

# THE GARDENERS' GAZETTE

June 2011

[www.lihort.org](http://www.lihort.org)

Long Island Horticultural Society Journal

## THIS MEETING

- DATE: **Sunday, June 12**  
**Please bring canned goods & nonperishable items**
- PLACE: **The Conference Center, Planting Fields Arboretum**  
(Driving directions are on the website under the "Programs" menu.)
- TIME: 1:00 pm
- SPEAKER: **Denise Adams**, Author, Lecturer
- TOPIC: **A History of Horticulture as seen through Antique Seed Catalogues**
- TIME: 2:00 pm, Business Meeting & Main Program
- SPEAKER: **Bill Barash**, Horticulturist and **Ellen Kamhi, Ph.D., RN**, The Natural Nurse
- TOPIC: **Join us for an Edible and Medicinal Herb Walk**



**1:00 PROGRAM:** Denise Adams is an author, ornamental plant nursery and garden historian, and lecturer. She received her Ph.D. in Horticulture from Ohio State University and for a decade owned an heirloom flower and herb nursery. This lecture offers insight into the world of American gardeners in earlier times as described and illustrated in the pages of antique nursery and seed catalogues. These informative documents contain a wealth of information concerning plants, garden design, tools and cultural history. A display of century old catalogs will accompany this lecture.

**2:00 PROGRAM:** Bill Barash has been an employee at Planting Fields Arboretum since 1972, identifying plants, curating the Italian Pool Garden, and managing the greenhouses. His many interests include floral arranging, stained glass artistry, and the piano, as well as enjoying the cultivation of herbs for both medicinal and culinary purposes. He is past president of the Long Island Horticultural Society. Ellen Kamhi, Ph.D., RN, "The Natural Nurse" has been involved in the medicinal use of herbs for thirty years. Dr. Kamhi is a professional member of the American Herbalist Guild (AHG), is nationally board certified as a holistic nurse (a-HNC), and works to bring together a body of modern and ancient practices and philosophies that use less invasive, less toxic natural techniques to enhance wellness. Bill and Ellen will lead us on a short walk around the Conference Center, chatting about the folklore and benefits of many of the plants in the area.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, September 18, **The Conference Center**, Planting Fields Arboretum  
1:00 pm: John Capobinaco: Exhibition Chrysanthemums  
2:00 pm: Todd Forest: Restoring the Historic Landscape of New York Botanical Garden

### *HOSPITALITY TIDBITS*

Thanks to all who brought snacks & signed **The Cookie List: Laura Weill, Chris Douglas, Toni & Stuart Germain, Judy Basse, Phyllis Raush, Rosemarie Quinlan, Carolyn Bantz, Roni Menrath, Gerry Bressel, Anne Schnarwyler-Cognato.**

Pick up a FREE raffle ticket & sign the Cookie List when you bring in snacks so we can acknowledge your contribution.

**Please bring in plants and other new items for the raffle at the June meeting.** Label all plants clearly and make sure all specimens are disease- and pest-free.

**For up-to-date news of LIHS meetings, activities, trips, etc., check our website: [www.lihort.org](http://www.lihort.org).**

If you have any suggestions or comments contact **Anne Schnarwyler: [webmaster@lihort.org](mailto:webmaster@lihort.org).**

**We will have a horticultural competition at the June meeting.** All entries must be presented by 12:45pm to be judged. Remember, no more than three entries per member household are allowed. Plants must be in your garden or in your care for at least three months prior to judging in order to qualify.

For each entry, please fill out a green slip with your name and the plant name(s) or arrangement description(s). *At the end of the meeting, leave the green slips on the table to be collected and entered in the record book.*

## LIHS PLANT SALE – A HUGE SUCCESS!

This year we netted over \$1000, the most collected from all plant sales so far. Part of our success was because of Nathalie Solzberg and her donation of garden equipment and plant food. Her late husband, Michael Henderson, loved to garden and would have been so pleased to know that the sale of his things would go towards a scholarship for a student studying horticulture. I am lucky to have Nathalie as a friend and LIHS also became lucky.

~ Judy Basse, LIHS Treasurer

**The deadline for the  
July/August issue is  
June 20th.**

## Upcoming LIHS Trips

### Trip to California for The Tournament of Roses!

December 28th through January 3rd - After participating in this fabulous Road Scholar program last December, I asked the program director if I could custom make that trip with some special activities for LIHS members. She was very willing to work with me. I hope you can join us on this extraordinary adventure!

Among the activities will be a docent led visit to the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino, a day at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, an opportunity to work on a very special float, La Cañada Flintridge, a live performance at the Bandfest, a New Year's Eve Party, seats at the Rose Bowl Parade, and the best part — a chance to get up close and personal with the floats the day after the parade!

We will be staying at the Hilton Woodland Hills Hotel in Los Angeles for six nights. The cost of the trip will be \$1,100, which will include the hotel stay, most meals, all admissions and gratuities. Air transportation is not included.

If you are interested in joining us for a memorable week, please send a deposit check for \$100 made out to LIHS and send it to **Barbara Levine**, 22 Sugar Maple Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576. Any questions, please call me at 516-741-3386 or email [barban22@optonline.net](mailto:barban22@optonline.net).

## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The gavel that Bruce uses now and that was used by all preceding presidents to open the meetings has a historic story to tell that holds many fond recollections. It was made in the 1950s by Dr. John Treiber, a dear friend of mine, a dentist that had lived in Garden City. He was the first president of the then fledgling Organic Gardeners of L.I. Club. John opened the meetings that were held in member's homes by knocking the gavel on a table. The Long Island Daily Press posted a picture of John and me as he handed the gavel over to me as I became the second president. The club became extinct because no one would take over as president.

The term organic was not in common usage as it is today. At first, if we had nine members attending that was considered to be a good turnout. Later on we met in the New Hyde Park

Library. The spread of Organic Gardening can be partially attributed to the Rodale Press, distributors of the Organic Gardening magazine. After I had served two terms as president, attendance increased substantially as more and more gardeners switched to the organic way of gardening. At that time DDT, a wicked chemical, the use of which was thought by many to be THE way to garden was prevalent. A friend of mine became ill because she had eaten some chicken from one that had previously been fed food that contained DDT! We have come a long way since those days with organically raised foods being sold in markets nationwide. Today, especially younger ones are becoming more diet conscious.

~ submitted by Bob Weschler, LIHS Member

## OTHER PLANTS OF INTEREST

*Acer triflorum* (3 Flower Maple)  
*Acer nikonense* (Nikko Maple)  
*Celtis sinensis* (Chinese Hackberry)  
*Clethra barbinervis* (Japanese Clethra)  
*Enkianthus perulatus* (White Enkianthus)  
*Euscaphis japonica* (Korean Sweetheart Tree)  
*Hydrangea hirta*  
*Phyllostachys aurea* (Golden Bamboo)  
*Osmanthus fragrant* (Sweet Osmanthus)  
*Pernettya* sp. (Prickly Heath)  
*Polygonaum capitata* (Knotwood)  
*Salvia involucrata* (Roseleaf Sage)  
*Sapium sebiferum* (Chinese Tallow Tree)  
*Sarcandra glabra*  
*Tibouchina* 'Little Princess' (Princess Flower)

~ From the Great Gardens of Japan  
Lecture Handout by Vincent A. Simone



## HAL MAHONEY'S OPEN HOUSE

Hal Mahoney, our speaker from the April 2011 meeting on Bonsai, will be having an open house on Saturday, July 9th from 10am to 2pm. His address is 336 West 15th Street, Deer Park, NY (at the corner of West 15th Street and West View Avenue off Deer Park Avenue).

## SEND ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

Thanks for your writings! Please keep sending your essays, plant profiles, garden travelogues, etc. After all, this is YOUR newsletter – contribute!



## Share Your Garden

Soon our gardens will be in their summer glory. Wouldn't you love to let other LIHS members see yours? If so, contact our trip coordinator **Barbara Levine** at 516-741-3386 or [barbara@lihort.org](mailto:barbara@lihort.org) to arrange a visit.

Last summer we had the pleasure of visiting many delightful and beautiful gardens of our members. Let's do it again this year.

# NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

I've just discovered a nursery "specializing in nursery grown and propagated perennial plants native to Northeastern America". **Toadshade Wildflower Farm** is a family run business located at 53 Everittstown Rd. in Frenchtown, NJ. It is a mail order only and not open to the public. To get their pretty little catalog with line drawings of each species offered go to [www.toadshade.com](http://www.toadshade.com) or email them at [toadshade@toadshade.com](mailto:toadshade@toadshade.com). Phone 908-996-7500. Check out their well organized website for descriptions, photos and nice line drawings of native plants.

A few plants offered in their 2011 printed catalog are:

- Aquilegia canadensis* - Wild Eastern or Red Columbine
- A.c. "Corbett" - Golden Eastern Columbine
- Acorus calamus* - Sweet Flag
- Agrimonia striata* - Woodland Agrimony
- Arisaema triphyllum* - Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Eurybia divaricata* (*Aster divaricata*) - White Wood Aster
- Maianthemum stellatum* (*Smilacina stellata*) - Starry False Solomon's-Seal

- Solidago sempervirens* - Seaside Goldenrod
- Symphotrichum cordifolium* - Heart-Leaved or Blue Wood Aster
- S. lateriflorum* (*Aster lateriflorus*) - Calico Aster
- S. novi-belgii* (*Aster novi-belgii*) - New York Aster

The catalog also lists grasses and sedges, ferns, vines and woody species such as *Cercis canadensis* - Eastern Redbud and *Cornus amomum* - Silky Dogwood.

If you like native plants - here is a new source to try. The catalog lists both Latin and common names, as well as alternate names that plants may be known as. Also listed is the plant's Family. When choosing native plants always be aware of invasive tendencies; e.g. the nursery offers *Campsis radicans* - Trumpet Vine, which can be quite invasive. The nursery ships Apr. 1 - Jun. 30, Sept. 1 - Oct. 31.

~ submitted by Rosemarie Papayanopulos, LIHS member



**LIHS Hofstra  
University Tour  
April 30, 2011**

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## MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Yes, renew my/our membership @ 25  # of gift membership(s) @ \$25 each (Attach separate sheet if necessary).

NAME: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Don Houser, LIHS Membership Secretary, 386 Grand Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762  
or bring to next meeting. Please make check payable to LIHS.**

## GOD AND GRASS

*Maybe we need to change our thinking! Gardeners will enjoy this conversation between God and St. Francis. It is hilarious because it is so true.*

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled, there, Lord. The suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir. just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow, and, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to

the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No?! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down the trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about . . .

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Author Unknown

*~ submitted by Anne Mehlinger  
LIHS 2nd Vice President*

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### Editor's Corner

It's been a busy month trying to work in the garden between the raindrops, travelling to North Carolina and going on some garden tours in Suffolk County. In North Carolina, the Southern Magnolias were in full bloom and very fragrant, as well as the roses, although I wasn't ready for the warmer temperatures. I was happy to return to cooler temperatures.

The three gardens I visited on the tour were beautiful. My favorite garden was the one where the homeowner col-

lected Japanese Maples. He explained that he loved the color and foliage of the red Japanese Maple and began collecting them, as well as other varieties in all sizes. They looked beautiful against the backdrop of evergreens. Another garden had a lot of drought tolerant plants planted on a slope in the backyard and utilized the views all around the property. It has given me some ideas and inspiration for my own gardens! Happy Gardening . . .

Sylvia

## GARDENERS' CALENDAR

### June 2011

- 5 **L.I. Rose Society Annual Show**, 1-5pm, "Say It With Roses", Horticultural Center Building, Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, NY. For further information go to [www.longislandroses.org](http://www.longislandroses.org) or contact Mary Jane Lee at 516-627-6382.
- 5 **Talk and Tour: Irises and Peonies**, 2pm. Old Westbury Gardens. Visit [www.oldwestburygardens.org](http://www.oldwestburygardens.org) for more information.
- 8 **Spring Garden Tea and Tour**, 1-3:30pm. After a seasonal guided tour of the Gardens ending in the Walled Garden, enjoy an elegant tea at Orchard Hill. Registration and pre-payment required, please call 516-333-0048 x 301 or register online. \$35.00; \$30.00 Members. Old Westbury Gardens, Westbury, NY.
- 12 **Talk and Tour: Roses**, 2pm. Old Westbury Gardens. Visit [www.oldwestburygardens.org](http://www.oldwestburygardens.org) for more information.
- 13 **L.I. Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting**, 7:30pm - Basic Bonsai Techniques: Trimming and Defoliation, Jim Byrne. 8pm Lecture/Demonstration, Min Hsuan Lo. Main Greenhouse classroom, Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay. Call 516-922-9210 or visit [www.longislandbonsai.org](http://www.longislandbonsai.org).
- 16 **Everybody Loves Roses Session I - 10am, Session II - 1pm**. Meet with Ann Marie Zawistowski, the Old Westbury Gardens rosarian, during the peak rose blooming time as she discusses rose types, designing with roses, organic and traditional rose care, pruning, deadheading and maintenance in a two-session presentation at Old Westbury Gardens. Registration and pre-payment required, please call 516-333-0048 x 301 or register line. \$15.00 per session; \$5.00 Members. Both sessions - \$25.00 both sessions, \$10 Members.
- 18 **Roosevelt Preserve, Roosevelt**, 10am. Botanist Dr. Andrew Greller will reveal the world of plants as we explore this hidden jewel. (Rain date Sunday, June 19). To register and for directions please contact North Shore Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or [andrea@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:andrea@northshorelandalliance.org).
- 20 **L.I. Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus and Succulent Plant Show**, 7:30pm. Refreshments served. Kellenberg Memorial High School (Teacher's Lounge), 1400 Glenn Curtis Blvd., Uniondale, NY. For more information contact Jan Stewart at 516-735-4479.
- 25 **2011 North Fork Garden Tour & Progressive Tasting of the North Fork**, 1-5pm. Self-guided tour. Tickets will be limited - \$75.00 per person. For further information call 516-249-0545 or email [info@linla.org](mailto:info@linla.org).
- 26 **Monthly Meeting, North American Rock Garden Society-Long Island Chapter**, 2pm. Greenhouse Classroom at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay.

### July 2011

- 8 **L.I. Rose Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm, Program: Summer Care for your Roses. Plainview/Old Bethpage Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY. For further information go to [www.longislandroses.org](http://www.longislandroses.org) or contact Mary Jane Lee at 516-627-6382.
- 11 **L.I. Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting**, 7:30pm - TBA. 8pm - Pauline Muth, Larch: Care and Styling. Main Greenhouse classroom, Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay. Call 516-922-9210 or visit [www.longislandbonsai.org](http://www.longislandbonsai.org).
- 28 **Clark Sanctuary, Old Brookville**, 6pm. Naturalist Peter Warny will be speaking about who's living in the wetlands of this sublime preserve. To register and for directions please contact North Shore Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or [andrea@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:andrea@northshorelandalliance.org).

### Martin Viette 2011 Spring and Summer Lectures

Get your green thumb growing! Join us for one or all of these free informative Saturday lectures at Martin Viette, 6050 Northern Blvd., East Norwich, NY 11732. Lectures are given at 11am, rain or shine. Please call ahead to reserve a free seat under the big green tent - 516-922-5530.

- June 11 Easy Summer Landscape Solutions  
July 9 Heavenly Hydrangeas for Long Island Gardens

May 21-August 21 - **New York Botanical Gardens Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra**. The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and New York Botanical Garden Grounds. Visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) for more information.

*Local plant societies and public gardens are invited to send information on upcoming events and programs of horticultural interest to the Gazette's newsletter editor, Sylvia Cordero-Skidmore, at least two months in advance. Contact info: [newsletter@lihort.org](mailto:newsletter@lihort.org) or 25 Greenvale Lane, Levittown, NY 11756. (No phone calls please.)*

For a list of native and non-invasive garden plants as well as a list of Long Island Gold Medal Plants, see the following Cornell Cooperative Extension website: <http://ccesuffolk.org/nursery-and-landscape-current-projects/>.





[www.lihort.org](http://www.lihort.org)

Send \$25/calendar year dues & address corrections to:  
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🌿 *LIHS is now on FACEBOOK!* 🌿

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**Members receive a 10% discount** at Oakwood Road Nursery Ltd., 223 Oakwood Road, Huntington (631-673-0555). Just show your LIHS membership card.

## President's Message

My thanks to everyone who made our plant sale so successful. We did very well this year and as you know all the money will be used to fund our yearly scholarship. This year we did not have **Bob Weschler** to entertain us with his explosive personality. Bob always reads my message so I would like to tell him he was surely missed and we look forward to seeing him at our next plant sale.

Some plants were donated for our sale from Oakwood Road Nurseries in Huntington. I would like to thank **Donna Bemiss** for her help with the plant sale. Donna has agreed to give LIHS members a 10% discount on all of her plants. You must show an official membership card to Donna to get this discount. Please visit Oakwood Road Nurseries. If you see Donna, let her know how we appreciate her kind donations.

A lot of our members showed up for the tour of the Hofstra campus given by Fred Soviero. The campus is truly

beautiful with detail given to every planted area. Fred told me that every year they plant and dig up 80,000 tulips. My son Ian is attending Hofstra in the Fall and went on the tour. What a great way to learn about the school he is about to start. I just found out that my daughter Devon has applied to Hofstra, so any contributions would be gladly accepted. Many thanks to Fred from us for his wonderful tour.

We ended our last meeting with a talk from **Vinnie Simeone** about his trip to Japan. I was surprised at the detail that Japanese people put into their landscape. Vinnie told me that you don't see any litter or graffiti anywhere in Japan. On the back of his handout, Vinnie posted interesting new plants that we should try. I have asked Sylvia to post them in the newsletter. Our next meeting on June 12th is the last until the fall, so I hope everyone enjoys the summer.

Bruce

**Members receive a 10% discount** at Main Street Nursery, 475 W. Main St., Huntington (631-549-4515). Just show your LIHS membership card.



**Remember to bring can tabs. The collection box can be found by the entry at every meeting!**

*Out of gardens grow fleeting flowers but lasting friendships. ~Beverly Rose Hopper*