



METRO HORT GROUP

An Association of Horticultural Professionals in the New York City Tri-State Reg

Here Comes the Sun!

And the heavy rain, and the prolonged drought, the winds, the fires, extremes of all kinds. So what changes are you making to adapt to extreme weather conditions? Have you changed your designs, your plant palette? Let us know how you are caring for your plants as you adapt to a warming climate.

January – June 2023

Plant-O-Rama (January 30 & 31, 2023)



We were thrilled to be back *in-person* at Brooklyn Botanic Garden again after 2 years of hosting Plant-O-Rama virtually on Zoom during the pandemic.



During the course of the day, ~850 people came together at BBG for a lively Trade Show with 34 exhibitors, busy Jobs Fair with 33 green industry employers, and to hear engaging keynote and breakout session speakers address timely topics for horticulture professionals.

The following speakers gave outstanding talks each followed by lively Q&A sessions moderated by our Board members:

- Thomas RaShad Easley, Ed.D., *Forest Rhythms; Hip Hop Environmentalism*
- Jared Barnes, Ph.D., *A Plantastic Future*
- Sergio Moncada Leiva, *Getting to 30% Canopy Cover*
- Anthony Bulfamante, A. Bulfamante Landscaping; Richard Pacailler, Town & Gardens, Ltd.; Whitney Parkerton, Parker Meadows, Inc.; Mark Davies, Higher Ground Horticulture (moderator), *Sustainability Stories: Landscape Contractors Building a Greener Future*
- Craig Pine, *Navigating the Tsunami of Plant Introductions*
- Rebecca Kagle, *Creating Native Meadows in the Urban Environment; Design through Management*

A big THANK YOU to our presenting sponsor Atlantic Nurseries, Inc. and 13 other very generous sponsors.

Members in general were glad to be back in person after 2 years of virtual events:

- *Overall great event! Thank you for putting this together. I'm looking forward to next year!* —Shelby M.
- *It was perfect. POR just keeps getting better.* —Gresham L.

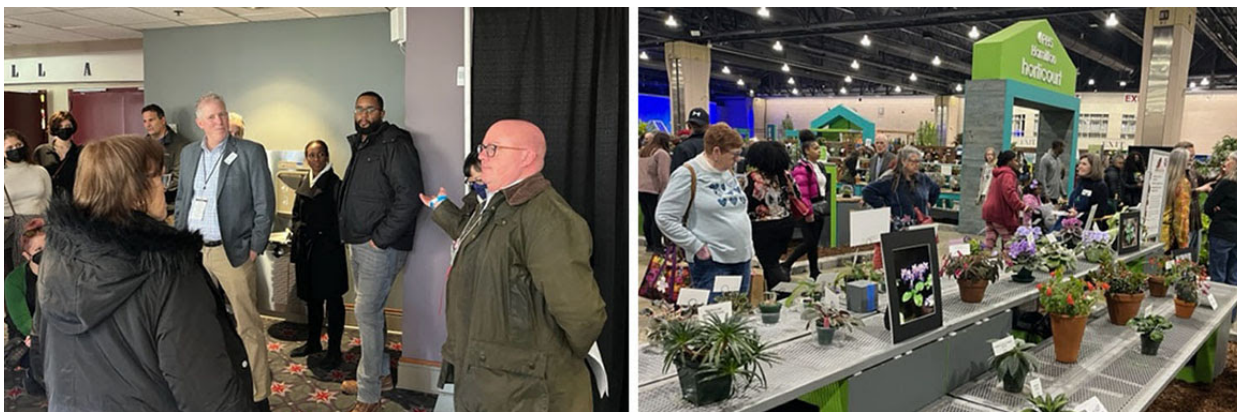
Monthly Meetings

These speakers delivered excellent talks earlier this year:

- **February 16** – Andrew Bunting, *The PA Horticultural Society: Transforming Lives Through Horticulture*
- **March 16** – Brett Weiss, *2023 Top Tropical Plants for Interiorscapes & Summer Plantings (online)*
- **April 17** – Ethan Dropkin, *Urban Landscape Inspirations from Native Plant Communities*

These speakers' slide presentations, in addition to all past speaker presentations, may be found on our [Archives webpages](#).

Field Trips



March 5 - Philadelphia Flower Show – Andrew Bunting, VP of Horticulture for PHS, provided complimentary tickets for 32 MHG members and gave a personal introduction and welcome upon our arrival. MHG member and PHS judge, John Oakley Higgins, also met us and provided informative on how the competition side of things works. The scope of the Show was remarkable—show gardens, floral displays, plant societies, vendors, educational groups, etc.



May 25 - The High Line – Over 30 members attended the field trip led by Richard Hayden, Director of Horticulture at the High Line and MHG Board member. Beginning at the new Moynihan Connector, this new section incorporates many enhancements like deeper planting beds and wider walkways, as compared to earlier sections of the High Line. It also features a whimsical, 600-foot timber bridge that looks like it could have been constructed from a child's erector set. As we travelled south, Richard highlighted some of the modifications taking place, with guidance/input from Piet Oudolf, to adapt to changing conditions brought on by substantial new construction, increasing number of visitors, a maturing canopy, etc.

June 22 - Tibbets Brook Daylighting Project

– Christina Taylor, Deputy Director of Van Cortlandt Park Alliance, provided an overview and walking tour of the Tibbets Brook project for the approximately 20 MHG members who attended. She explained how the current green infrastructure and storm-water management plans will significantly decrease the amount of sewer overflow that leaves Tibbets Brook, and reduce flooding in neighboring homes. She also discussed their plans for the greenway extension and for improving public access to the park.



Membership

As of June 2023, MHG has 93 corporate members, and 354 individual members for a total of 447 members. **Membership is one of the best deals in our industry, so please renew each year and bring a friend.**

Upcoming in 2023

Monthly Meetings

Watch your emails or our website for notices of upcoming Monthly Meetings starting in September.

- **Monday, Sept 18** – *We're Growing: Voices from the Field*, a panel featuring local on-the-ground gardeners highlighting their favorite plants of the season
- **Monday, October 16** – *The Journey of New Plant Introductions: A Behind-the-Scenes Look*, Ryan McEnaney, Marketing & Communications Manager, Bailey Nurseries
- **November (online)** – TBD
- **Monday, December 4** – Don Gabel, *Director of Plant Health & Research*, Emerald Tree Care, *Owner of Alpine Nursery*

Field Trips

The following trips are planned for the remainder of the season:

- **Tuesday, July 18, 5:30 pm, Oko Farms, Brooklyn:** Oko Farms is the largest outdoor aquaponics farm in NYC. The symbiotic relationship between the cultivation of plants and fish is used to grow a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, fruits, medicinal plants and flowers.
- **Thursday, September 28, 5:30 pm, Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn:** In addition to the historic landscape that inspired many great American parks, we will see Green-Wood's latest innovative landscape projects, such as the introduction of meadows in many areas of the cemetery.

Mixers

Let's grab a bite and connect at some of NYC's most dynamic food venues. More information to follow.

- **Sunday, July 30 | 11 am - 3 pm**
Smorgasburg Prospect Park, Prospect Park, Breeze Hill, Brooklyn
- **Thursday, November 9 | 4 - 7:30 pm**
UrbanSpace, Union Square, 124 E. 14th St.

28th Annual Plant-O-Rama (January 30, 2024)



Save-the-Date!

The Plant-O-Rama Committee is planning now for an all-day event on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. More to come in September.

Hortie Hoopla

MHG is one of the major sponsors for NYBG's School of Professional Horticulture's 2023 *Hortie Hoopla* event on Wednesday, July 19th. This free event for horticultural interns and seasonal employees from around the tri-state area offers them the chance to learn about the diverse opportunities in the green industry and to meet and network with peers and professionals. Register your interns and seasonal employees today (elieberman@nybg.org).

Professional Development Grants

The Board is pleased to announce we will be accepting applications for its **Professional Development Grants Program**. The grant program is funded by the proceeds from Plant-O-Rama to support continuing education and professional development of our members. Applications along with guidelines will be emailed to all members in August, or members may request an application by emailing scholarships.metrohort@yahoo.com. Awardees will be announced at Plant-O-Rama.

Two Professional Development grants were awarded in 2023. Congratulations to Emily Dickinson, Senior Sustainability Manager (Madison Square Park) and Emma Turner, School of Professional Horticulture student, Class of 2024 (NYBG)!

Discord



Metro Hort Group is now on Discord! Discord is a free communications app that lets you share voice, video, and text chat with friends and communities. Connect with other members in real time to learn more about industry news, garden resources, and to chat in the lounge. Get in on the conversation today on mobile and desktop on our private server.

2024 Board Nominations

Consider serving to be part of this important organization and help cultivate a more attractive, sustainable, and green environment by serving on the Board. More information on how to apply will be distributed by email in September.

Volunteers Needed

MHG needs volunteers to help support our work. Volunteering is a great way to meet other members, build your résumé, and give back to the community. Email us at metro.hort.group@gmail.com.

On behalf of the entire Metro Hort Group Board, I want to wish everyone a safe, fun and relaxing summer!

Respectfully yours,

Charles M. Yurgalevitch

Charles M. Yurgalevitch, Ph.D.
President, Metro Hort Group, Inc.

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