

ARAIYS NEWS

SPRING NEWS LETTER 2017



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy Spring! We live in a precious ecosystem where we are constantly inspired by opportunities for a deeper felt sense of place...what we call the Genius Loci or the 'protective spirit of a place'. No matter the scale of a project, we seek to celebrate this 'spirit' of the east end of Long Island and work hard to ensure that what we propose respects both ecology and culture. As such, this newsletter highlights a large, multi-phased project we are currently working on in Westhampton Beach where the design challenge is to integrate a large development into the fabric of what was historically a Pitch Pine Forest. We are working closely with the Town to create a native seed mixture that replaces fertilizer dependent lawns and have specified the use of all native trees and shrubs. Please read below for more information about this exciting project. We begin with an update regarding Oak Wilt disease. This is a fungal disease infecting Oaks in the Red Oak family (these are the oaks with leaves that have points on their lobes in contrast to White Oaks which have rounded lobes). Please read below to learn about signs to look for..

Our staff at Araiys Design wishes you and your family a happy and joyful Spring season!

Current News Topic: Oak Wilt

In recent years, Eastern Long Island has had increasing numbers of sudden oak death and last year Oak Wilt was found locally out here in Suffolk County in Islip, Riverhead and Southold. Oak wilt is a serious fungal disease which kills thousands of oaks in the United States each year and at this time there is no known treatment to cure it. Red Oaks (such as scarlet oak, pin oak, black oak etc) are more susceptible to the fungus and can die within a few weeks up to six months after infected as it spreads quickly from tree to tree. For White Oaks (bur oaks, scrub oak, etc.), it can take years before they die and the disease do not spread from tree to tree.

The best way to try and avoid the spread of oak wilt is to prune trees October through February, when insects and fungi are inactive, as diseases are rarely spread during the fall and winter months. Aside from preventing disease, another benefit of pruning in the fall and winter is that the trees will respond more vigorously in the spring by putting out more new growth. Pruning healthy oaks during growing season increases the chances of insects infecting them with oak wilt as beetles are extremely attracted to fresh tree wounds and to the sweet smell given off by oak wilt spore mats. Look for the signs of oak wilt; i.e. discolored leaves, rapid leaf loss, and fungal spore mats underneath the bark, to keep your oaks healthy.

Hampton Business District

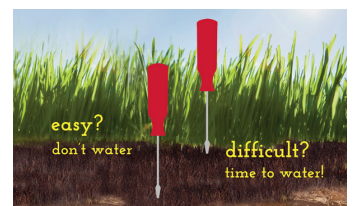
The Hampton Business District at Gabreski is the East End's first and only Class A Business Park. This business and technology center sits on 50 acres and consists of 440,000 square feet, made up of nine different buildings to accommodate the needs of small and large businesses. Due to the size, the Business Park will be developed in seven phases.

Araiys Design is working with Rechler Equity Partners and a talented design team to obtain all necessary Town approvals and creating site construction drawings. As prescribed in the PDD legislation for the project, only 15% of the proposed vegetation for the site can be fertilizer dependent. Araiys has carefully crafted a drought tolerant, native plant palette that significantly reduces fertilizer inputs and celebrates the local ecology.



Spring Tip: How To Deal With Last Year's Drought

Many landscape plants may require several years to recover fully from an extended drought like the one we are experiencing last year. So what are some key things to do post-drought? A drought stressed plant may look dreadful but it may be far from dead and will usually benefit greatly from irrigation. Make sure you have enough water in the ground by using the "screwdriver test". Stick an 8" screwdriver in the ground and if it hits hard soil at 2", keep watering!





PLANTS OF THE SEASON

Native Plants Of The Season



Common Name: Flowering dogwood
Scientific Name: *Cornus florida*

Cornus florida, more commonly known as Flowering dogwood, is a much loved small deciduous tree with spectacular early spring flowers. This tree can bloom as early as March and all the way through late May depending on what region you live in. The green-yellowish flowers are surrounded by four white petal like bracts with a notched tip. Flowering dogwood is beautiful through the season as the green leaves turn into a brilliant red-purple color in the fall. This tree may grow as tall as 15-30 feet and can spread 15-20 feet wide. It grows best in full sun to partial shade in moist, organically rich and acidic soils.



Common Name: Bunchberry or Creeping dogwood
Scientific Name: *Cornus Canadensis*

Cornus Canadensis, also known as Bunchberry, is a North American native deciduous groundcover shrub that grows well in woodland gardens as well as in the wild. It may grow as tall as 6-10 feet high with an indefinite spread. It bears beautiful six leaved green flowers with a four pointed white bract center from May-July. By August, the white center flower is replaced by a red cluster of edible berries and the leaves of the shrub turns deep red come fall. Bunchberry's grows well in partial to full shade with moist, wet, organically rich and acidic soils.

Ornamental Plants Of the Season



Common Name: Cornelian Cherry Dogwood
Scientific Name: *Cornus mas*

Cornus mas, commonly called Cornelian cherry dogwood, is a large shrub that grows well in colder climates like ours. It is often used as a hedge while it is resilient to severe pruning. This shrub blooms with clusters of yellow flowers by early March. Just like the previous mentioned dogwoods, this shrub also bear edible fruit and turns into a red-purplish color in the fall. The Cornelian cherry dogwood may grow as tall as 20-25 feet and can spread 10-15 feet wide. It grows best in sun to partial shade in fertile, well-drained soils with acid or alkaline pH.



Common Name: : Lilac 'President Grevy'
Scientific Name: *Syringa vulgaris*

Syringa vulgaris, commonly known as lilac, is a deciduous shrub of the olive tree family that grows well in North America. The lilac blooms mid to late spring with big fragrant tubular 4-lobed panicles that are typically 6-8 inches long. Cultivars extended the range of available flower colors to include shades of white, cream, rose, magenta, pinkish-purple, lavender and purple. Lilac easily grows in medium moisture and well-drained soil and tolerates light shade, but grows best in full sun. It prefers moist, fertile, organically rich, and slightly acidic-slightly alkaline soils with good drainage.