



HAH Happenings

January 2026



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

631.537.2223 hahgarden.org

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

at the Bridgehampton Community House

On Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Please join us on Zoom

for a talk by **Karen Bussolini** on

The Unsung Season: Gardens in Winter



Ideally, our gardens should feed our souls and give pleasure 365 days a year, although somehow the warm seasons zip by, while winter seems to come too soon, stay too long, and offer too few sensory pleasures. But when you quit grumbling about crummy weather and dark days, and look around, much unexpected beauty awaits. Explore the transition from fall to spring and the many possibilities for garden interest way past first frost.

We will consider form, line, color, texture, plays of light and shadow, movement, sound, birds, surprises you find when you drag yourself out of the comfy fireside chair and go outdoors. Big structures carry the garden when details are buried under snow or it's too gloomy to go out - you can see them from a distance. Evergreens provide color and form, deciduous trees and shrubs create form with lines. Seedheads and pods lend punctuation and texture, and many herbaceous plants—I call them my foul weather friends—persist well into winter, so the garden still looks like a garden if you use enough of them. Consider trees and shrubs with colored and textured barks, those with interesting buds and winter blooms. Before you know it, early bulbs will be pushing up.

This talk is guaranteed to inspire gardeners to appreciate winter in new ways – and to place combinations of interesting plants where they will be seen and enjoyed through the unsung season.

Karen Bussolini is a lifelong hands-on organic gardener and lover of nature. Trained as a painter and well-schooled in the art of seeing, her garden photography, talks, and writing reflect the world through her artist's eye. She photographed six books, including *The Homeowner's Complete Tree and Shrub Handbook*, *The Naturescaping Workbook: A Step-by-Step Guide for Bringing Nature to Your Backyard*, and *Elegant Silvers*, which she also co-authored. Karen's photo-rich talks have people laughing and learning from coast to coast. Although she travels far and wide, her roots are sunk deeply into the soil of a deer-infested mountainside in South Kent, Connecticut. In her personal life she is a Reiki practitioner, river swimmer and member of The Kent Singers, a classical vocal ensemble.

January Events at HAH

Saturday, January 10, 10:00 am, Roundtable, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 4.

Sunday, January 11, 2:00, Lecture, on Zoom, see above.

Saturday, January 17, 11:00 am, Winter Book Group, on Zoom, see p. 5.

Saturday, January 24, 10:00 am, SOFO talk, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 5.

Saturday, January 31, 1:00 pm, Workshop, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 6.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere was Sunday, December 21, at 10:03 a.m. ET—so by when this newsletter arrives we've started giddily telling one another, "I can definitely *tell* the days are getting longer." I'm writing this the second week of December (early deadlines because of holidays) during our early snap cold blasts. There may have been more such odd blasts between now and when the newsletter arrives, we seem likely to have an unusual winter. La Niña, out in the Pacific, can have unpredictable effects, including sudden cold snaps in an otherwise unusually warm wet winter for the the east coast.

The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons turns 40 in 2026—expect to start hearing about days of yore as the year progresses. The story starts in 1986 with two neighbors talking over their fence about wishing there was a garden group focused on the nitty gritty of gardening as well as design. Forty years later HAH has more than 400 members, a 3,000+ book library, the Karish Scholarship, regular programs that include ten Lectures, seven Roundtables, four Winter Book Groups on Zoom, numerous Workshops and tours of local gardens that feature very personal gardens running the gamut from pocket-sized to acres. Not to mention the legendary Garden Fair in May and Yard Sale in October.

HAH also produces this informative newsletter, emails to keep members up-to-date, and our website is a goldmine of HAH information, including dozens of video recordings of Lectures, Roundtables, Workshops, Winter Book Groups, and the last ten years of HAH newsletters in pdf format at www.hahgarden.org.

Stay warm and enjoy your seed catalog fantasy garden 'til you're back in the real thing.

Michael Longacre



HAH 2026 Officers and Board of Directors

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

President	Michael Longacre
First Vice President	Erik Brockmeyer
Second Vice President	Pamela Harwood
Recording Secretary	Janet Donohoe Ollinger
Corresponding Secretary	Marie DiMonte
Treasurer	Bettina Benson

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

Nancy Gilbert	'26
Alex Sipkes	'26
Laurie Gibbs	'27
Olivia Motch	'27
Greg Wiseman	'28
David Reese	'28

The Library Chairperson (who serves on the Board with a vote) is 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: Pamela Harwood, Michael Longacre, Elaine Peterson

More January Garden Events and Zooms

- **Friday, January 2 and Saturday, January 3, 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. LongHouse Illuminated.** LongHouse Reserve, 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937. \$35 for members, \$45 non-members. For more info and to register: longhouse.org/products/longhouse-illuminated
- **Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The Deer Conundrum (online).** \$25. For more info and to register: <https://mtcubacenter.org/event/the-deer-conundrum-online/>
- **Tuesday, January 27, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Plant-O-Rama 2026.** Speakers include James Hitchmough. Trade Show, Jobs Fair, Breakout Sessions. In-person at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Recording of all keynote and panel discussions also available for those who cannot attend in person. Tickets from \$30. For more info and to register: <https://www.metrohort.org/calendar/plant-o-rama>
- **Thursday, January 29, 12:00 pm. Garden Conservancy Winter Webinar Series: The Emperor's Western Maze and the Making of a Global Garden. Part 1: The Summer Palace: Beijing and its Creators.** \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-the-emperor-s-western-maze-and-the-making-of-a-global-garden>

We are delighted to introduce two HAH members who are joining our Board of Directors this month and we look forward to their active participation in our organization's direction!

Nancy Gilbert gardens in Jamesport on the North Fork and has written this about herself:

My love of gardens began in Wisconsin in the gardens of my grandparents and parents. It migrated with me to Westchester, and then to Jamesport. After a wonderful time teaching women's history and twenty years spent at JPMorgan, my husband (Richard Wines) and I moved to land on the North Fork that was farmed by Richard's ancestors from the 1660's on. As unrecovered historians, we loved old buildings and proceeded to move an 1872 one-room school house, an 1836 Greek Revival house and an early 19th century barn – all desperately in need of a new lease on life – to our property. The buildings have been wonderful excuses to garden! We now have fourteen separate gardens, all with distinct plantings and personalities, and strive to engender a spirit of place. We love where we live and are committed to preserving as much of it as possible and sharing it with as many people as possible. I currently serve on the board of the Peconic Land Trust, Riverhead's Open Space Committee, and the board of the Jamesport Meeting House. Our gardens have welcomed land trust events, Garden Conservancy and HAH members, local artists, birds, bees, and wildlife. Discovering HAH – a truly delightful community of gardeners – has been the icing on the cake.



David Reese gardens in Southampton Village and has written this bio for us:



David grew up in the very southern part of New Jersey. He went to Penn State and graduated with a degree in architecture. Following graduation he moved to Westchester and then to NYC where he endeavored on a construction management career for clients such as the Museum of Natural History, Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Historical. 23 years ago he and his wife Jeanne bought a very neglected home in Southampton Village. After years of work on the house, the garden now gets much of the attention. An amateur trial and error gardener, David spends way too much time thinking about plants and at a way too close nursery, enjoys finding homes for new flora and moving and dividing others. He looks forward to working with the Alliance, learning as much as he can from others and meeting like minded members.

HAH Program Dates to add to your 2026 Calendar

- The year's monthly lectures are listed on the back page of every newsletter.
- Roundtable usually meets the first Saturday of the month, at 10 am, at the HAH Library, but note change for January! Jan 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, October 3, November 7, December 5.
- Winter Book Group meets the third Saturday of the month, at 11 am on Zoom - January 17, February 21, March 21, December 19
- HAH Annual Garden Fair and Preview Party - Friday evening May 15 & Saturday, May 16



HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

Second Saturday, January 10th at 10:00am – Noon

Creating a Deer Resistant Garden and Dealing with other Garden Critters

Moderated and with Photos by Pamela Harwood

As many of you who regularly or even occasionally attend the Roundtables will know, no matter what the topic, it doesn't take long into our sessions before we are talking about the deer, the moles, the voles, the rabbits, and now - moved up on the chain of discussion - the squirrels! So by popular demand I've decided to finally make this the central feature of our first Roundtable of the new year.

Does creating a deer-resistant garden sound too good to be true? In my experience in Bridgehampton, it's not. We may not be able to plant deer-proof gardens, but there are many beautiful plants that deer will absolutely not touch, and more that they would really rather not browse. Our focus will be on gardening on the East End of Long Island. Have you ever Googled "deer-resistant plants" and seen lists that come from other states, only to know that the deer that visit your property do eat many of those plants? That's because deer in your neighborhood have acclimated to eating certain plants while still not touching others. I've compiled a list of plants that do the job in my Bridgehampton garden, with additional plants that are safe in other members' gardens, and this list will be shared at the Roundtable. Perhaps attendees will know of plants that can be added to this list. That would be wonderful! Here are some areas we'll cover:

- Scented plants
- Plants with fuzzy texture
- Plants with sharp and thorny features
- Groundcovers, grasses, herbs, other edibles, annuals, perennials, sub-shrubs, shrubs, trees
- Plants that usually are only browsed in winter, when they can be protected
- Why new plantings need to be protected the first month or so
- Guides for the best deer fencing so at least part of your garden will be deer free
- Suggestions to avoid damage from voles, moles, rabbits, squirrels, etc.

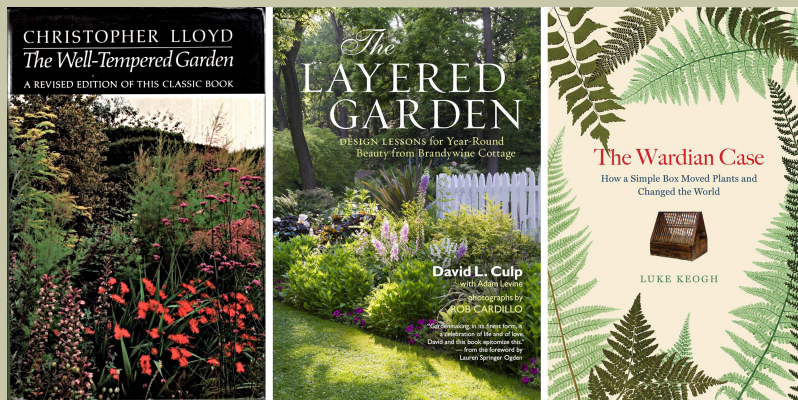
We welcome all samples for show and tell. By the end of the program, if there are attendees who have additional gardening questions about these or any other topics, please feel free to stay a while longer and talk to one of our knowledgeable members.



HAH Winter Book Group
Saturday, January 17th 11AM-Noon on Zoom
Look for the Zoom link in your email
ALL ARE WELCOME Feel free to share the link

1 Hour, 3 presenters and time spent with gardening and book loving friends!
Hello to our lovely winter book group. HAH is looking forward to creating a wonderful environment to learn, grow and share in 2026. This month we are welcoming a very special guest presenter, Alan Zeigler along with a perennial favorite, Scott Sottile, and new HAH Board member, Nancy Gilbert.

1. ***The Well-Tempered Garden*** by Christopher Lloyd, presented by Nancy Gilbert
2. ***The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage*** by David L. Culp with Adam Levine, presented by Scott Sottile
3. ***The Wardian Case: How a Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World*** by Luke Keogh, presented by Alan Zeigler



South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) presents:

“Insects in the Garden - Pollinators and Predators”



Saturday, January 24, 2026 10am - Noon



(Snow date: January 31, 2026 10am - Noon)

at the HAH LoGerfo Library

As we plant and tend to our gardens throughout the seasons, many types of insects and other invertebrates make their homes among the petals, leaves, and roots. The variety of these little critters is as important as it can be problematic for both amateur and experienced gardeners alike. Now it's up to us to determine how best to manage our insect neighbors. Learning who's there and what their roles are is the first step!

Join SOFO environmental educator Moe Kennedy for a presentation and discussion about the insects and other invertebrates that live throughout your garden, including pollinators, predators, and pests.

There will be no charge for this Workshop. Registration not necessary.



**Please join us at HAH for a
"Milk Jug Seed Starting Workshop "
Led by Master Gardener, Linda Whitaker
Saturday, January 31, 2026, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
At the HAH LoGerfo Library**

Linda will guide us in a simple method to create mini greenhouses utilizing milk jugs for natural stratification and seed germination. Left out in the elements, this process is an easy way to start seeds using sunlight and recycled materials. Feel free to bring seeds that you may want to start. This Workshop is limited to 15 people.

**Fee: \$10.00 All materials will be provided.
Registration required at hahgarden.org/tickets**

**Please join us for a HAH Workshop
Katrina Vanderlip will lead a
"Pajaki Willow Workshop"
on Saturday, March 14, 2026, 10am - 12pm,
at the HAH LoGerfo Library.**

Pajaki or Polish mobiles are intricate folk art pieces made from natural materials, in our case willow that was grown by Katrina. They are traditionally created by hand, often featuring colorful materials and decorative elements. This Workshop is limited to 12 attendees, so sign up early. Also, attendees may bring any decorative items to personalize their creation.



**Fee \$15.00 All materials will be provided.
Registration is required at hahgarden.org/tickets**

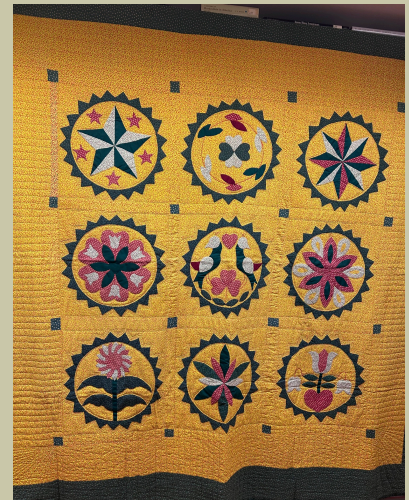
**Did you know that HAH is on the web in other ways than on our website? Follow us on
www.facebook.com/HAHgarden and www.instagram.com/horticulturalalliancehamptons**

The Intersection of Gardening and Quilting

As part of HAH's Workshop Program, on October 30th I shared a power point presentation I created to an exuberantly engaged group in the LoGerfo Library, titled "The Intersection of Gardening and Quilting." Using a Venn Diagram of two circles, one representing Gardening and the other Quilting, where they overlapped became the core of my presentation...color, shape and historic names.

After introducing the color wheel, with its kaleidoscope of colors, I addressed color schemes applicable to gardens and quilts. Using primary, secondary, complimentary, split complimentary and analogous schemes, I explored colors that would effectively guide choices for both gardens and quilts.

In both gardens and quilts shapes (square, rectangle, triangle, circle) play a major roll in relationship to design. In gardening they offer visual diversity and rhythm. Orbs are represented by a variety of flowers, peonies, roses, allium, and gomphrenas. In quilting they become the design itself. Birds are represented by triangles with names as Flying Geese and Birds in the Air. Stars are arranged three to a square or a rectangle that become the points of the stars, with names like Ohio Star, Clay's Choice, or Dolly Madison Star. Circles are difficult to construct so are considered more for advanced quilters, yet there is Snowball and Dresden Plate. England's Kew Gardens, Wisely Gardens and Hampton Court provide great views of shapes in garden hardscape.



Plant names are based on scientific nomenclature but many have common names. Monkshood is self-explanatory as the flower looks like monks wearing hoods. Quilt names were often chosen by names of common objects: Log Cabin, Rail Fence, Babies Blocks, and Frog in the Puddle. From nature there is a Pine Tree, Oak Leaf, and Tulip pattern. Religion gives us Crown of Thorns and Jacob's Ladder. Places are immortalized as New York Beauty, Lone Star, and North Carolina Lily. Finally politics gives us Whigs Rose, 54'40 or Fight, or Burgoyne Surrounded.

The two final frames offered the gardener in the group an explanation of Childe Hassams, the Florist. The quilters delighted in a 4 story patchwork canvas house created to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Liberty of London. The presentation was enhanced by the display of 5 handmade quilts created by the author.



Joan DiMonda
Library Chair

HAH Sunday Lecture Program - 2 pm
At the Bridgehampton Community House, Main Hall
2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY

January 11	Karen Bussolini - <i>The Unsung Season: Gardens in Winter</i> (On Zoom)
February 15	C.L. Fornari - <i>Houseplant Happiness</i> (On Zoom)
March 15	Helen O'Donnell - <i>Gardening In a Changing World</i>
April 12	Leslie Duthie - <i>Native Ferns and Wildflowers for Shade Gardens</i>
May 3	Teresa Woodard - <i>Garden to the Max: Joyful, Visionary, Maximalist Design</i>
June 14	Christian Douglas - <i>The Food Forward Garden: Explore the Art and Science of Edible Landscape Design</i>
September 13	Roy Diblik - <i>Growing Plants in Communities</i>
October 18	Dr. Eve Beaury - <i>Seeding Ecosystems of the Future</i>
November 15	Michael Gibson - <i>The Gibson Method: Reimagining Topiary As Living Art</i>
December 20	Roman Roth - <i>How to Grow and Achieve World Class Vineyards Right Here on the East End</i>

Full Moon 🌕 Jan 3 morning
 New Moon 🌑 Jan 18 afternoon

Last Quarter Moon 🌘 Jan 10 morning
 First Quarter Moon 🌒 Jan 25/26 midnight

100% Recycled
 January 2026
HAH Happenings



Frosty morning
heron's rest

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