

## 2021 Year-End Report

What a year it's been! As 2021 winds down, we are still facing a few months of uncertainty as a new variant delays our return to a pre-pandemic life we long for. We find ourselves forever changed and are adapting to a new way of meeting and celebrating with each other. As we cautiously attempt to resume a way of life we once knew, we the Metro Hort Group (MHG) Board want to share a few updates since summer and let you our members know what we have planned in the coming New Year, 2022!

### JULY – DECEMBER, 2021

#### Monthly Meetings:

These speakers delivered excellent talks earlier this fall on Zoom: Members were invited to arrive early to “chat” with other members before the meeting began.

- September 14 - Walter Hood, *Creating Urban Spaces*
- October 14 - Louis Bauer, *Nature Into Art, The Gardens of Wave Hill*
- November 17 - Maggie Scott Greenfield, Renee Ruhl and Lisa Bloodgood, *Growing Landscapes That Support Environmental Restoration & Workforce Development On The Bronx River*
- December 2 – Sam Van Aken, *Re-orcharding New York*

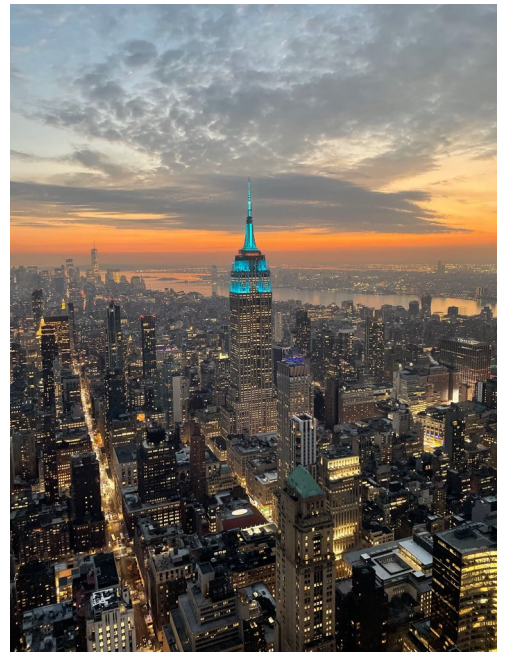


Photo by Lottie Smalley

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

#### Field Trips:

Three trips were held this past summer and fall:

- **July 14 - Swindler Cove Park and Sherman Creek** Hosted by Jason Smith, NYRP, we learned about the Living Shoreline project, completed in 2020, which is intended to maintain and restore shoreline along the eastern edge of the park. Jason also pointed out numerous prized specimens in the woodland garden and we toured the formal vegetable gardens that are used for educational purposes.
- **August 17 - Kingsbridge Heights Community Center ("KHCC")** – Hosted by the energetic and inspiring Gerry Sherman (Horticultural Therapist & Garden Program Coordinator) we began the evening with a brief presentation outdoors, surrounded by 20+ community garden plots, and later proceeded to the education areas in the back, which include vegetable gardens tended by high school interns, composting facilities, a plot of hot peppers that are part of a community-based program for hot sauce production, fruit tree areas and a bee hive area which produce over 300 pounds of local honey.

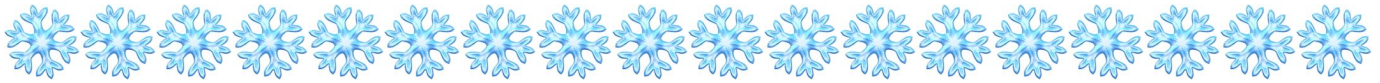


**September 9 - Madison Square Park** - Our very own Board Member, Stephanie Lucas, hosted us at the much-loved Madison Square Park, and shared “behind-the-scenes” information on Maya Lin's *Ghost Forest* installation and highlighted many specimens in the related exhibition on Plants of the Pine Barrens. Stephanie and her team also reminded us that park is a nationally accredited arboretum of over 300 trees.

## Membership:

We are happy to welcome 2 new board members:

- **Evelyn Manlove** is a horticulturist with Brooklyn Bridge Park involved in staff training, overseeing plant selection, new plantings, pruning, & IPM in this unique and challenging environment. She is a NOFA Certified Organic Landcare Professional & holds a Certificate in Horticulture from Brooklyn Botanic Garden & a Certificate in Botany from New York Botanical Garden.
- **Julie Tan** is a horticulturist with Blue Dahlia Landscape Design & Horticulture. Her work in community & pocket gardens with the New York Restoration Project led to her 2018 internship at Brooklyn Botanic Garden with Uli Lorimer. She credits Plant-O-Rama as a resource that helped her transition from financial services & nonprofit management into the green industry.



## UPCOMING IN 2022

### ALL VIRTUAL PLANT-O-RAMA (JANUARY 24 & 25, 2022)



Due to the uncertainty of the Omicron variant, the Plant-O-Rama Committee has decided it's best for everyone's health and safety to hold the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant-O-Rama **ONLINE** on Monday evening, January 24 and Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

P.S. We look forward to returning "live" to Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 2023.

### Monday, January 24, 6 – 8 pm

#### Keynote Speakers:

- Jimi Blake, *A Beautiful Obsession: A Plantsman's Journey in his own Garden*



- Abra Lee, *The Great American Garden Road Trip*

**Tuesday, January 25, 9 am – 4 pm**

**Speaker Sessions & Trade Show Presenters**

- Wambui Ippolito, *Designing a Winning Garden; the Story Behind a Best-in-Show Garden at the 2021 Philadelphia Flower Show*
- Tom Christopher & Uli Lorimer, *Did Your New York Native Red Maple Originate in Florida? The Importance and Challenges of Sourcing Truly Local Plants*
- Gwen Schantz & Will Axelrod, *The new Brooklyn Grange Farm on the roof of the Javits Center NYC extension boasts a water recycling system, rooftop orchard, and “mobile garden” with over 100 planters of native perennials.*
- Adam Dooling, *Winter Blooms in the City: It’s January; New York is cold. Despite this, there are flowers blooming everywhere in the city—if you know where to look.*
- Bob Hyland, *Tales of a Bi-Coastal Gardener; Adapting to Change in Plant Hardiness, Summer Drought, and Climate Extremes*

**Monthly Meetings:**

Watch your emails and our website for dates and details of upcoming Monthly Meetings starting this winter.

- February – Benjamin Vogt, garden designer and author of *A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future*
- March - TBD
- April – Ray Figueroa-Reyes, President, NYC Community Gardens Coalition

Please renew your 2022 membership now & join us at Plant-O-Rama on Jan 24th & 25th as well as our popular monthly meetings.

On behalf of the entire Metro Hort Group Board, I want to wish everyone a very happy, healthy, safe holiday season and a New Year 2022 full of success!

Respectfully yours,

*Charles M. Yurgalevitch*

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