On Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm
please join us for a lecture via ZOOM

Roxanne Zimmer
‘Celebrating Olmsted’s Parks for All’

Frederick Law Olmsted defined American landscape architecture through the hundreds of projects he envisioned across the country. His public parks, now over 150 years old, remain thriving natural oases in the heart of American cities. What are the hallmarks of Olmsted park design? What made his work outstanding and radical in his time? Why are these features so important today? Take a trip to Central Park, Prospect Park, Boston’s Emerald Necklace and the Bayard Cutting Arboretum to see the key features that answer these questions.

Roxanne Zimmer, Ph.D., has been spreading the word about best garden practices for many years. In her Community Horticulture role at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Suffolk County, Roxanne speaks to school and community groups about why we should be reducing lawns, planting natives and more vegetables. She offers Master Gardener Training and Spring Gardening School yearly. She recently launched The Joy of Gardening, an online gardening course for those who want to become better home gardeners.

Roxanne has offered a SUNY Stonybrook course on global food issues. As part of a delegation of Canadian farmers, she examined food security in Cuba. She has presented at national conferences of the American Horticultural Society and the American Community Garden Association. When not weeding, Roxanne can be found raising oysters with the Cornell Marine program.

WINTER BOOK GROUP IS BACK!

Gather round fellow garden bibliophiles. Saturday December 18th, 11am – noon, via Zoom, HAH will host the first of four Winter Book Group reviews. Watch for the Zoom link in our weekly email of HAH events or visit the website hahgarden.org for complete HAH offerings.

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest by Suzanne Simard, presented by Scott Sottile
The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants by Jennifer Jewell, presented by Sarah Alford
In anticipation of the gift giving season, Joan DiMonda will review a collection of children’s books that will engage, inform and delight the children in our lives!

Forests by Jess French, Illustrated by Alexander Mostov
Tell me, Tree: All about Trees for kids by Gail Gibbons
Can You Hear the Trees Talking by Peter Wohlleben
Wish Tree by Katherine Applegate

If you go down to the Woods Today by Rachel Piercey Illustrated by Freya Hartas

More HAH events on ZOOM
Saturday, Dec 4, Roundtable, p.4
Sunday, Dec. 5, Wreath Workshop, p.7
Wednesday, Dec. 8, Lecture, Jane Garmey, p.4
Saturday, Dec. 18, Book Group ▲
Dear Friends,

How unbelievable that we’ve gotten through another year with Covid still in our community, yet we offered a great deal of valuable gardening experiences to our members. Looking back, I am so pleased that we were able to deliver on the goals we set in our strategic plan at the end of 2020: investing more in our speakers, beginning our Tree Initiative, and upgrading our sound system at the Community House. What made all of this happen is the willingness of our board members and volunteers to try new things – especially Zoom- to maintain and enrich our offerings. I’m very grateful for the fact that everyone more than pulled their weight to get these things done.

Thanks to Bettina Benson, our monthly lectures were supplemented by a wide variety of other talks and workshops, all offered on Zoom. We adapted to this new technology, and added the feature of recording many programs so that our members can watch them at any time. We more than doubled our number of “normal offerings” and are thinking about how to use technology to supplement our programs when we once again can gather together face to face. Bettina also led our membership and treasurer functions, demanding activities on her very full plate. Much to our delight, we gained new members during the pandemic. We also resumed workshops, led by Marie DiMonte, on Zoom and in person.

One of the reasons we grew our membership during this difficult time is the excellent job that Sarah Alford has done in keeping us in the public eye with encouraging feature articles about our speakers in the local press as well as listing our lectures and tours on Facebook, Instagram as well as the local press. Our social media presence has grown and we’ve started offering tickets for non-members to attend some of our events as a result of her leadership.

We also found that we could deliver Roundtables, led by Pamela Harwood, and the Book Group, led by Janet Ollinger, on Zoom, so we didn’t miss a beat with these two activities that are especially important to us in winter, when our gardens are dormant and we have the time to read and learn new things. Thanks for the many members who volunteered to contribute to the Roundtables and review books.

By the early summer, it was clear that we could safely gather outside so we resumed our Garden Tours, led by Pamela Harwood and Erik Brockmeyer, and visited many special gardens. Thanks to the garden owners who hosted – seeing gardens is the best way to learn and to be inspired. We also visited Landcraft Garden Foundation in an unusual and exciting Karish Program in partnership with the Landcraft Garden Foundation, arranged by Erika Shank and Erik Brockmeyer. Friends of the Garden, led by Cornelia Bostwick, resumed meeting in person to keep HAH’s gardens at the Bridgehampton Community House in tip top shape.

So many of us lamented the fact that we didn’t do our annual Garden Fair and Preview Party – the unofficial opening of the season for many gardeners and a wonderful opportunity to snag the best plants. Let’s hope that our plan to resume in 2022 is something that we can do safely. In the meantime, Lydia Wallis and Bettina Benson offered plant sales at their homes featuring digs from their gardens and other members’ gardens. Those of us who attended were thrilled to see old friends as well as to acquire excellent, well grown plants.

Thanks to Michael Longacre who, coordinating with Bettina Benson, has upgraded our technology in terms of using Constant Contact for our emails. Michael Longacre is also updating our website and making it more navigable. Members can now pay for their membership as well as for plants online as well as by check or cash; Square technology has been championed by Janet Ollinger. Elaine Peterson, our Editor in Chief, delivered outstanding newsletters, many with a focus on pollinators and native plants. This is a huge job and Elaine does it with grace and intelligence. Many members volunteered to write articles for the newsletter. Rick Bogush continued his Native Tree of the Month column and Sue Brackett and Janis Murphy partnered to profile a native shrub or herbaceous plant each month. We have no excuse not to know more about natives for our gardens! John Benson continues to ensure that newsletters get into our hands each month in a timely way.
We took steps on our Tree Initiative, including using a native bur oak as the centerpiece of our LongHouse On and Off the Ground exhibit, designed and installed by Lori Barnaby, assisted by Joan DiMonda, Janet Ollinger, Erika Shank and Linda Whitaker. We began our tree giveaway program under Rick Bogush’s leadership by donating two Honey Locusts and an Ilex opaca to the Children’s Museum of the East End, with Janet Ollinger serving as our Tree Initiative Ambassador to the Children’s Museum. Pamela Harwood is playing a similar role with the Bridgehampton School, which is considering whether to accept a tree donation from HAH.

Our Karish Scholarship program continued, led by Susan Edwards. We awarded a scholarship to Luc Grant of East Hampton High School, who will be pursuing environmental science and ecology at Southern Methodist University.

The HAH Library has remained closed until the Covid positivity rate decreases in our communities, but Susan Kennedy Zeller, Susan Brackett and Charlie Savage continue to maintain and expand our collection and will be ready for us when we can return to in-person use of the library. Joan DiMonda has profiled children’s gardening books in the newsletter and will work with the library team to develop a small collection of children’s books.

Bridget DeCandido, the longtime leader of the Jim Jeffrey Camellia Group, moved to Florida. We thank Bridget for all she has done for this group and for HAH. She will continue to be involved with HAH, but replacing her to lead this initiative is the team of Susan Brackett and Julie Burmeister, who recently held the fall session for this group.

We had an excellent year, given the circumstances, and look forward to an even better year in 2022 when we can safely gather together. Thanks to our HAH Board Members all of whom worked hard to be sure that we could continue to deliver value to members. And thanks to the many volunteers who continue to show up to get things done – in the garden, at plant sales, and volunteering for our amaryllis program in local libraries. We continue to be grateful for the support of so many in response to our non-event fund raiser. We are going into better times with a healthy bank account as a result. Thank you for your personal support to me as President – it’s been a wild and wonderful three years, and I look forward to Erik Brockmeyer’s leadership as our new President.

Onward,

Alicia

Camellia Friends Held Our First Ever Zoom Meeting

Jim Jeffrey Camellia Friends met by Zoom on Saturday, November 13, to show our fall blooms and talk about gardening practices that give us success with cold hardy camellias. The most asked question was what thrives in our area. Members’ plants that have done well for 20 years or more include ‘Snow Flurry’, ‘Jean May’ and ‘Mason Farm’. The American Camellia Society provides lists of cold- and very cold-hardy camellias.

Growing Camellias in Cold Climates and Beyond the Camellia Belt, both by William Ackerman, are in the HAH Library.

During Question and Answer, we learned that camellias are great for pollinators. Georgia farmers plant many different kinds around their peach orchards. The succession of blooms attracts and feeds pollinators throughout the year.

Some members taught themselves to Zoom especially to be at our meeting! We had some former Long Islanders who have moved north and are now going to seek out cold-hardy plants to try. We were delighted that past-chairperson Bridget De Candido joined us from Florida and showed us camellias she discovered at her new home. We were able to put together the meeting thanks to wonderful coaching from Alicia Whitaker.

HAH friend and mentor, Jim Jeffrey, founded our group in 2008 as a club of the American Camellia Society. After Jim's death, we renamed the group in his honor. We are very generously supported and encouraged by HAH. All are welcome to our meetings, usually held in the HAH Library. Look for our next one in April when spring bloomers will be putting on a show.

Susan Brackett and Julie Burmeister, Co-Chairs

Photos: Four camellias that have thrived in our area for 20 years or more (left to right) Camellia ‘Jean May’ (photo by George Biercuk) 'Snow Flurry' ‘Mason Farm’ Camellia oleifera (photos by Abby Jane Brody)
THE (VIRTUAL) HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM RESUMES
Join Us on Zoom
Saturday, December 4th, 2021 at 10am to 11:30am

Choosing Plants to Create a Standout Winter Garden
& Ways to Bring Your Garden Indoors

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

Gone are the colorful annual, tropical, and perennial plants that gave us so much pleasure in late spring through early autumn. That is why this is the time of year when we all begin to really appreciate the plants in our gardens that will sustain us aesthetically as well as nourish our beneficial wildlife for the winter months ahead. And since that season can be a long one on Eastern Long Island, it’s really important that we have other beautiful and hardy plants to gaze upon in the coming months, including native varieties.

So I’m pleased that one of our presenters will be Anthony Marinello, Owner of Dropseed Native Landscapes, Creator of the Long Island Native Plant Gardening Group, and board member of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative. Please join us so you can share your favorites too. Topics we’ll be covering include:

- Evergreen trees and shrubs that form the “bones” and backdrop of your garden
- Semi-evergreens
- Deciduous trees and shrubs prized for their
  - exfoliating bark
  - dense and interestingly shaped branches
- Color in the garden provided by
  - Berries
  - Colorful branches
  - Varied evergreen shades of green, chartreuse, red, and gold
- Hardy plants with winter flowers
- Plants that provide winter-long dried flower and seed heads, nuts, and pine cones for you and your feathered friends
- Winter containers
- Decorative structures that stand up to our winter weather, including ones that will provide water for birds
- Bringing your garden indoors with
  - Dried flowers
  - Dried herbs for winter cooking
  - holiday decorations using your own plant materials

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 10am
Zoom link will be emailed prior to the lecture. No need to pre-register.

THE WRITER IN THE GARDEN

Jane Garmey will read from and discuss some of her favorite garden writers on both sides of the Atlantic, revealing their likes, dislikes, shortcomings, frustrations, successes, and failures. Whether it’s Gertrude Jekyll praising rain, Christopher Lloyd on the charm of vulgar color, Edith Wharton extolling the magic of Italian gardens, Michael Pollan on the not-so-subtle sexuality of roses, Eleanor Perenyi bemoaning the trial of getting help in her garden, or Vita Sackville West on judicious disorder -- these are just a few of the many engaging writers and poets whose intelligence, wit, and distinctive voices will be heard and celebrated.

Jane is the author of City Green: Public Gardens of New York, Private Gardens of the Hudson Valley, Private Gardens of Connecticut, The Writer in the Garden, Great British Cooking: A Well-Kept Secret and Great New British Cooking. She has written about gardens and interior design for the New York Times, House and Garden, AD, and Elle Décor. She is a frequent contributor to Introspective, the on-line magazine of First Dibs, and for many years was the garden correspondent of Town & Country and wrote regularly about garden topics for the Wall Street Journal. Born and educated in England, Jane lives in New York and in Cornwall, Connecticut, where her garden is part of The Garden Conservancy’s ‘Open Days’ program.
Common Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) - A whimsical East End native to stabilize wetlands, shelter ducks and feed bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

By Susan Brackett

Little round balls - like ping pong balls - dangling from slender, 4-inch stems make the Buttonbush hard to miss. The balls are covered in tiny, white or pink, trumpet-shaped flowers in late June and early July. After flowering, the balls turns pinkish, then hang on into the winter. Leaves are long, dark and glossy in spring and early summer then turn paler toward fall.

I first saw this happy plant in October 2020, massed with other natives in the East Hampton bio swale which winds through the center of the Green, across the street from Home Sweet Home. Last September, I was delighted to recognize a large Buttonbush in the Denver Botanic Garden.

This deciduous plant grows naturally in wet, sunny areas such as marshes, stream beds, pond sides and flood plains. It has a swollen base that keeps it stable and help prevent erosion in standing water and floods. Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds feed on the nectar. Mammals and birds eat the seeds, and waterfowl use the twisted branches for protection and nesting.

I have not yet seen this plant in a garden. Sources say it can be massed or planted as a specimen and recommend it for water gardens. It grows from 6 to 12 feet tall and 8 feet wide, though some cultivars remain smaller. In the bio swale (and in Denver), massed with other natives, it looked straggly by late summer, but dangling balls and gnarled branches keep it interesting. Standing alone, it can develop an impressive, full, rounded crown. The plant thrives in rich loam, but will tolerate most soil-types, including compacted soil, as long as it gets plenty of water. It does well in full sun to part shade, but flowers better in sun. Buttonbush can be pruned but does not require pruning. It has no significant disease pests, but deer browse the leaves.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture warns strongly that Buttonbush contains Cephalanthin which can induce vomiting, paralysis and convulsion if ingested.

To find out more about Buttonbush, look at websites such as USDA Plant Guide, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and North Carolina Extension Gardener. If you Google Buttonbush, include USDA in the search line and you will quickly reach the educational sites.

Photos: clockwise from above
1. Buttonbush in East Hampton native bioswale in late October
2. Cephalanthus in early June
3. Cephalanthus: A mature flower, by Debbie Roos, North Carolina Extension
4. A seed head in October
5. September in the Denver Botanic Garden
6. Cephalanthus full bush, North Carolina Extension
In the Shade of a Tree…..a book review

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Not to be confused with The Wish Tree by Kyo Maclear, Katherine Applegate, a Newbury Medalist, wrote a book about kindness, friendship and hope using the voices of Red, an oak tree, specifically a Quercus rubra, who is many rings old and Bongo a friendly crow. The short 51 chapters capture conversations between Red and Bongo and bring Red's world to beautiful life. Deep, funny and nuanced, Applegate is at her best.

Wishtrees exist all around the world. East Hampton's very own wishtree is located at LongHouse where pencil and paper are ready for hanging your wish on a tree branch. Scraps of paper, tags, bits of fabric, snippets of yarn, even gym socks find their way to the wishtree's branches on May 1st every year. Each represents a dream, a desire, a longing draped, tossed, tied with a bow - all hope for something better.

Red is the neighborhood wishtree and when a new family moves in not everyone is welcoming. Red and Bongo help their neighbors embrace their differences through Red's role as a wishtree.

How wonderful to read this book with a child where you are available to explain the nuances. For instance:
- "the more you listen the more you learn"
- "it does not matter what size you are"
- "there is beauty in stillness, grace in acceptance"
- "it is a great gift indeed to love who you are"

When Red has an ugly word carved into his bark it is a sorrowful day. He explains that bark is like a person's skin. It is his protection from the world and makes it harder for him to fight off disease and insects. As the drama unfolds there are other nuances to discuss:
- "time heals all wounds"
- "making others feel safe is a fine way to spend your day"
- "something bad can become good with enough time, care and hope"

Real life, like a good garden, can be messy. The overall tone is heartfelt, caring and full of empathy.

Recommended for grades 3-7 Reviewed by Joan DiMonda
How many gardening tools do we really need? According to the Grateful Dead's Bob Weir: "Too much of everything is just enough". For me, acquiring garden tools can often border on obsession. (I also have 8 guitars, but that article goes to the GAH, the Guitar Alliance of the Hamptons Newsletter). Personally, I prefer hand tools but I use long handled tools as well. I like cutting and pruning more than digging and planting. I'm big on saws, my favorite being a California made 13" Fanno with a not overly long handle. Great on that just out of reach branch, so I need not get my ladder. Effective on my invasive olive trees as well, though cutting them down seems to increase their vigor. I have a German made Berger hand saw, and my landscaper was blown away when she watched me cut a tree down with it. My Italian made blue Vesco saw slides right into my pocket.

Weeding, however, seems to take most of my time. I probably have a half dozen hand weeders, yet I continue to use the same one, a left-handed Dewitt Japanese Garden Hoe, again and again. The sharp blade is at a perfect angle, and it's made for a southpaw. Interesting how loyal we are to our favorite tools. I have some great long handled weeders from the Dutch manufacturer, Sneeboer. I like the diamond head hoe the best, a bit more nimble when I'm within my perennial beds. The Royal Hoe weeder, so named for its crown shape, is another favorite. Both weed on the push and pull stroke, a tool prerequisite for me.

For garden grunt work, the Sneeboer Fork and Mattock is my go to. I prefer finesse in the garden, but sometimes heavy lifting is required, and this tool is a brute to go through thick roots, or getting a hole started in unyielding soil. My Dewitt bulb planter is the best one I've ever found, heavy and sharp. My soil scoop is perfect for emptying potting soil, compost or peat from the bag into my containers. I use my Sneeboer shrub rake with sturdy tines to gather all my debris, and my garden hand claws pick them up effectively, and touchless at that.

I've never been happy buying garden tools at big box stores. It reminds me of the plants and trees they sell: sad looking and unloved. (Not to mention dry as dust; are they ever watered??) Even when the brands are well known, they feel tarnished by the big box brush; I just never feel the connection. A few years back, I found the Garden Tool Company in Texas. Blake and Anne, the husband and wife proprietors, are throwbacks to old fashioned service, in a gee whiz, aww shucks kind of way. The cynical New Yorker in me wondered if it was an act, but they are so warm and sincere. Great products that at times I can't even find on Amazon.

My garden's claim to fame is no irrigation, and after a year of a new planting, unless we are in the midst of a severe drought, I NEVER water. Good thing in a way, because as much as I love tools, the next quality garden hose I buy will be the first. They kink, they leak, they frustrate!

REMINDER! Wreath Making Workshop - Led by Sarah Alford - Sunday December 5th at 2PM
Join this zoom to make a wreath from your own greens and a short list of supplies. In advance of the workshop, gather the materials on the supply list. During the workshop, follow the instructions as we all create wreaths and bows to add holiday cheer to our homes.
Supplies:
- Wreath frame - Assorted greens - Pruning shears - Florist wire - Ribbon - Festive flourishes
HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2022 - Sundays at 2 pm

January 16 – Andy Brand – *After the Flowers Have Faded: Plants With Fabulous Foliage*
February 13 – Ruth Rogers Clausen – *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*
March 13 – Renny Reynolds – *Gardens in England & their influence on Hortulus*
April 10 – Thomas Christopher – *Nature Into Art – Lessons To Be Learned From the Gardens of Wave Hill*
May 1 – Andrew Bunting – *Belvidere: Evolution of a Plantsman’s Garden*
June 12 – Jennifer Jewell – *Cultivating Place, How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places and Their People*
September 11 – Lori Chips – *Troughs: Gardening in the Smallest Landscape*
October 16 – Lois Sheinfeld – *Outstanding Trees for the Home Garden*
November 13 – C. L. Fornari – *The 21st Century Flower Garden*
December 11 – Stephen Scanniello – *The Rose Garden Chronicles*

More Horticultural Programs in December 2021

**Thursday, December 2, 2:00 pm. Garden Conservancy Virtual Talk: Beyond Wild - Gardens and Landscapes with Raymond Jungles.** $5 for Garden Conservancy members, $15 for non-members. For more info and to register: [https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-talk-Raymond-Jungles](https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-talk-Raymond-Jungles)

**Friday, December 3, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Birding for Beginners at Landcraft** led by Jennifer Murray, local naturalist and birder. Landcraft Garden Foundation, 4342 Grand Avenue, Mattituck, NY 11952. $25 members, $35 non-members. For more info and to register: [https://www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org/event/birding-for-beginners/](https://www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org/event/birding-for-beginners/)

**Sundays, December 5, 12 and 19 -- Marders Wreath Making Workshops.** Morning session from 10:00 am to 11:00 am or afternoon session from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. $125 for adults, $85 for children 12 and under; all materials provided. Masks required. Prepaid reservations required and space is limited. 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. More info: marders.com To register, call (631) 537-3700 or email: info@marders.com

**Saturday, December 11, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Merry Madoo.** Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack, NY 11962. FREE. For more info: [madoo.org](http://madoo.org)