

# ARAIYS NEWS

SPRING NEWS LETTER 2021

ARAIYS DESIGN

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

**Happy Spring!** We hope that you have all had a welcoming New Year and have been recently greeted with the touches of garden color and warm fresh air that Spring has to offer. This Spring we are excited to share with you the STAR Aquacenter project that will have a large impact on the community and a low impact in its site development. We also had the pleasure of touring the beautiful Bayard Cutting Arboretum to learn the exciting history behind the property and all of the techniques they use keep it in shape and help it continue to evolve as the landscape changes through the years due to erosion and another natural causes.

**Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy Spring!**

*Steve Nieroda, RLA, ASLA*

### Project Spotlight: STAR Aquacenter

In the planning process, STAR Aquacenter was presented recently to the Southampton Town Board as a new place where sense of community can thrive. The proposed 26,000 square foot aquatic facility, will be home to two indoor pools, locker rooms, meeting space, and fitness rooms. The proposed location off of Magee Street would give the public an indoor community center that would be conveniently located between the two other facilities that support the South Fork, the facility at the Suffolk County Community College Eastern Campus, and the YMCA located in East Hampton.

When making a decision on where a facility such as this would be best located, we evaluate a number of criteria and one of the most important criteria is “How can we have Low Impact Development?” The parcel of land on Magee Street was carefully chosen because the proposed building footprint would fit well inside of the footprint of the previous building that was once on the site. This means that the construction for this project can be performed on this site with the least amount of disturbance to the existing grounds and vegetation as opposed to the other locations that were evaluated where the existing sites would have greater disturbance from the proposed building and construction.



### Araiy Design Takes on Bayard Cutting Arboretum



Last Fall, Araiy Design had the pleasure of touring Bayard Cutting Arboretum led by the Arboretum's Executive Director and their Landscape Curator. The 690 acre arboretum, located in Great River, NY, is home to a diverse species of trees thanks to the Bayard Cutting family and their vast interest in the property's landscape. The property, originally called “Westbrook”, was design by famous architect Frederick Law Olmstead after being hired by William Bayard Cutting in 1887. Since then the property has been changed many times and now is run by the Long Island State Park & Recreation Commission with the supervision of the Board of Trustees based on specific arrangements made by Olivia Bayard Cutting.



The arboretum's Executive Director led us through the history of the property and how each of the 13 gardens have changed throughout the years. They have also developed a wonderful identification tool that can be used by visitors to identify each and every plant located within the arboretum.



As we strolled through the gardens we learned all about new species, how they control pests and diseases, new techniques they have implemented in controlling erosion, and so much more. The tour was a great learning experience for all of our staff and will aid us in our future designs as Landscape Architects and we encourage our colleagues and clients to visit the arboretum.

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### PLANTS OF THE SEASON

#### Native Plants Of The Season



Common Name: Downy Serviceberry  
Scientific Name: *Amelanchier arborea*

*Amelanchier arborea*, also known as Downy Serviceberry, is a large deciduous shrub or small tree with five-petaled, white flowers that bloom in early to mid Spring. The foliage of finely-toothed, obovate leaves emerges covered with soft, woolly hairs that disappear as the leaves mature. Resembling berries that taste like blueberry and are often used in jams, jellies and pies if not eaten by the birds. Native to eastern North America. Downy Serviceberry grows on a variety of sites from swampy lowlands to dry woods and sandy bluffs. It also grows on rocky ridges, forest edges, and open woodlands and fields. Downy Serviceberry provides year-round interest in the garden and is most effective in naturalistic plantings, and used as a specimen plant or in shrub borders.



Common Name: Bearberry  
Scientific Name: *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Bearberry is a slow-growing, creeping, evergreen shrub with trailing red stems studded with glossy, obovate, dark green leaves. The foliage turns red or purplish in Winter before becoming green again in Spring. Its lantern-shaped, white-to pink flowers hang gracefully from the short red stems in mid-to late Spring. The flowers last several weeks and are followed by edible berries in the Fall. The glistening fruits also provide excellent emergency foods for birds and mammals throughout winter.

Grows up in a bushy, densely-branched shrub to 6-12 in tall and 3-6 ft. wide. The plants spread gradually by surface rhizomes to form a mat. Bearberry makes a very attractive ground cover where few other plants would be happy. Equally lovely when draped over the edge of walls or large rocks.

#### Ornamental Plants Of the Season



Common Name: Japanese Andromeda  
Scientific Name: *Pieris japonica* 'Katsura'

*Pieris japonica* 'Katsura' is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub. This upright and compact bush can grow to be about 3 feet tall and wide. Glossy and narrow leaves appears scarlet before turning green when flowers appears. In late spring, rose-pink bell-shaped flowers with candy-like fragrance emerges over green foliage. The glossy dark green leaves remain throughout the winter. This plant performs best in full sun to partial shade and thrives in rich, acid soils. *Pieris japonica* 'Katsura' is a great choice for use as a specimen or mass planting in shade gardens.



Common Name: Fragrant Viburnum  
Scientific Name: *Viburnum carlesii*

*Viburnum carlesii*, is a bushy, rounded, deciduous shrub which is known for its incredibly fragrant flowers. It can reach a height and width of 4-6 feet in maturity. Blush-pink buds open to showy and fragrant white flowers in mid to late spring. While in bloom, the rich fragrance floats heavily through the landscape. Foliage turns to lovely shades of red and oranges in fall. *Viburnum carlesii* prefers full sun but also tolerates partial shade. It is easily grown in medium and well-drained soil. This plant is perfect as a specimen plant, grouped for shrub borders, and for foundation plantings.