



The Garden Club of East Hampton Newsletter

Fall 2016



Photo by Anita Holmes

Visit to Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island ...
After touring the Manor House, members walked to Bass Creek for an up close look
and discussion of efforts being taken to improve water quality on the East End.

CONSERVATION

Good News for The East End ... On November 8, voters of East Hampton, Southampton, Shelter Island, Southold, and Riverhead, overwhelmingly approved Proposition 1. This action will extend the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to the year 2050 and earmarks up to 20% of revenues to be used for water quality improvement projects while continuing land preservation.

Over the past 20 years, the CPF has protected more than 10,000 acres of open space and farmland from development. The recent change to the CPF will fund technologies that reduce the amount of nitrogen entering local waterways. Also, making funds possible for residents and businesses that need to replace polluting septic systems and cesspools with new denitrifying systems.

The CPF is funded by a 2% transfer tax paid by real estate purchasers. This mandate will not increase taxes on local residents; instead, it simply extends the existing tax. The program will fund protection of open space, wildlife habitat, farmland, and restore water quality to our area. These efforts fall under the Garden Club of America's Position Papers for conservation efforts.

HORTICULTURE

Characteristics of Drought Tolerant Plants:

Drought tolerant plants all make adaptations to minimize water evaporation, or to maximize water uptake. Some drought tolerant plants have small leaves, or reduced leaf area, for example large leaves may have deep indentations in them, or leaves may curl, both are designed to decrease surface area exposed to the sun. Another adaptation is that leaves may be covered with a waxy substance which helps conserve moisture, e.g. sedums; or plants may have fine hairs on leaves and/or stems which absorb water from the air. In order to maximize water uptake, some plants grow deep taproots that pull up moisture from deep below the soil surface, e.g. false indigo.

Perennials for Sunny Dry Conditions

Yarrow (*Achillea*)
Anise-hyssop (*Agastache*)
Ornamental onions (*Allium*)
Golden marguerite (*Anthemis*)
Sea thrift (*Armeria*)
Butterfly weed (*Asclepias*)
False indigo (*Baptisia*)
Hardy geranium (*Geranium sanguineum*)
Lavender (*Lavandula*)

Perennials for Dry Shade

Hellebore (*Helleborus*)
Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)
Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*)
Turf-lily (*Liriope*)
Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum*)
Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera*)
Wood aster (*Aster divaricatus*)
Barrenwort (*Epimedium*)



Photo by M.V. Kazickas

Pollinator Garden at East Hampton Town Hall

The garden, maintained by GCEH, combines orange milkweed (host plant for monarchs), yellow dill (host plant for eastern black swallowtail caterpillars), pink hyssop (pollen for bees), yarrow, aster, and many other pollinator friendly plants.

THE TRAIN STATION ROSES

Below is an excerpt from a recent letter the GCEH penned to the Editor of The Star explaining the history of our roses at the Train Station ...

“The Garden Club of East Hampton cares for the red Dortmund roses at the Railroad Station, which we planted almost 40 years ago. Briefly, we are working very hard to bring the roses back to their former glory. About 7 of the 16 shrubs need help, and we have seen some progress in their vigor in the last year and a half. In fact, we’ve attached photos from June 14 of this year when the roses were in full bloom and truly spectacular.

The train station is an awfully complicated place to garden. The property is owned by the Long Island Rail Road, but managed by East Hampton Village; the Garden Club volunteers time, expertise, and resources, with support from the Ladies Village Improvement Society from time to time. While we designed the plantings along the tracks and installed the roses four decades ago, the L.I.R.R. added a number of cedar trees 10 years later. The lindens, planted to mask overhanging phone lines on the north side of the station house, and the pines on the opposite side, that once fit the scale of our original design, have grown considerably and now contribute to shading the roses as well. In addition, deer browse them from time to time. Pile on top of that successive summers with almost no rain in July and August (the train station has only one hose bib and no irrigation), and the fact that the average life of a rose-bush is 35 years. Frankly, the roses are in almost miraculous condition given all of these factors.

The train station is one of eight public gardens or projects that the Garden Club of East Hampton has designed, planted, and currently maintains in the Village and Town of East Hampton, with volunteer labor from our members and funds raised at our annual garden party and plant sale. The list includes the Nature Trail (started in 1934 and opened to the public in 1942), Rachel's Historic Dooryard Garden and the Janice S. Brightwell Heritage Apple Trees at Mulford Farm, the Mimi Meehan Native Plant Garden at Clinton Academy, the Millstone Garden Park on Main Street opposite the Chase Bank, the East Hampton Post Office plantings, and the Pollinator Garden at Town Hall. We also work with the Town of East Hampton on the Amagansett Orchid Conservation Project to revive the last known population of a rare native orchid.

Starting last year, we began to work with the village to improve the plantings along the tracks as well as the health of the roses. The village has thinned the cedars and pruned shrubs to open up views from the platform to the street and to create more sunlight for the roses. We now fertilize them in the summer and mulch in the fall to improve their vigor, and it is helping.

Thank you so much for reminding us of how enduringly iconic a symbol of East Hampton the train station roses are. They are well worth the effort!"

The Garden Club of East Hampton



Photos by Julie Sakellariadis

Red Dortmund Roses at the East Hampton Train Station

