On Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Please join us at the Bridgehampton Community House

for a talk by Karl Gercens on

365 Days of Flowers

Planning, installation, and maintenance of the conservatory displays at Longwood Gardens.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to put on a flower show type of display with no closing date? Join Karl Gercens, Conservatory Manager at Longwood Gardens, as he takes us through the planning and implementation of the most inspirational horticultural glasshouse displays. You’ll experience the design aspects of using dramatic color, texture, form, and repetition that can all be applied to your own garden with plants that thrive in your growing zones as we pursue inspiration, not duplication.

Karl Gercens’ passion for horticulture started at an early age while growing-up on a 10,000-acre cotton plantation in Mississippi. The warm Mississippi climate and long growing season helped to nurture his fondness for plants and his appreciation for the wonders of natural beauty. Karl’s experimentation with different plant types and growing methods in that region sparked an interest in new and dynamic exploration for cultivation which ultimately led to his B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture at Mississippi State University. Karl then completed academic internships at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida and at the Filoli Estate in the San Francisco Bay Area of California.

A notoriety for using a rich palette of colorful foliage trees, shrubs, and perennials fuels the exciting content of Karl’s professional lectures given nationwide and his horticultural classes offered at Longwood Gardens. When Karl is not gardening, lecturing, or consulting, his horticultural passion extends worldwide with frequent visits to public and private gardens in all 50 states and more than 20 countries! While at those locations, he often takes vibrant and vivid digital photography which he catalogues so he can share his experiences with others.

SAVE THE DATE - JULY 14, 2023

HAH LOCAL GARDEN TOUR

showcasing a spectacular pollinator garden!
Dear members,

The 2023 Garden Fair is one we'll long remember: for the fabulous plants, the exciting Silent Auction, and the fun + fellowship of gathering as a community. Those who shopped or volunteered on Saturday may also remember it for the 2 inches of rain that fell but did not dampen our spirits!

I send my heartfelt thanks to all of you: from the Board members and dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly before, during, and after the event, to those who donated offerings to our Silent Auction (see the list later in the newsletter and please be sure to let donors know how much you appreciate their support of HAH the next time you see them!), and of course those of you who came and shopped. We were thrilled with the generous support you showed for HAH and thank you all for making our Garden Fair a tremendous success!

I'll end here for now since I still have lots to do in the garden -- and I suspect many of you do as well.

All my best,
Erik

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FOG – Friends of the Garden

Anyone who enjoys gardening is welcome to join. The gardening dates for 2023 are Tuesdays June 27, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17 and November 14. We usually start at about 10 AM. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Cornelia Bostwick

HAH wishes to thank the great sellers who supplied us with such beautifully grown plants for our Fair this year. We are so fortunate to have these growers in our part of the world!

Beds and Borders, Inc., Laurel Eastlands Nursery & Farms, Watermill Fowler’s Garden Center, Southampton Glover Perennials, Cutchogue Landcraft Environments, Ltd., Mattituck Open Minded Organics, Bridgehampton Provenance Native Plants, Southampton Schlecht Nursery, Center Moriches
HAH GARDEN FAIR 2023 - we were warm, dry, wet and so happy that we sold every plant - thanks to all of you!
HAH thanks all these generous donors to our 2023 Auction for their gifts, time, effort and creativity given on behalf of HAH!

Aspatuck Gardens
Grant Babis
Lori Barnaby Group
Bay Gardens
Beds & Borders
Bettina Benson
Dianne Benson
Broadview Gardens
Erik Brockmeyer
Joan DiMonda
Marie DiMonte
Jackson Dodds
Eastland Farms
Ft Pond Native Plants
Halsey Farm
Landcraft Environments
The Laurel Group at Baywoods
Elizabeth Lear
Michael Longacre
LongHouse Reserve
Marders
Patricia Matheson
Janet Ollinger
Peconic River Herb Farm
Elaine Peterson
Piazza Horticultural
Sag Harbor Garden Center
Erika Shank
Ruth Ann Stanley
Summerhill Landscapes
Trimble's of Corchaug Nursery
Unlimited EarthCare Inc.
Verderber Garden Center
Alicia Whitaker
Whitmore's Inc.
Holger Winenga
Gregory Wiseman
Abbie Zabar
The Bumble Bee - Queen of the Underworld

After a fascinating observation of a bumble bee (Apidae bombus) on May 6, I am trying to find out everything I can about them. I witnessed a solitary yellow bumble bee clinging to dead needles of a Cryptomeria ‘Black Dragon’ in my garden where a strong beam of early morning sun reached far into the interior of the tree. The bee was dry brushing its entire body, including the wings, very carefully and methodically with the feet that were not holding onto the needles. I was riveted at the scene of such an intimate ritual in a bee’s life, and would have stayed longer than the 10 minutes I had available to watch, but I had an impatient blind dog to walk pulling me away…. but this bee seemed in no hurry to finish its elaborate process. I wondered what it was actually doing or preparing for or recovering from. What do bees do other than collect pollen from our flowers in summer which is when we are most aware of their presence? Here’s what I found out...

First, it was a female bee, a queen probably, and likely newly emerged from its underground home of the previous year. 70% of bee species build their nests below ground and bumble bees are among them, building either in rodent holes or beneath plant debris or thatch. I have seen their nests here in my garden in summer usually at the edges of a garden bed and grass where there is dry earth in some sunshine.

Most bees of the previous year’s colony die at the end of the season in fall, with only a few gynes (inseminated females) surviving to emerge after the winter when soil temperatures have warmed up. I think that was what I saw, because her daughters, the worker bees, have not yet been born and the males do not emerge until later in June. The spring emerged gyne builds a new nest for the coming season and collects pollen for the soon to start process of - egg-larva-pupa-adult - which rapidly grows into a bigger and bigger colony over the warm months as the queen continues to lay eggs.

Then life for the bees gets busy indeed and complicated, with some eggs unfertilized and some daughters’ fertile eggs destroyed by the queen while future gynes get more food than workers. Females do all the work of pollen collection for the growing colony over the summer. The males that emerge as adults in late June/July leave the nest and get pollen for themselves strictly to fuel their search for a mate.

Usually when I think of the Queen of the Underworld, I think of the Greek mythological Persephone, the goddess associated with birth/spring and death/fall. But nowhere in my search of Wiki or books did I find any source for this goddess to be the humble bumble bee, only that the probable origin of the myth had agricultural roots in the so-called pagan world. Well the origin seems clear as a strong May sunrise that I am hardly the first gardener to witness this spring ritual and feel its wonder enough to turn it into a story, complete with a dragon.

Please let’s keep the bee stories alive by allowing areas in your garden to be receptive to bees’ nests. Don’t mulch everything, leave some areas neglected, and open to the sun for them. And although bumble bees can travel up to a mile looking for pollen, do plant some favorites that they will buzz to happily in your own garden. Alliums attract them in summer and goldenrod and asters are a big draw in late summer and autumn. And they are very useful in your edible garden pollination needs. Read more about them in Heather Holm’s book, BEES.

Elaine Peterson
Lazy Composting

I’m guessing that we all know about the benefits of composting. Aside from the creation of great food for our garden, thereby reducing the need for fertilizers, it diverts material from landfills where it decomposes anaerobically, creating methane, a very strong greenhouse gas.

But I suspect people get intimidated by the broad spectrum of advice, complicated equipment and many tools that are available to turn compostable material into “black gold”.

Many years ago, I began just tossing kitchen vegetable kitchen scraps into a pile in a hidden corner of my garden. Turns out, nature did a great job of breaking down this material without any intervention or effort from me. The one downside of my pile was the difficulty of harvesting the good stuff at the bottom of the pile to put it into my garden.

I decided to upgrade my pile approach by buying two wire bins so that I could fill one and let it decompose. When the first bin gets full, I simply start to fill the second bin and nature continues its work to break down the contents of the first one.

By the time the second bin is full, the first one is ready to be used in my garden. Because the material is exposed to lots of air, it doesn’t decompose anaerobically like in a landfill and therefore doesn’t produce methane.

If anything like twigs or avocado seeds aren’t yet broken down when I harvest my black gold, I simply toss them into the other bin and they get another year to break down.

I call my approach Lazy Composting because I truly don’t do anything other than toss the stuff into the bin. I don’t add anything to assist nature, I don’t worry about the ratio of ‘brown’ and ‘green’ material, I don’t turn the material over periodically. I just toss material in and let nature do the work.

I put everything into the bin that I can. All vegetable matter from the kitchen goes in along with fall cleanup plant material, small branches, compostable packing peanuts and bags and even paper towels (without cleaning chemicals) and greasy pizza boxes that can’t be recycled go into the bin!

In the many years that I’ve been doing this, I’ve never seen evidence of rodents coming to the compost bin - just an occasional racoon that’s looking for a snack. My racoon seems to especially love the sweet rind of pineapples and melons….

If you have a hidden corner of your garden, give Lazy Composting a try!

Greg Wiseman
Events at Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. To register for an event: (631) 283-3195 or events@peconiclandtrust.org. More info: peconiclandtrust.org

Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27. 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - Paul Wagner Lawn Care Advice. FREE.

Saturday, June 17, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Transforming Your Garden with Pollinator-Friendly Native Plants. $5 suggested donation. Space is limited, reservations required. Rain cancels.

Saturday, June 10, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The Cultural Landscape Foundation Garden Dialogues 2023: Southampton, NY. (address provided upon registration). $175. This Garden Dialogue will be led by J. Brian Sawyer from Sawyer | Berson. Space is limited and reservations are required. For more info and to purchase tickets: https://www.tclf.org/garden-dialogues-2023-southampton-ny

Saturday, June 10 & Sunday, June 11. Parrish Art Museum Landscape Pleasures 2023. Saturday symposium from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Saturday evening Cocktail Party for Sponsor level ticket holders and above. Self-guided tours of gardens on Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Tickets start at $200 for members, $250 for non-members. For more info and to purchase tickets: https://parrishart.org/landscape-pleasures-2023/

Garden Conservancy Open Days. Pre-registration is required for each garden. Capacity is limited and no walk-ins will be allowed. No paper tickets or cash payments will be accepted on-site.

Saturday, June 17, times vary by garden. 5 Gardens in Bridgehampton & East Hampton. For more info and to register: https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/open-days-schedule/suffolk-county-ny-open-day-26.

There is also a Digging Deeper program on this date: The Garden as a Unifying Force, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. $30 members, $40 non-members. For more info and to register: https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/open-days-schedule/digging-deeper-the-garden-as-a-unifying-force

Sunday, June 18, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Garden Masters: The Garden as a Private Vision: A Curated Conversation at Jack Lenor Larsen's LongHouse Reserve. 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937. $125 members, $130 non-members. For more info and to register: https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/open-days-schedule/garden-masters-the-garden-as-a-private-vision-a-curated-conversation-at-jack-lenor-larsen-s-longhouse-reserve

Saturday, June 17. Much Ado About Madoo. Garden Market from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Suggested donation $10. Garden Cocktail Party from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. $315 for members, $350 non-members. Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack, NY 11962. For more info and to purchase tickets: https://www.madoo.org/much-ado-about-madoo

Saturday, June 17, beginning at 7:30am. Southampton Rose Society Annual Rose Show & Rose Day. Morris Room at the Rogers Memorial Library, 91 Coopers Neck Road, Southampton, NY 11968. For more info: https://southamptonrose.org/2023-events/

Saturday, June 24. Guild Hall Garden as Art 2023. 10:00 am Talk. 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Garden Tours. 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm Cocktail Prolongé for upper-level ticket buyers. Tickets from $150 for members and $200 for non-members. For more info and to register: https://www.guildhall.org/events/garden-as-art-2023/

Saturday, June 24. Planters ON+OFF the Ground XI. LongHouse Reserve, 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937. For more info: https://longhouse.org/collections/2023-events/products/planters-on-off-the-ground-xi

Marders Garden Lecture Series. All lectures start at 10:00 am. FREE. 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. More info: marders.com

Sunday, June 4: Fighting Fungus & Battling Beetles Organically

Sunday, June 11: The Best Cutting Garden Flowers for Floral Arrangements

Sunday, June 18: The Challenges of Shade Gardens

Sunday, June 25: Using Hardy & Tropical Succulents to Create Drought Tolerant Containers
HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2023 - 2 pm
At the Bridgehampton Community Center, Main Hall
2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY

June 11 – Karl Gercens – 365 Days of Flowers

No lectures in July or August

September 10 – Bridget Wosczyna – Introduction to the Plants You Should be Growing:
Hardy and Tropical Aroids for Northeast Gardens
October 15 – Rebecca McMackin – Brooklyn Bridge Park: Lessons in Constructed Ecology
November 12 – Ulrich (Uli) Lorimer - The Northeast Native Plant Primer: 235 Plants for an Earth-Friendly
Garden
December 10 – Scott Chaskey – Soil & Spirit, Cultivation and Kinship in the Web of Life