

THE GARDENERS' GAZETTE

March 2011

www.lihort.org

Long Island Horticultural Society Journal

THIS MEETING

DATE: **Sunday, March 20**
Please bring canned goods & nonperishable items

PLACE: **The Hay Barn, Planting Fields Arboretum**
(Driving directions are on the website under the "Programs" menu.)

TIME: 1:00 pm
SPEAKER: **Richard Blohm**, Master Beekeeper
TOPIC: **Beekeeping and Producing Honey on Long Island**

TIME: 2:00 pm, Business Meeting & Main Program
SPEAKER: **Fred Soviero**, Director of Grounds & Landscaping, Hofstra University
TOPIC: **Plants and Projects . . . New and Noteworthy**



1:00 PROGRAM: Richard Blohm, Master Beekeeper, will be discussing the history of beekeeping, commercial and hobby apiculture, the bees' effects on the food supply, and all about honey. He has been raising honeybees for the past 35 years here on Long Island, maintaining 50 beehives. He is a member of the Eastern Apicultural Society and past president of the Long Island Beekeepers Club.

2:00 PROGRAM: Fred Soviero, Director of Grounds & Landscaping, will be speaking about new plants and happenings in the gardens at Hofstra University. Fred oversees Hofstra's 240-acre grounds, making sure that over 12,000 evergreen and deciduous trees, as well as shrubs, perennials, ornamental grasses and annuals are well taken care of. An inspiring, knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker, you won't want to miss this lecture! He is also a member of the Long Island Gold Medal Plants Award Program.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 17, **The Conference Center**, Planting Fields Arboretum
1:00 pm: Hal Mahoney: Bonsai
2:00 pm: Andi Pettis, Gardener: Manhattan's High Line Park



Galanthus nivalis

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We want to be able to make more use of email to send announcements to our members.

Please email **Don Houser** at **jdhouser89@verizon.net** so he can update his list. There will also be a signup sheet on the entry table at the meetings.

Renew Your Membership for 2011

At \$25 dollars per family or individual per calendar year, it's still the best bargain around.

Use the coupon on page 5 or fill out one at the meeting. You can bring your dues check to our monthly meeting or mail it to **Don Houser**, LIHS Membership Secretary, 386 Grand Blvd, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Please make check payable to LIHS.

O, wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?~Percy Bysshe Shelley

Editor's Corner

Here I am listening to the rain, thunder, and wind as winter and spring battle it out. It's been a gusty and snowy winter. The last remnants of snow are finally melting away, and I can see that my Snowdrops have emerged from the ground and blooming. If it wasn't raining, I would quickly go outside and take a picture, but thunder and lightning are keeping me indoors for now.

Spring is definitely around the corner. I can see the differences in the colors of the landscape — the different hues in the barks of trees and shrubs, buds swelling, and different shades of green emerging from the ground. Very soon it's going to be time to go outside and begin getting my garden ready for the new season.

I would like to thank **Vicki Sommer** for taking the time in helping me out tremendously with the newsletter and answering dozens of questions!

Sylvia

Please welcome these new members at future meetings:

Linda Calamia
Deer Park, NY

HOSPITALITY TIDBITS

Thanks to all who brought snacks & signed **The Cookie List**: Angelika Swantek, Anne Mehlinger, Chris Douglas, Eileen Koepfel, Fay Paquette, Gerry Bressel, Jeanne Eklund, Judy Basse, Laura Weill, Louise Danetra, Nonie Muellers, Phyllis Richards, Regina Conlon, Roni Menrath, Shani Frank, Sharon Rubin, Toni & Stuart Germaine.

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

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

Upcoming LIHS Trips

Trip to California for The Tournament of Roses!

Here's an opportunity to work on a float that will be in the amazing Tournament of Roses Parade! Our trip will begin on December 28th. In addition to all the festivities associated with that traditional New Year's Day celebration, (Jan. 2nd this year), we will also visit the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. For more details, please contact **Barbara Levine** at email barban22@optonline.net or 516-741-3386.

Trip to Philadelphia Gardens - Tuesday, June 14-15, 2011

Our trip will include some wonderful private, as well as outstanding public gardens. After speaking at LIHS, Stephanie Cohen, renowned garden writer, graciously offered to open her garden to us. We will also visit the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, Jenkins Arboretum, and Bryn Athyn Cathedral. We overnight at Philadelphia's Radnor Hotel, which has hosted both President Bush and President Obama.

On our return trip, we stop at Meadowbrook Farm and Greenhouse. After a tour of the house and private gardens, we have time to visit the beautiful display gardens and shop for annuals, perennials, and garden accessories. There will be room in and under the bus for your purchases.

Complete details and booking form can be found on the website, www.LIHORT.org or call Anne Mehlinger at 516-798-1412.

SCOTTISH GARDENS TOUR SOLD OUT

Space on the LIHS spring garden tour of the Scottish Highlands, May 5-14, 2011, has been completely sold out, but names are still being taken for a waiting list. The cost for the land portion of the trip, \$1,775, includes a twin room for eight nights, all meals (except one), tour leader, admission fees, all ground transportation in the UK, taxes, and gratuities! Participants make their own air travel arrangements. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list, call Barbara Loechner at 516-735-8465, or email her at gardenbee@verizon.net.

The deadline for the April issue is March 10th.

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

Thank you to all the contributors at the February meeting: **Anne Mehlinger, Barbara Loechner, Barbara Nancken, Barbara Wildfeir, Fay Paquette, Gerry Biessel, Jeanne Eklund, Judy Basse, Kunz Greenhouse, Laura Weill, Lita Sollesch, Marge Duryea, Wilma Wasner.**

We living a **COMPUTER** age
LAPTOPS seem to be all the rage
I sit and ponder and I worry
Why must we be in such a hurry

Everything is faster ---**FASTER**
A new system we must master
It does cause one to think and ponder
What's ahead for us out yonder

Will our newborns be assigned
A little **BAR CODE** on its hind
But we still like to stay
In our slooow old fashioned way.

By Eda Lisa Edwards

*~Read at the Feb. meeting
by Bob Weschler,
LIHS Poet Laureate*

Horticultural Competition

Results from the February meeting:

First Place: Papyrus Oriental Arrangement, Best in Show
Minature Pyramid Holder with Purplish Pink Heather
Crown of Thorns, Money Plant in a Minature Green Tea Cup
Pink Kalanchoe in a Pink Flowered Pot
Draceana 'Janet Craig' Compact
Quilt Class Insecta

Barbara Levine
Judy Basse
John & Louise Danetra
Yen Ming Mung
Carolyn Zambraski
Angelika Swantek

Second Place: Arrangement of Azalea, Mountain Laurel, Euonymus
Lavender African Violet
Yellow Kalanchoe

Filomena Salamone
Barbara Kaminski
Jennie Townsend

Third Place: Heather & Rose Stem
Butterfly Bush, Bridal Veil Basil
Hippeastrum Amaryllis 'Red Lion'
Hoya, Hanging Plant
Photo-Planting Fields Greenhouse, Orchid Dendrobium

Filomena Salamone
Filomena Salamone
Judy Basse
Judy Basse
Ed Kenney



Thank you to the judges: **Shani C. Frank, Sharon Rubin, and Marie-Elena Beiter**
and to the Competition Clerk, **Marge Manly**.

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Please remember to fill out a **GREEN SLIP** for each entry with **YOUR NAME** and the **PLANT NAME(S)** or **ARRANGEMENT DESCRIPTION(S)**. **AT THE END OF THE MEETING, LEAVE YOUR ENTRY SLIPS ON THE TABLE TO BE COLLECTED BY THE COMPETITION CLERK.** If you happen to take it home, please notify Marge Manly ASAP at 718-352-6822 or email margee60@aol.com. Thank you.

All entries must be presented by 1:45 pm 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.

The Horticultural Competition Rules & Section/Classes are available on our website. Copies will also be available at every meeting.

The LIHS Horticultural Competition offers members the opportunity to enter favorite plants, blossoms, vegetables, arrangements, paintings, photos; there is an extensive list of categories. If you bring something that doesn't fit a standard category, the judges will create a new category for the entry. Any LIHS member may enter; you don't have to be a professional grower, florist, artist, or photographer. Participants earn points for each 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon. Extra points are awarded for "Best in Show." Entries other than plant material are eligible for points as well, but are of lesser value. Members with the highest cumulative point totals at the end of the calendar year receive certificates of recognition and cash prizes.

MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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

NAME: (1) _____ (2) _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

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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.

GARDENERS' CALENDAR

March 2011

- Mar 5-Apr 30 **The Orchid Show: On Broadway**, Open 10am-6pm, Tue-Sun; Mon. Apr 25, 10am-6pm. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, New York Botanical Gardens. For more information go to www.nybg.org.
- Mar 26 **Herb Gardening** -- Colette Mealy Wampole, President, Long Island Herb Association. Martin Viette Winter Lecture Series, 11am and again at 1pm. Please call Martin Viette, 516-922-5530, to register.
- Mar 27 **Spring Lawn Care Workshop** -- Patty Kleinberg, Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY. Registration required. To register, please email compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-886-3800 ext. 500. Fee: \$5

April 2011

- Mar 5-Apr 30 **The Orchid Show: On Broadway**, Open 10am-6pm, Tue-Sun; Mon. Apr 25, 10am-6pm. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, New York Botanical Gardens. For more information go to www.nybg.org.
- Apr 1 **Walkable Westchester** -- Jane Daniels, 1-2pm, Registration required. Author and avid walker Jane Daniels will take you on a visual trek showing choice spots along the shore, through woodlands, fields, and hills that will allow you to discover Westchester as you walk, hike, run, ride a horse, walk your dog, bike cross country ski, or snowshoe. She will also highlight handicap-accessible areas. For more information go to www.nativeplantcenter.org.
- Apr 16 **Monthly Meeting, Early Flower Show**, 2pm, American Rhododendron Society, NY Chapter, Conference Ctr., Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, NY
- Apr-16-17 **Dog Days at Old Westbury Gardens**, 10am-5pm. Bring your dog for an invigorating walk and healthy exercise. Dogs must be leashed. Designated garden areas only.
- Apr 29-30 **Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Weekend at Old Westbury Gardens**, 10am-7pm. For more information visit www.oldwestburygardens.org.
- Apr. 29-May1 **Antique Garden Furniture Show and Sale** at New York Botanical Gardens. For more information visit www.nybg.org.
- Apr 30-May 1 **Arbor Day Family Festival 2011**, 10am to 5pm, Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, NY. For more information visit www.plantingfields.org.
- Apr. 30 **Old Westbury Gardens, Annual Taste of Spring Membership Cocktail Party**. Food & Wine Tasting, Raffle & Silent auction. For information please call 516-333-0048 ext. 309
- Apr 30 **12th Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale**, Rain or Shine. Open to the Public. Admission Free. Park in Lot #1 at Westchester Community College (Valhalla). For more information visit www.thenativeplantcenter.org.

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 or 25 Greenvale Lane, Levittown, NY 11756. (No phone calls please.)

BLOOMS FOR WINTER OR VERY EARLY SPRING

It's cold out there! But never fear - there are plants that bloom in the winter.

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) Zone 4-0, 3-5" tall and wide. Golden flowers; full sun to part shade; moist, fertile soil.

Hardy Cyclamen (*Cyclamen coum* and cvs.) Zone 5-9, 2-4" x 6-12". Pink or white flowers; partial to full shade; fertile, well-drained soil. Need to go dry in summer.

Winter Jasmine (*Jasminium nudiflorum*) Zone 5-9, 8-12' tall and wide. Yellow or orange flowers; full sun to part shade; moist, well-drained, fertile soil.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis x intermedia* cvs.) Zone 6-9, 9' x 9'. Yellow flowers; full sun to light shade; well-drained soil.

Some flowers worth trying for Zone 7

Algerian Iris (*Iris unguicularis*) 12-18" tall and wide. Lavender blue flowers; full sun to light shade; well-drained soil. Do not water in summer.

Sasanqua Camellias (*Camellia sasanqua* cvs.) 4-8' x 3-4'. White, lilac, or red flowers, some fragrant; full sun to partial shade; moist, fertile, well-drained, loose soil.

Winter Heaths (*Erica x darleyensis* and cvs.) 18-24" tall and up to 3' wide. Lilac, pink or rose blooms, evergreen foliage; full sun; well-drained, acidic soil. Good companions to dwarf rhododendrons, miniature conifers, and smaller grasses.

* For more information, see Lee, Mike. "The Season's First Flowers", *Fine Gardening* February 2009 no. 125, p. 36-41

-- Rosemary Papyanopulos, LIHS member

LIHS 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Sunday, April 17 1:00pm 2:00pm	Hal Mahoney Andi Pettis , Gardener	Bonsai Manhattan's High Line Park
Sunday, May 15 1:00pm 2:00pm	Bill Barash , Horticulturist, Planting Fields Vinnie Simeone , Director of Horticulture, Planting Fields Arboretum	Tour of the Synoptic Garden Tokyo to Kyoto: Great Gardens of Japan
Sunday, June 12 1:00pm 2:00pm	SPRING PLANT SALE Denise Adams , Author, Lecturer	A History of Horticulture as Seen Through Antique Seed Catalogues
No Meetings in July and August		
Sunday, September 18 1:00pm 2:00pm	John Capobinaco , Suburban Water Gardens Todd Forest , VP of Horticulture, NYBG	Exhibition Chrysanthemums Restoring the Historic Landscape of New York Botanical Garden
Sunday, October 16 1:00pm 2:00pm	Rick Bogus , Bridge Gardens Christine Doctor , The Plant Doctor	Topiary Four Season Gardening
Sunday, November 20 1:00pm 2:00pm	Millie Hendricks Jonathon Lehrer , Professor of Ornamental Horticulture, Farmingdale State College	Wonders of Her Garden Long Island Gold Medal Plants
Sunday, December 18 1:00pm 2:00pm	TBA David Daehnke , Lecturer	Ornamental Grasses: Adding Sound and Motion to Your Garden

All meetings are held at the Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay.
Dates and speakers are subject to change in the event of unavoidable circumstances.
In case of inclement weather, LIHS will post any monthly meeting cancellations on the LIHS website.
All programs arranged by **Lou Okin** and **Anne Schnarwyler**.
Visit www.lihort.org for the latest news of meetings and other LIHS activities.

COOKING WITH HOSTAS

Dear Martha,

I read in MARTHA STEWART LIVING that some hostas are used in Asian cooking. Which varieties are these and how should they be prepared?

— Elizabeth Downs, Gorham, Maine

Although you probably think of them as purely ornamental, the stems and leaves of the hostas you grow in your shade garden are indeed edible. In Japan, where much of the landscape is mountainous and ill-suited to agriculture, inhabitants of mountain villages have long supplemented their diets with *Hosta sieboldiana*, a large blue-gray hosta that thrives there.

Throughout the country, vegetable shops sell hosta-leaf stems, or petioles, which the Japanese refer to as *urui*. Like asparagus spears, *urui* can be eaten either raw or cooked

and are best harvested while they are young and tender. Mature hostas taste bitter.

The petioles of larger hosta varieties, such as *H. montana*, are sometimes dipped in tempura batter and fried in vegetable oil, boiled and used in sushi, or quickly parboiled (so they retain their bright-green color) and served hot, dressed with vinegar, salt, and sugar. The leaves and petioles of smaller hostas, such as *H. sieboldii*, are often added to the traditional Japanese bean-paste breakfast soup.

If you want to try cooking and eating hostas, be certain they have not been treated with pesticides or other harmful substances. Remember to harvest them when new leaves are just forming and they are still young and tender, and try using them in a mixed salad, or stem them and prepare them as you would asparagus. [*Martha Stewart Living*, July 2002]

~ submitted by Fran Coleman, LIHS Member



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President's Message

The setup change from last year gave us a lot more room at The Hay Barn. We have placed our competition, raffle and refreshment tables in the front area of the Hay Barn. At our last meeting, someone took three Amaryllis that were donated from the raffle table. The tables are clearly marked, thanks to **Angelica Swantek**, so if you see anyone taking items from the table before the raffle, please ask them to put it back.

Anyone who was at the last meeting can attest to the wonderful speakers that we had. Our first speakers, **Alice Marcus Kreig and Carmen Devito**, showed us how they build gardens on roof tops and in backyards with little access. They had to hire cranes that cost \$9,000 a day to get materials to roofs. On some jobs they had to protect the inside of the brownstones with plastic so that they could bring

the landscape through the house. I don't want to hear anyone complaining this spring about moving a couple of yards of mulch.

Our second speaker, **Steve Silk**, really opened our minds about how to use principles in designing a garden. He gave us examples of different plant patterns and how they work with each other. I liked his idea of taking a black and white photograph and using it as an analyzing tool.

The Hicks and Martin Viette lecture series are starting, so I am looking forward to seeing some of our members at these events. This is a chance to come out of winter hibernation and pray for an early spring. With this winter, we deserve an early warm spring.

Please note we have moved the plant sale to May 15th. We will be sending out new schedules in our newsletter.

Bruce

