

Summertime! And I hope your living is easier than this past spring. We the Metro Hort Group (MHG) Board want to share a few updates and let our members know what we have planned for the rest of the year.

## **JANUARY – JUNE 2022**

### **Plant-O-Rama (January 24 & 25, 2022)**

We kicked off the 2022 garden year with another Virtual PLANT-O-RAMA. While we had hoped to return to Brooklyn Botanic Garden with in-person Trade Show, Jobs Fair, and Breakout Sessions, we made the difficult decision to present our speakers and some of our Trade Show exhibitors online due to rising COVID-19 infections due to Omicron.

Speakers gave outstanding talks each followed by lively 15-minute Q&A sessions moderated by our Board members. Speakers included:

- Jim Blake, *A Beautiful Obsession: A Plantsman's Journey in his own Garden*
- Abra Lee, *The Great American Garden Road Trip*
- Wambui Ippolito, *Designing a Winning Garden; the Story Behind a Best-in-Show Garden at the 2021 PFS*
- Tom Christopher & Uli Lorimer, *The Importance and Challenges of Sourcing Truly Local Plants*
- Gwen Schantz & Will Axelrod, *Growing at Javits: The new Brooklyn Grange Farm on the roof of the Javits Center NYC*
- Adam Dooling, *Winter Blooms in the Cit*
- Bob Hyland, *Tales of a Bi-Coastal Gardener; Adapting to Change*

We received many accolades and testimonials for keeping Plant-O-Rama *live* for a second year. Here are just a few:

*It was excellent with varied topics being discussed. Even the vendors presentations were surprisingly good.*

*I thought the speakers were excellent; the trade show presentations informative, and the pace perfect.* Susan B.

*I loved the diversity of the speakers and I thought the topics were fascinating.* Jeanne R.

### **Monthly Meetings:**

These speakers delivered excellent talks earlier this year on Zoom:

- February 15 – Benjamin Vogt, *Going Greener: From Lawn to Suburban Prairie Gardens*
- March 8 – Joy Arden, *Applying Modern Technology in the Landscape: GIS Mapping*
- April 19 - Dan Benarcik, *The Art and Artistry of Chanticleer*

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

### **Membership:**

As of June 20, 2022, MHG has 92 corporate members, 340 individual members for a total of 432 members. Membership in Metro Hort is one of the best deals in our industry, so please renew or join now! We also accept donations.

### **Field Trips:**

April 28:

Our first field trip this year was to visit the T.H. Everett Alpine House at Wave Hill. We had free reign to the gardens and greenhouses before the tour, the exquisite and artistic presentation of the Alpine collection. Emeritus Director of Horticulture, Marco Polo Stefano gave a history lesson on the alpine collection and

other gardens. Director of Horticulture Cathy Deutsch and gardener Sandy Schaller spoke in great detail on how the collection is expected to grow over the coming years.



Emeritus Director of Horticulture Marco Polo Stufano (l.)

## **UPCOMING IN 2022**

### **Monthly Meetings:**

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

### **Field Trips:**

The following trips are planned for the summer season:

- Thursday, July 21, 5:30 pm – Brooklyn Bridge Park, celebration of a decade of leadership and a farewell for Rebecca McMackin before she begins as a Loeb Fellow with the Harvard Graduate School of Design later this summer.
- Friday, August 5, 4 pm - Domino Park “Social”, a combination of field trip and happy hour. Bring a co-worker! Non-members are welcome!
- End of August - Brooklyn Grange, a follow up to the terrific Plant-O-Rama presentation Details to follow

### **Workshops:**

The following are being planned for this fall:

- Big Reuse composting facility in Queensbridge. We will do a quick tour after the composting workshop.
- Bee Keeper in Douglaston for a workshop on honey bee.

Dates and details will be sent to all members once scheduled.

### **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. This year, we will award two grants of up to \$1,000 each to cover the cost of a course or educational conference in 2023. Awardees will be announced at our upcoming POR. To request an application, send an email to: [scholarships.metrohort@yahoo.com](mailto:scholarships.metrohort@yahoo.com)

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

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant-O-Rama (Save the Dates: January 30 and 31, 2023)

The Plant-O-Rama Committee is planning now for a two-session event on January 30 and 31, 2023. Following the success of this past January, we will present one acclaimed speaker on Monday evening, January 30, 2023 in a virtual broadcast, and, after 2 years, the Trade Show and Jobs Fair will be back “live” at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Speaker presentations will be both in person and on Zoom. More details to come in early September.

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

Respectfully yours,

*Charles M. Yurgalevitch*

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