

FALL 2014

The Madoo Conservancy
618 Sagg Main Street
Sagaponack, NY 11962
www.madoo.org

MADOO

The Chat



PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD LEWIN

Top, Betsy Berry of Hamptons Get It Done representing the 12M Yacht Development Foundation; **Middle, Zoe Hoare, Sue Felsher, Marie-Chantal Ladenius;** **Bottom, John M. Hall with Andy Brand and Christopher Koppel of Broken Arrow Nursery;** **Top, right, Virginia Newman of Pennoyer Newman**

Much Ado About Madoo keeps growing. This year started with a cocktail party on Friday June 13 and continued through the weekend. The party was a success with the opening of *Rob Selects Bob*; the auction of nine species-specific, architect-designed birdhouses and three beautiful garden vignettes that were donated to the live auction presented by **Jamie Niven**. Add to this 25 top vendors in the market and the **North Fork Table and Inn Lunch Truck** and you've got a happy crowd. We were delighted with **Marshall Heyman's** witty post-mortem for his *Wall Street Journal* Heard & Scene column. Aside from shopping we heard **Kim-van Dang** and her husband **Antony Roberts** who market and distribute fine fragrances and candles discuss creating a Madoo scent. **Ethne Clarke** spoke on her latest book *An Infinity of Graces* about the life of **Cecil Ross Pinsent** who is responsible for so many of the beautiful gardens and villas found in Tuscany. **Andy Brand** the manager at **Broken Arrow Nursery** led a discussion of Bob Dash's favorite gold-leaved plants titled *A Dash of Gold*. Special thanks to **Betsy Berry of Hamptons Get it Done** for producing the event and **HC&G** our media sponsor.

Dear Friends



Madoo is a garden of giving. Our supporters have been so generous over the years.

This cool summer is almost past us and we're still hard at work as if spring never ended. Working in a vacation hotspot is tough but when the workplace is Madoo I can't complain. I might play ecology counselor to the children at Shine pop-up day camp or I may avoid my work by tending to overgrown seedlings in the greenhouse.

Aside from my admin duties, I find myself playing forensic gardener (someone suggested a TV program...). I walk about the garden trying to figure out what story Bob was trying to tell. Everything is planted much too close together. But that's the charm. Just as nature abhors a vacuum she also won't let two plants coexist happily. One will win. Planting a tree lilac beside the weeping beech on the pond probably made for an interesting contrast but now I see a majestic beech overshadowing a tree lilac. Perhaps I want to beat Mother Nature to the punch—with good reason the poor tree is half dead!

This summer we started working on the Sunken Terrace. Frankly, it's barely sunken, but that's what Bob called it and the name has stuck. What to do with the yew topiaries that are suffering in the shade? Will the leggy rhododendron be brought down? What is the name of that graceful shrub? I'm thinking a Yankee version of a Charleston courtyard garden. These thoughts pass through my brain as I choose colors to repaint the antique French iron benches and the octagonal planter (thanks **Charlotte Moss!**) with the giant cycads that **Cathy Warren of Broadview Gardens** gave Bob when he got out of a particularly bad hospital stay.

Madoo is a garden of giving. Three garden vignettes designed by **Lear & Mahoney Landscape Associates, LaGuardia Design** and **April Gonzales Garden Design** went to auction at Much Ado About Madoo this year. **Mara Seibert** bought one last year and gave it to Madoo. Now the clipped boxwood sculpture

designed and donated by **Michael Derrig of Landscape Details** sits at the entrance to the summer studio. And we've recently received a remarkable gift for the conservation of over 100 of Bob's paintings. All the while **Jane Iselin** and **Amy Lauren Young** sit at the gate greeting and chatting up our visitors every weekend.

And we give back. Visit Madoo to learn about garden design. Visit Madoo to escape the stresses of daily life. Visit Madoo to see our historic structures.

I'm looking forward to a late Indian summer perfect for planting spring-blooming bulbs. Maybe we'll add more of those rose-colored Dordogne tulips with the golden tipping to the inner circle of the potager. And why not add hundreds of squills down the rose rill?

Stay green,

Alejandro Saralegui DIRECTOR



Please check your membership level below.

- CONTRIBUTOR \$125**
 - Free admission for member and 4 guests on open days and members-only days.
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 - 10% discount at Mecox Gardens (not to be combined with other discounts)
- BENEFACTOR above \$1000** *The above benefits plus:*
 - Invitation to end-of-summer Benefactors lunch
- I am already a member but would like to contribute \$ _____
- My company will match this gift.

Membership

Thank you for supporting The Madoo Conservancy.

Please mail this form in your envelope to:
The Madoo Conservancy
Post Office Box 362
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For more information call us at 631.537.8200 or e-mail info@madoo.org.

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Rob Selects Bob: Inaugural Exhibition in the Summer Studio

Robert Dash started out painting views of his favorite things: the sky, trees, fields and roads near his favorite place in the world, "Madoo," a floral and arboreal paradise he created in Sagaponack, NY. Dash ended his fifty-year career doing much the same thing – but differently. In the interim Madoo changed from an elegantly English-style garden to an extravagantly improvised, wondrously hybrid American one. Dash's painterly manner underwent a similar metamorphosis, from gestural naturalism to spirited formal invention. Developing the images as almost musical themes and variations, his pictures climaxed in beautifully resolved graphic and chromatic chords. This show offers a first glimpse of those last works.

— **Robert Storr**, Dean, Yale School of Art



Loitering with Fine Intent: Robert Dash as a Writer

By Tim Longville

This excerpt is from No. 108, Winter 2013 of *Hortus*, the literary gardening quarterly published in England.

When I thought about Bob's writing before he beginning of this article, the word that first came to mind to sum it up was 'fizz', though of course a little more thought and a little re-reading soon reminded me that there is another very different and key component: a sort of tight-lipped, narrow-eyed, nail-it-flat, New England moralism, which acts as the bony skeleton beneath the often gorgeous surface of his prose.

And it is the sweet-and-sour contrast between the two which gives his writing its intensely individual tang and edge. Not a tang and edge that is to everyone's taste, of course. It is rather like one of his famously lethal home-made alcoholic concoctions. (One he mentioned in a letter to me, for example, consisted of 'a quite venomous mix of Mt Gay rum and Marguerita juice—lime, sugar and salt.') to appreciate either you need a certain amount of willingness to say 'To hell with it' and just decide to enjoy the ride, wherever it takes you.

Since so much garden writing is so grimly pedestrian, however, it was very much the high-spirited verbal pyrotechnics—by which he could convey the essence of a plant, a design, a season, a garden task or his own often distinctly unusual feelings about any of those things—which in the beginning caught my own attention and I suspect that of many others. A few examples follow by way of demonstration.

First, this description of a favorite wheelbarrow, which moves effortlessly from the particular to a memorable fantasy vignette:

I have a fine one made by a hand by a wise local carpenter. It has oaken handles I rub with linseed oil to counter splitting and is of a venerable design. It is a scalding orange that is somehow appropriate to a green setting. It is a splendid wheelbarrow because it tips on demand and its fat swollen tire moves well...I'm very fond of it. It gets around shrubs and takes bumps with matronly discretion. It brings to mind old Scottish gardeners in Victorian engravings—the types who carried unlit pipes. Muttering surrounded them like midges and they had a fierce urge to cut out and have a pint.

Subscribe to *Hortus* at www.hortus.co.uk or email: all@hortus.co.uk



The exhibition of paintings in the Summer Studio is free with garden admission.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MICK HALES



We are planning on replacing the greenhouse that has served us well over the years. However, a lack of heating in the winter, and ventilation in the summer makes it virtually impossible to grow anything in here. Not to mention that if Charles, The Prince of Wales, ever visits he'll declare it a carbuncle! Please consider making a donation to Madoo in support of the Robert Dash Greenhouse. Growing transplants from seed in the spring, sheltering tender plants in the winter and teaching children horticulture year round certainly make this a worthwhile project. If you wish more information on this effort please contact alejandromadoo.org or make a donation on the membership form (p.5).

Sprouts

THE MADOO CONSERVANCY IS DEDICATED TO THE STUDY, PRESERVATION, AND ENHANCEMENT OF MADOO, THE HORTICULTURALLY DIVERSE GARDEN WITH HISTORIC STRUCTURES ESTABLISHED IN 1967 BY ARTIST, GARDENER, AND WRITER ROBERT DASH IN THE VILLAGE OF SAGAPONACK, NEW YORK. AT MADOO, A UNIQUE LIVING TRIBUTE TO THE ARTISTIC IMAGINATION OF ITS FOUNDER, WE SEEK TO CONTINUALLY ENGAGE, EDUCATE, AND INSPIRE OUR VISITORS WITHIN THIS EVER-CHANGING, ENTIRELY ORGANIC ENVIRONMENT.

The Bridgehampton School

8th graders from the Bridgehampton school visited twice this past spring on a creative arts program. After exploring the garden, they set about painting their impressions of different aspects of the garden. Once completed they were all combined by theme to make a Madoo "quilt." We look forward to having the Bridgehampton School make Madoo a regular part of their curriculum.



Shine

This summer Madoo has played host to a pop-up camp on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Organized by Aaron Goldschmidt the four to eight year olds make crafts, practice yoga, cook, play read and learn to garden in the magical setting of Madoo.



Monday Mornings at Madoo

Upwards of 30 local children visit Madoo on alternate Mondays for story telling hour under the shade of the magnolia bosque. Produced in cooperation with the Hampton Library. The program has proved so successful that we are continuing it through the Fall.



Benefactor's Luncheon

August 29, 12 noon.
Lunch in the garden honoring our benefactors
By invitation.

Member's Cocktail Party

September 14, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
A special thank you to members.
Free to members/\$40 non-members.

Monday Mornings at Madoo

September 15, 29, October 27,
November 10, 24., 10:00 a.m.
Children's ages 2-6 storytelling under the
Magnolia Bosque with the Hampton Library.
Free.

Madoo Paints

Six Saturday sessions
September 20—October 18,
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Painting classes in the garden with artist
Eric Dever.
\$300/members \$350/non-members.

Closing Day

September 20.
The garden closes for the season.

Holiday Market

December 13, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Holiday shopping and good cheer at
Madoo.
Free.

Calendar



Leading NYC and East End architects designed, built and donated remarkable birdhouses fit for our finicky avian friends. The nine species-specific birdhouses were auctioned off during Much Ado About Madoo. Clockwise from top left: Purple Martin Condo by Ryall Porter Sheridan Architects; (k)Not Owl House by Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership; Owl Nest Box by Cooper Robertson & Partners



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My check payable to The Madoo Conservancy is enclosed for: \$

I wish to charge my gift to: Master Card Visa American Express

Account Number Expiration / / Security Code

Signature Email

Please be sure to include your email address for future invitations and notices about the garden. We don't share mailing list information.

- I would like to donate \$_____ towards the replacement of the Robert Dash greenhouse.
- Please send me information on including the Madoo Conservancy in my estate planning.

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