

September 2025

METRO HORT GROUP

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



Birding with Heather Wolf

I continue to be in awe of the work of this amazing community. The expertise of our membership will be more important than ever in shaping a city with more robust tree canopies, greater ecological value, and plants that improve our mental health. The New York City metro area is in the midst of some great projects that (with funding) would be incredibly impactful to the way people experience their time in the urban environment. I take comfort in applying gardening knowledge to day-to-day situations—we know the fruits of our labors take time and effort. Not every season will yield ideal growing conditions. We must be persistent. At Metro Hort Group, it's inspiring to reflect on all that we have accomplished so far this year. Our volunteer board of directors has worked tirelessly to bring a stellar program lineup with interesting field trips, engaging workshops, and informative lectures. I am excited to approach our community's 40th anniversary with a renewed vision, better web and communications interfaces, and a continued commitment to having fun while advancing the green industry.

Sincerely,

Metro Hort Group Board President

**UPCOMING
PROGRAMS**

FALL MEMBER PROGRAMS

- **September 9, 2025** We're Growing: Voices from the Field, Fall 2025 Edition | Panelists: Conor Bush, Emma deCaires, Junko Fukimoto, and Thomas Kain with Moderator, Shanti Nagel
- **October 9, 2025** NYC Tree Salvage and Wood Reuse: Building a Circular System and the Metro Hort Community's Role | Sara Evans, Alexander Bender, Liz Zink
- **November 13, 2025** Practical Research-based Ecological Gardening | Joseph Tychonievich
- **December 9, 2025** Restoring a Beloved Garden | Lynden B. Miller in conversation with Maeve Turner

We've hired a videographer! All lecture program recordings will be distributed by email shortly after each program.

PLANT-O-RAMA JANUARY 27, 2026!



Save the date for the most beloved event of the year! It's bound to be a special event as Metro Hort celebrates the **30th Anniversary of Plant-O-Rama**, our annual symposium, trade show, and job fair for horticulture professionals. It is our largest program, attracting 750-1,000 gardeners, designers, arborists, and educators working in public parks, botanical gardens, and private estates in the New York City tri-state region. Join us at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for this special milestone celebration.

Check out the Metro Hort website in early October for program details, exhibiting opportunities, and sponsorships.

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

>>> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Metro Hort Group continues to its members the opportunity to apply for a **Professional Development Grant** to support continuing education and professional development.

Applications will be accepted until
November 30, 2025 for use in 2026.

>>> VOLUNTEER WITH US

Metro Hort Group is a volunteer-run organization. Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends and give back to the community. Volunteering can also help you learn new skills while gaining a sense of accomplishment. Anyone is welcome to volunteer, but we are currently **seeking individuals** with a particular interest in digital and written communications, audio and video technology, and event management.

>>> POST A JOB OR FIND YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE

Metro Hort's **job board** remains one of the top ways to recruit horticultural talent in the tri-state area. Employers can post jobs for free on our website. You do not need to be a member to post, and your content will remain on our site for up to 3 months.



>>> BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations to serve on the Metro Hort Board of directors are open!

Board Members serve a three-year term and are required to attend and contribute their professional expertise at board meetings, advocate, lead, and advance Metro Hort Group.

Submit a **nomination** by

Friday, October 10, 2025

HORTIE HOOPLA

Metro Hort Group is a proud sponsor of **Hortie Hoopla**, the New York Botanical Garden's annual green industry field day. Hortie Hoopla 2025 was held at the New York Botanical Garden on July 23, welcoming more than 320 horticulture interns, seasonal staff, and aspiring professionals—the largest attendance in the event's 13-year history. This entire industry event offered speaker presentations, horticulture hip-hop, behind-the-scenes tours, hands-on plant ID challenges, food, and lively activities, making it a standout opportunity for networking and career development in the green industry.



SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT

Metro Hort Group has an annual **Professional Development Grant** program, which opens to members each fall. The grant can be applied to support continuing education classes and other training or opportunities relevant to urban horticulture. The grant award is up to \$1,000. Four grants were awarded in 2025.

MEET OUR RECIPIENTS!



Receiving the Metro Hort Professional Development Award has been a transformative milestone in my career. The education I've pursued with this support has not only allowed me to grow professionally but also to share knowledge directly with my community through bilingual naturalist walks, birding programs, and ecological stewardship initiatives. This year, I was honored to serve as a My Story speaker at Hortie Hoopla at the New York Botanical Garden and to co-lead the Nature and Resistance Naturalist Walk alongside the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Forum. These opportunities inspire me to continue blending cultural heritage, environmental education, and inclusivity in the green industry.



Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to take Kelly D. Norris's New Naturalism Academy thanks to the Metrohort grant. The course was a deep dive into designing planting communities that feel truly "of a place" by densely layering plant structure, function, and form to create resilient, ecologically rich landscapes. I've applied these principles in my recent residential landscape designs while considering what makes an authentic sense of place in the urban spaces around us.

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Metro Hort Group is excited to welcome Belinda Hester as our new Membership Administrator. A landscape designer with a certificate in landscape design from the New York Botanical Garden, Belinda brings proven administrative experience from her role as Finance Director for the NY Bee Club. She is also an urban beekeeper and founder of Honey Belinda, a natural skincare business.





Just as the US Census takes stock of our human population every ten years, so too does New York City for its tree population. Since 1995, NYC Parks has conducted decadal counts of street trees (adding park trees in the most recent count), and it's now time to get an update on our urban forest!

Trees Count 2025 is the fourth participatory inventory of NYC's urban trees. Volunteers will record the location, size, species, and condition of all public street and park trees in New York City. Metro Hort Group Members can participate or host a session.

Check out Trees Count [website](#) for more information.

NYC BIODIVERSITY TASK FORCE REPORT

New York City is home to forests, meadows, and wetlands, and boasts more biodiversity than many people realize. A new community-led report, *Oaks, Our City, and Us*, lays out a vision for how NYC can better support nature in every neighborhood.

Read the report [here](#).



FIND AN EVENT

Looking to engage more in horticulture within the community? Our community calendar features up-to-date listings of all local horticulture events. The calendar features workshops, tours, lectures, and symposia designed to elevate your skills to the next level.

Are you hosting an event? Share your event today by emailing events@metrohort.org for free promotion.

You can also tag us on socials, and we will re-share!

A SEASON IN REVIEW

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MONTHLY PROGRAMS

February 12, 2025 **Creative Pruning Techniques: The Gibson Method** (*Recording Available*)

Mike P. Gibson showed us proper pruning techniques that can help enhance the beauty of any space.

March 18, 2025 **Labor in the Landscape** | Bella Ciabattoni, Rosemarie Miner, Michael Ng

(*Recording Available*) Our panelists had a spirited discussion on the state of labor in the industry and how to balance personal passion with the practical needs of the trade.

April 17, 2025 **Soil Time to Rethink?** | Juliet Sargeant (*Recording Available*)

Juliet spoke on the importance of soil health with tips from her recent book *Start with Soil: Simple Steps for a Thriving Garden*.

Labor in the Landscape



WORKSHOPS

After a hiatus of many years, MHG was pleased to bring back workshop opportunities to its membership. These sessions are designed to equip members with practical skills that can be applied throughout their careers. If you are willing to host or have an idea for a workshop in 2026, please [email](#) us.

February 19, 2025

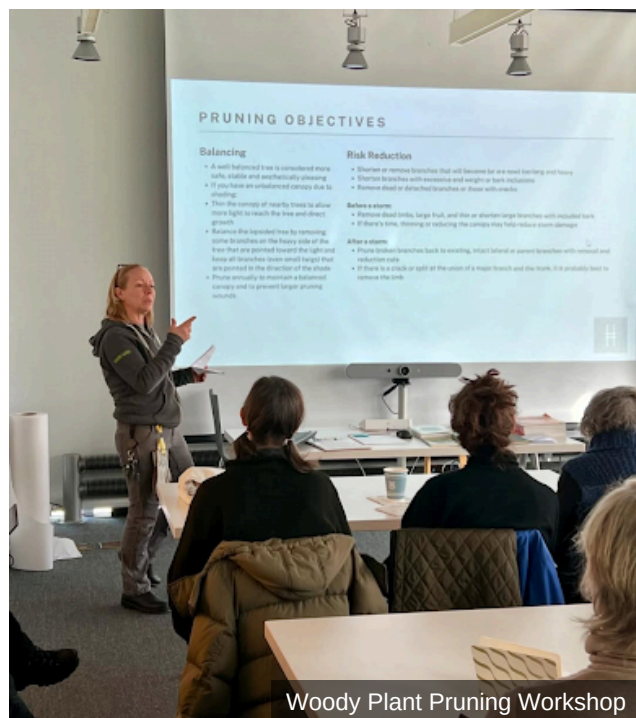
Woody Plant Pruning Workshop with the Highline

April 24, 2025

Choosing, Changing, and Navigating Careers in NYC Horticulture with Don Sussman

May 3, 2025

Birding with Heather Wolf: A Workshop on Bird Identification



Woody Plant Pruning Workshop

Thank you to all of our program speakers and attendees!



Greenbelt Native Plant Center Field Trip

May 8, 2025 Spring Social Meet up at Broadway Mall Association

June 4, 2025 ABC Stone's Special Exhibit: Stone in Landscape Architecture

June 17, 2025 Madison Square Park's Special Exhibit: Gardens of Renewal by Lily Kwong

June 27, 2025 Greenbelt Native Plant Center Field Trip

July 24, 2025 Central Park Walking Tour- Revitalization from the 1980's to the Present

August 2, 2025 Glover Perennial and Landcraft Foundation Garden Field Trip

August 27 & 28, 2025 The Frick Collection Gardens Tour



ABC Stone's Special Exhibits

Stay connected

