



HAH Happenings

February 2023



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org

at the Bridgehampton Community House

On Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Please join us at the Bridgehampton Community House
for a talk by **Catie Marron** on

***Becoming A Gardener:
What Reading and Digging Taught Me About Living***

An expert and writer on urban green spaces, Catie Marron will tell us about her endeavor to understand why gardens mean so much to people. She'll share insights from her most recent book, ***Becoming a Gardener***, which weaves her personal story of becoming an exuberant gardener with meditations on the deep impact gardening has on our lives. She weaves into her story the wise thoughts and advice of many outstanding writers including Gertrude Jekyll, Jamaica Kincaid, Michael Pollan, and Cicero. In fact, Cicero's quote, "If you have a garden and a library you have all you need," was in good part inspiration for writing the book. Hers is a highly personal story, as she writes about finding joy and solace in gardening and comes to understand more the wonderful value of gardening.

Catie Marron is the creator and editor of two anthologies published by HarperCollins which explore the value and significance of urban public spaces: ***City Squares, Eighteen Writers on the Spirit and Significance of Squares Around the World*** (2016), and ***City Parks: Public Places, Private Thoughts*** (2013). She wrote ***Becoming A Gardener: What Reading and Digging Taught Me About Living***, published in 2022 by HarperCollins, which centers on how gardens and the process of their creation enrich lives.

Marron's career has encompassed investment banking, magazine journalism, public service, and book publishing. She is currently a trustee and Chair Emeritus of The New York Public Library, where she was Chairman of the Board from 2004 to 2011. Marron is also a trustee of Friends of the High Line, where she was also Board Chair, and a trustee of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Marron began her first career in investment banking at Morgan Stanley and then at Lehman Brothers. She then became Senior Features Editor at *Vogue*, where she has been a contributing editor for twenty years. While writing her books, Marron launched *Good Companies*, a curated, online guide to companies that strive to do good while also making a profit. This venture was shaped in part by the success of *Treasure & Bond*, a pop-up store that she co-founded with Nordstrom and Anna Wintour in 2011. All of the store's profits went to charities benefiting NYC children.



FEBRUARY EVENTS AT HAH

Saturday, February 4, 10:30 am - 12:00 HAH Roundtable - in person at the HAH Library - see p. 4.

Sunday, February 12, 2 pm - Talk by Catie Marron - see above.

Saturday, February 18, 11:00 am - HAH Book Group - ON ZOOM - see p. 3 and watch your email for ZOOM link.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow members,

This month's celebration of Valentine's Day prompted me to reflect on all the ways love is connected to horticulture. There's the obvious: we give flowers as an expression of love. But the more I thought about it, the more I found love infused in all facets of our gardening experience.

My love of gardening was sparked by my maternal grandmother. She gardened in Bay Point (in Sag Harbor) back when hostas were called 'funkia' and could be planted without worrying about deer (imagine!). Grandma Rita planted a seed in me that has been nurtured over the years by women and men who generously and patiently shared their love of gardening, their knowledge, and on many occasions: divisions, cuttings, and seed. As I've written here before, the plants that have come to me from other members are among my most prized possessions because of the way they connect me to the giver. And there is love in each and every part of this: in our individual love of gardening, in sharing this passion with others, in giving and receiving plants. In addition, as more and more of us strive to garden organically and to incorporate natives and plants for pollinators in our gardens, we are expressing a love of nature and the environment.

I often think of EM Forster's dictum: "Only connect." Connect your head and your heart. Connect with one another. Connect with nature. Find love in connection and celebrate it, then put more into the world... starting from your garden.

All my best,

Erik

HAH 2023

OFFICERS: (an officer serves for a 1 year term)

President	Erik Brockmeyer
First Vice President	Greg Wiseman
Second Vice President	Janet Ollinger
Recording Secretary	Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Ann Stanley
Treasurer	Patricia Matheson

DIRECTORS: (a director serves for a 3 year term)

Marie DiMonte	'23
Michael Longacre	'23
Erika Shank	'24
Valerie Hanley	'24
Pamela Harwood	'25
Rick Bogusch	'25

The Library Chairperson (who serves on the Board with a vote) will be: Joan DiMonda

On occasion the board may appoint someone to fill an unexpired term if necessary.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Elaine Peterson

WEBSITE EDITOR - Michael Longacre

MEMBERSHIP & MAILING - Bettina and John Benson

PHOTOS this month - Michael Longacre, Jack Pearson, Erika Shank, Alicia Whitaker, Greg Wiseman

HAH 2023 GARDEN FAIR

Preview Party - Friday, May 19 - 5-7pm

Garden Fair - Saturday, May 20 - 9am - 1pm

FOG – Friends of the Garden

Thank you to all who came to help tend the Marie Donnelly/HAH Garden located outside the HAH office and Library in Bridgehampton this past year. Special thanks go to Joan Dimonda, Bettina & John Benson, and Marie DiMonte for attending almost every meeting.

Anyone who enjoys gardening is welcome to join.

The gardening dates for 2023 are Tuesdays

**April 4, May 2, May 30, June 27, July 25,
August 22, September 19, October 17 and
November 14**

We usually start at about 10 AM

Looking forward to seeing you in the Spring!

Cornelia Bostwick

WINTER BOOK GROUP
Saturday, February 18, 11 am-noon
VIA ZOOM.

Gather around my lovey book worms for another fantastic Winter Book Group

*The Seasonal Gardener: Creative Planting Combinations by Anna Pavord, presented by Carleen Borsella

*An Island Garden by Celia Thaxter, presented by Alexandra Eames

*New Wild Garden: Natural-style planting and practicalities by Ian Hodgson, presented by Paige Louthan

3 books, 3 presenters, one hour of friendship!

Watch your email for a Zoom link and visit HAHgarden.org for information about this and all HAH programs!

Janet Ollinger

Tool Tip

Bamboo Sticks for Manipulating Potting Soil

Fingers work great much of the time when getting soil around plant roots or root balls when planting them in pots. But fingers can also be larger than ideal and are attached to hands that can bump into brittle plants like succulents, or block access to very narrow openings into the pot. Sometimes hands simply block the view of where you need to be moving the soil. A length of bamboo cut to about 10-12" can substitute—and has the advantage of not blocking the view, being longer than a finger—and can be different diameters for different size potting situations, really a plus with very small cuttings going into small pots. A single, carefully chosen, 3' bamboo stake can be cut into several different diameter tools.



From: Michael Longacre

HAH Library News

As the new year unfolds and my tenure as the Director of the LoGerfo Library begins, I am enthused and excited about my new role. After being closed for two years, due to COVID protocols, the library is slowly regaining its luster and shine.

With just over 400 HAH members and around 75 new members, there is cause for celebration...not the cork-popping, confetti flying, DJ thumping party, but rather a more gentle mini-celebration where we can renew, rediscover and reconnect with our love of horticulture. This celebration will be an opportunity to reacquaint with gardening friends we have not seen in some time and make new friends as well. I can't wait to do a "walk around" in the library and point out to you what makes it so special.

With the above in mind, I am planning several 45-60 minute mini celebrations to be held in the HAH library occurring over several months, beginning in March. A lovely e-mail invitation will be sent to each member until everyone has had a chance to attend. You will be asked to RSVP which is very important to me so I can provide enough chairs for comfort and plenty of food/drink for sustenance! For this purpose, the library can ideally accommodate 20-25 members. Your reply will be recorded and will be your "ticket" to enter the event. I am so looking forward to welcoming you back.

For the love of gardening,

Joan DiMonda

HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM IN PERSON AT THE HAH LIBRARY

Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 10:30am – Noon

IT'S WINTER: LET'S START GARDENING **Beginning a New Year Growing, Maintaining, and Planning**

It's February, and many of our gardens are at rest. But are our gardens, or are we gardeners, ever truly dormant? Or is February a wonderful time to grow our own winter vegetables (a smart idea after seeing the prices at the markets!), start new spring and summer plants from seeds, care for our tropical plants, force bulbs indoors for an early display, and plan for our whole new summer projects?

One of a gardener's best friends in winter (almost ubiquitous in England but not as common for the home gardener on the East End), are GREENHOUSES. And we have just the right guest speaker to share his enthusiasm for utilizing greenhouses and other methods for winter growing.

Renato Stafford is an organic growing consultant with a culinary and business background and over 20 years of teaching, developing, and implementing programs for schools, restaurants, private residences, and estates. He specializes in the planning, design, and installations of year-round organic vegetable gardens and greenhouses; composting to nurture our plants; storing and preserving produce; seed saving and plant starts, and the organic winter garden.



We also look forward to hearing from HAH members who are utilizing greenhouses, starting their own plants indoors using grow lights, bringing potted bulbs indoors to get a jump start on spring, direct sowing seeds outdoors, watching the garden come alive even during the winter, and seeing the daylight hours remain longer. It fills us with optimism and the renewed energy to get back to work on our gardening dreams.

So please join us in person on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 10:30am and, if you have experiences of your own to share, we very much look forward to hearing your stories. Other gardening questions are also welcome, as are guests.

Regards, Pamela Harwood, Moderator

Photos by Renato Stafford





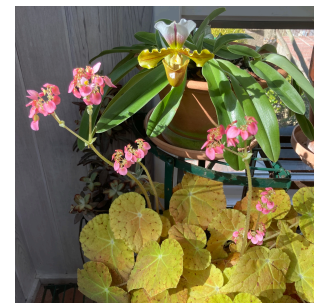
HAH Member Winter Greenhouse Gardening Activity

Members Jack & Salvador Pearson, whose Water Mill garden we visited in June '21, build a greenhouse over their patio each autumn to protect tender plants that won't survive the winter outdoors but won't fit inside their home. Lining the interior with bubble wrap adds a layer of insulation while letting the sunlight pass through. Imagine being able to step into your own greenhouse on a gray winter day! In the spring the greenhouse is taken apart and stored until the next autumn.



The HAH LoGerfo Library houses many books on greenhouse gardening. The following books were pulled from the shelf and can be found on a book rack sitting on the main desk. Members are welcome to sign books out using the library card in the back of each book.

1. Building Your Own Greenhouse by Mark Freeman, 1997
2. The Time-Life Gardener's Guide: Greenhouse Gardening, 1989
3. The Complete Guide to Conservatory Gardening
George Siddon and Andrew Bicknell, 1986
4. Greenhouse Gardening by Miranda Scott, 1985
5. The Practical Book of Greenhouse Gardening
Ronald H. Menage, 1983
6. How to Build and Use Greenhouses
T. Jeff Williams, 1978
7. The Complete Greenhouse Book
Peter Clegg and Derry Watkins, 1978



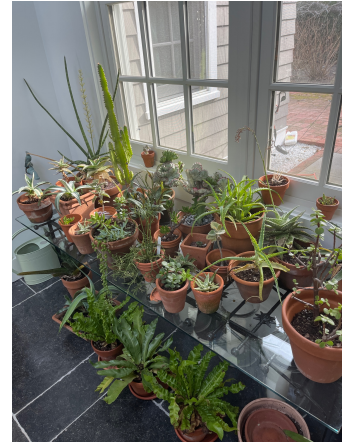
Compiled by Joan DiMonda
Director of the LoGerfo Library

HAH Member 'Winter Gardens' for tender plants



Alicia Whitaker

Here's where I overwinter my begonias and succulents. There's a skylight, the room faces south and there's bright light much of the day. Things stay pretty happy in here until they head outside again in May. It's very simple but it works well for me. It's not where I start seedlings - for that I use grow lights in other parts of the house.



Erika Shank

My tender and succulent plants spend the warm season outdoors. From October thru May they get moved into the sunroom in my house which I convert into a winter garden. The room, adjacent to my bedroom, faces south-east and has four skylights...there is plenty of light and sun. I water less, keep the temperature low and the plants respond well. They provide so much interest during the winter with blooms, leaves, texture, and lots of oxygen. Waking up to my plants is delightful and brings me much joy!



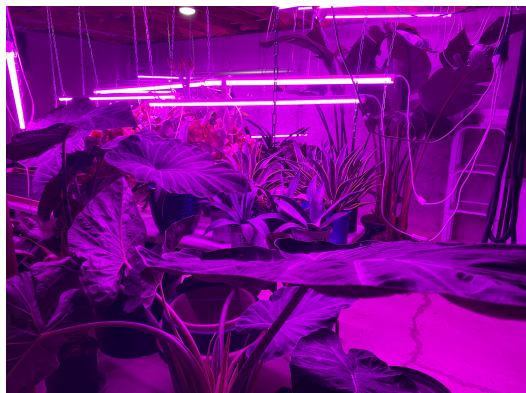
Greg Wiseman Some winter garden activities

I love gardening. But, (and please don't tell anybody) I also enjoy getting a bit of a rest while the garden is asleep. While there might not be as much to do in winter as during the other three seasons, there's plenty of important things to do!

One of the activities is assessing the wintertime "structure" of my garden. With the perennials and deciduous trees dormant, I can consider if I want to add some evergreens for winter interest and definition to the garden. Or, perhaps I want to add some color that is visible from a window by adding a colorful dogwood like "Midwinter Fire" (*Cornus sanguinea*). There's something very satisfying about looking at its bright colors against a dreary winter sky. It's also a great time to decide if I want to add hardscape items like boulders to add structure. An inexpensive and lightweight choice for boulders is "Feather Rock". It's mined from volcanic pumice and is much lighter than other types of rock making it easy to move and place by hand without heavy equipment.

For all of these things, I put a labeled landscaping flag where I've decided to add things. It's going to look completely different in spring when it's time to place everything and I'm not going to remember where I wanted to put what!

To keep my deciduous trees healthy, I assess them in winter for crossed or dead branches that need to be removed. I use sharp loppers or bypass pruners to remove the potential future problems.



Another important thing to do is simply keeping potted plants alive that are normally outside the rest of the year. For many years, we filled our west-facing bathroom with the monster-size agave, alocasia and other plants that we normally keep on the deck. About four years ago, I decided to convert space in the basement into a greenhouse. For a few hundred dollars, I added folding tables, LED grow lights on a timer and a garden hose attached to a bib. Now I keep the wintertime jungle healthy and happy in the basement instead of crammed into the bathroom.

Wintertime is also a great time to propagate cuttings from plants or split large potted plants so they're rooted and ready for placement outside in spring.

Of course, one of the main events of winter gardening is pouring over the seed catalogs and choosing what to plant in spring.

In order to get a headstart on tomatoes and other long season crops, I added a folding table with a sprouting heat mat to the basement greenhouse. Keeping the seedlings warm from beneath gives them quick sprouting and fast growth so they're strong and ready to plant out after frost risk is over. I keep the LED lights

very close to the plants so they don't strain to get to the light and become leggy.

In order to easily adjust the height of the LED lights above my plants and seedlings, I hung light-weight chains from the ceiling and then attached the lights with 'S' hooks. I'm then able to quickly raise or lower the lights to where they're needed.



HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2023 - 2 pm

February 12 – Catie Marron – *Becoming A Gardener: What Reading and Digging Taught Me About Living*

March 12 – Sara Cedar Miller - *Before Central Park*

April 16 – Fred Landman – *Sleepy Cat Farm: A Gardener's Journey*

May 7 – James Golden – *The View from Federal Twist: A New Way of Thinking About Gardens, Nature and Ourselves*

June 11 – Karl Gercens – *365 Days of Flowers*

No lectures in July or August

September 10 – Bridget Wosczyzna – *Introduction to the Plants You Should be Growing:*

Hardy and Tropical Aroids for Northeast Gardens

October 15 – Rebecca McMackin – *Brooklyn Bridge Park: Lessons in Constructed Ecology*

November 12 – Ulrich (Uli) Lorimer - *The Northeast Native Plant Primer: 235 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden*

December 10 – Scott Chaskey – *Soil & Spirit, Cultivation and Kinship in the Web of Life*



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100% Recycled 

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