questions. We will also be treated to a live demonstration as he takes his computer outdoors to show us identifying plant markers and pruning cuts.

While in-person gatherings are restricted, our sessions will be held on Zoom. Watch for an email containing the Zoom link which is sent to all members to enable you to log on to the program. It’s best to log on about 10 minutes early to enable the host to let each attendee enter the meeting so we can begin on time. We hope you’ll join us to learn, ask questions, and give advice to others.

As always, we’ll save time for questions from the floor for other topics. See you on January 2nd!

Saturdays * January 2 * February 6 * March 6 * April 3

Black Cherry - Prunus serotina

Perhaps the best way to identify a black cherry in the field is to scratch a twig and sniff. If it smells like bitter almond, then likely you’ve found a black cherry. Bark is another way of identifying black cherry, especially this time of year. In a forest situation, black cherries usually develop a long, branchless, often crooked trunk, which is covered with charcoal gray scaly plates, roughly three inches square, a distinctive pattern, for sure.

In summer, black cherries are covered with leaves that are shiny, dark green above and much lighter beneath. Found scattered throughout the eastern United States, from Canada to Florida and west to the Dakotas, black cherries have a conical shape in youth that becomes oval and irregular, with weeping branches in maturity.

The small, fragrant, white flowers of black cherries are profuse in May and borne in long, narrow, pendulous clusters. These become clusters of red fruits that ripen to black in August and have a bittersweet, wine-like flavor. If you can pick them before the birds do, the fruits, inedible when fresh, can used to make wine, brandy and jelly.

Black cherries are common in hardwood forests, including those here on Long Island. Though they prefer deep, moist, fertile soil in full sun, they also grow well on average, well-drained soils and dry, gravelly or sandy uplands and can tolerate partial shade. Easily seeded by birds, they can be weedy and are often found in hedgerows.

Black cherries are valuable timber trees, yielding high quality lumber for furniture, veneer, interior finishing and musical instruments. Native Americans made cough syrup from the inner bark.

With their vigorous taproots and large number of pests and diseases, black cherries are not necessarily good trees for landscaping, even though leaves turn a good red and yellow in fall. They are good trees for naturalizing and for wildlife. Not only are fruits favored by the birds of late summer, leaves provide food for over 400 species of moths and butterflies, as well as many other insects. Tent caterpillars can be a common problem, but they are short-lived and more unsightly, than detrimental. Remember, both those caterpillars and the resulting moths provide food for birds and their young.

Consider including a young sapling or two of black cherries in your next naturalizing project. If you want to try your hand at tree identification, you can find a couple mature black cherries in the woods at the entrance of Bridge Gardens.

Rick Bogusch, Director, Bridge Gardens
On December 5th, this was the subject of a fabulous HAH Roundtable program with 30 attendees on Zoom, including several professional contributors. I introduced our topic by mentioning the various ways in which garden plants, shrubs, and trees help the environment:

**Cleaner Air:** gardens reduce pollution and climate change by absorbing carbon and releasing oxygen

**Cleaner Groundwater:** plants filter the water before it reaches underground aquifers and water bodies

**Reduction of noise pollution:** plants absorb sound

**Reduction of soil erosion:** plant roots stabilize the soil

**Reduction of energy costs:** trees provide shade in summer so they can lower the temperature in our homes

**Edwina von Gal,** founder of **Perfect Earth Project,** was first inspired to help others change the way we garden when she began to see our beloved East End ponds becoming polluted. She began with a “gentle plea for chaos.” When we see small flaws in plant leaves, for instance, don’t jump to using pesticides, as killing insects destroys a food source for birds and insects, that damage can be controlled by insects that are beneficial. Another suggestion: don’t send biomass to the dump. Rather, discard plant materials by creating a compost pile. Use the cut or fallen branches of trees to create wood chips for mulch, build a log fence, or leave the wood on the ground where it will become a habitat for wildlife. Take photos of nature and try to copy those scenarios. Water features will attract and sustain wildlife. Rain barrels can be used to collect water for the garden before it reaches roads, drywells, and sewers. If you wish to rid your property of rodent pests, try traps rather than poisons. For more information from Edwina, here are two links: perfectearthproject.org and https://www.234birds.org

**Tony Piazza,** of **Piazza Horticultural Group** in Southampton, spoke about various native plants that will attract beneficial wildlife to your garden, such as Solidago or Goldenrod that supports insect pollinators and is a stunning flower in the late summer garden, and Ilex verticillata or Winterberry that provides food for birds and features beautiful red berries during the winter months. Stop by piazzalandscaping.com

**Rusty Schmidt,** a landscape ecologist for **Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis,** President of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative, and an advisor to the Peconic Estuary Program, advocated for sustainability initiatives. Mr. Schmidt showed several PowerPoint visuals pertaining to the benefits of rain gardens; fall berries for birds, including Ilex glabra, *Viburnum opulus var. americanum* (American cranberry), Aronia, and Ilex verticillata; and incorporating native plants. He suggested a matrix planting system to thwart deer that includes a mixture of deer-resistant and non-resistant varieties as well as deer scarecrows! Leaving as much plant material as possible to over-winter in the garden provides seeds and nesting material for birds as well as habitat for stem-nesting bees. Check out these links: http://www.linpi.org/plants https://www.27east.com/home-garden/expert-presents-case-for-rain-gardens-as-pollution-solution-1686397

Other garden practices that help the environment by making the garden less dependent on synthetic chemicals are:

* **Building good soil** with compost, shredded leaf mulch, and leaf mold makes us less reliant on fertilizers and irrigation.
* **Weed control** using shredded leaves, wood chips, and shredded bark for mulch, and hand-picking weeds reduces reliance on herbicides.
* **Pest Control** using companion planting, insect predators, and organics like insecticidal soap and horticultural oil makes us less dependent on toxic pesticides.
* **Support beneficial wildlife** by incorporating native and hardy exotic plants to provide food and shelter, creating winter habitats, and adding water features.
* **Reduce noise and pollution** by hand raking or using electric rather than gas tools.
HAH Lectures for 2021

January 10 - Katherine Tracey – *Succulent Love*

February 7 - Evan Abramson – *Designing Biodiversity: Local Strategies for Pollinator Habitat Creation & Connectivity*

March 14 - Page Dickey - *Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again*

April 11 - Tony Avent – *My Favorite 100…Perennials I Wouldn’t Garden Without*

May 2 - Susan Cohen – *The Inspired Landscape*

June 13 - Dan Hinkley – *From Shadow to Sun: the Making of Windcliff*

September 12 - Andy Brand – *Spectacular Natives, Beauty & Biodiversity of the Northeast*

October 17 - Bill Cullina – *What do you Mean I’m Not a Perennial?! Native Shrubs & Small Trees for Perennial Companionship*

November 14 - Holger Winenga – *New Plants at LongHouse Reserve*

December 12 - Roxanne Zimmer – *igarden – New Tools for a Bountiful Garden*