



HAH Happenings

February 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

HAH 40th Anniversary Special Program
On Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 12 p.m.

Please Join Us at Bay Street Theater & Sag Harbor Center for the Arts
For a Panel Discussion
"In the Footsteps of Giants"

Julia Boulton, Rebecca Lemonius, and Claire Greenslade, with Annie Guilfoyle moderating, will examine the roles of Vita Sackville-West, Beth Chatto, and Gertrude Jekyll, their extraordinary gardens and the influence they still have today. The panel brings together the current custodians of iconic gardens, offering personal insights into the challenges and joys of stewarding these living works of art.

Julia Boulton is Beth Chatto's granddaughter and the Chair of Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens. Beth Chatto pioneered a new way of planting and introduced the concept of 'right plant, right place,' bringing ecology into garden design. Julia joined the business in 2012, worked alongside Beth until her death in 2018, and is dedicated to carrying forward Beth's legacy and ethos.

Rebecca Lemonius is the custodian of Long Barn, the precursor to Sissinghurst, where Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson cut their "horticultural teeth." Her first foray into gardening was a very over-populated balcony in London, followed by a garden of virgin clay in Kent. In 2007 she and her husband purchased Long Barn. The ancient house and historic garden became Rebecca's job, so she apprenticed herself to the head gardener and learned by doing, taking courses including the Art and Craft of Gardening at Great Dixter and several Garden Masterclass programs. She finally worked out how to embrace clay at Long Barn.

Claire Greenslade is the former Head Gardener at Hestercombe Gardens, Gertrude Jekyll's collaboration with Edwin Lutyens that remains a masterpiece of design and artistry. Claire has a degree in fashion and textiles. A chance interest in growing plants to dye fabrics led her back to college and into the horticultural world. Claire developed her skills through a 3-year apprenticeship with the National Trust based at Barrington Court in Somerset. From there she worked at Garden Organic near Coventry, before taking a gardening role at Hestercombe Gardens, where she worked for 17 years. Recently Claire has started a new horticultural adventure on a private estate to develop an old walled garden.

Annie Guilfoyle is Co-Director of Garden Masterclass along with Noel Kingsbury. She is a garden designer and international lecturer who teaches at Great Dixter, West Dean, and Chanticleer. Annie combines designing gardens all over the UK with teaching and writing for magazines such as *Gardens Illustrated* and *The Garden Collective*. Recently Annie wrote the introduction to *The Contemporary Garden*, Phaidon's best-selling garden book of 2025. *Gardens Illustrated* described Annie as "The best-connected woman in garden design, a garden polymath."





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



February may be a our coldest month, but things will be heating up for HAH. We'll kick off with a Roundtable on, "Self Seeders and Spreaders or Unwelcome Invasives," on the 7th, definitely a hot topic; then on the 8th a Zoom Lecture, "Houseplant Happiness," with C.L. Fornari.

February 14 brings special 40th Anniversary programming you won't want to miss. Free for HAH members, of course, a special speaker panel curated by Garden Masterclass, "In the Footsteps of Giants." You've likely already read the details, but if not, back up a page. See you in Sag Harbor!

You can stay home to Zoom into the Winter Book Group on the 21st—three books, one hour well spent. And watch your email for links to sign up for the February 28th pruning workshop with Jackson Dodds and Rick Bogusch at Bridge Gardens.

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: Erik Brockmeyer, Pamela Harwood, Michael Longacre

HAH February events:

- Saturday, Feb. 7, Roundtable, 10:00 am, at the HAH library, see p. 4.
- Sunday, Feb. 8, Lecture, 2:00 pm, on Zoom, see p. 3.
- Saturday, Feb. 14, Panel Discussion, 12:00 pm, Bay St. Theater, Sag Harbor, see p. 1.
- Saturday, Feb 21, Book Group, 11:00 am, on Zoom, see p. 3.
- Saturday, Feb. 28, Pruning Workshop, 1:00 pm, Bridge Gardens, see p. 6.

2026 MOON CALENDAR

The 2026 Gardening by the Moon Calendar, prepared by Elaine Peterson, is now available both on the HAH website, under the heading 'Plant Info' and in hard copy on the HAH librarian's desk. You may copy the calendar at the office, but please do not remove the library copy.



On Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Please join us on Zoom
for a talk by **C. L. Fornari** on
Houseplant Happiness

This talk is a celebration of indoor greenery. Attendees will discover how to make sure their houseplants thrive, and learn the most common reasons for failure. See behind-the-scenes information about how these plants are raised, and discover the hottest new varieties. Learn how to display houseplants to their best advantage, and hear about solving problems such as insect infestations and plants that have grown too large. Find plants that add color to your home all year, and those that are good for aromatherapy.



C.L. Fornari is the author of nine books, including her latest, *Hydrangea Happiness*, published by Brandeis University Press in spring of 2026. She's the host of The Garden Lady on WCAI and WGBH Boston, two NPR stations in the northeast. She is a frequent speaker to groups nationwide, including green industry meetings, and has worked for a family owned independent garden center for 30 years. C.L. grows vegetables, flowers, and numerous other plants at Poison Ivy Acres on Cape Cod.

Please watch your email for the Zoom link.

HAH Winter Book Group

Saturday, February 21st 11AM-Noon on Zoom

Look for the Zoom link in your email

ALL ARE WELCOME Feel free to share the link

My dear readers, slowly the days are getting longer. As we contemplate our gardens, dirt under our nails and warmth on our backs, join us for an hour of friendship and storytelling. One hour, 3 presenters all from the comfort of your home via Zoom.

- 1. Virginia Woolf's Garden: The Story of the Garden at Monk's House** by Caroline Zoob, presented by Mary Ward
- 2. Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden** by Camille T. Dungy, presented by Laurie Gibbs
- 3. Two Gardeners: A Friendship in Letters** by Katherine S. White & Elizabeth Lawrence, presented by Margaret Sieck





HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 10:00am – Noon

Welcome Spreaders and Self-Seeders or Unwelcome Invasives?

Moderated and with Photos by Pamela Harwood

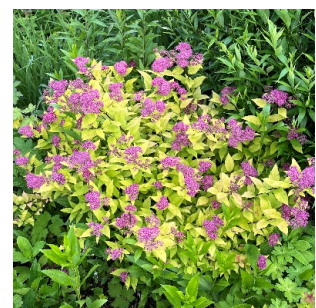
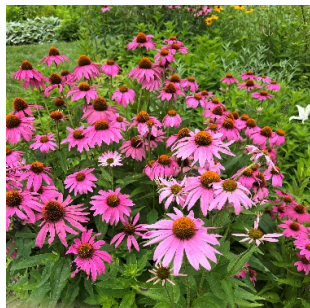
This is such a great topic for our discussion, because every gardener at one time or another, or perhaps frequently, has faced this quandary. Does the grower's label say the plant is "vigorous?" Sometimes we purchase a plant knowing it will spread because we want a groundcover, or we want to increase our stock of that plant. Other times we knowingly or unknowingly plant an annual or a perennial that prolifically self-seeds the next season. This can be a very welcome outcome because these plants often sprout in just the right locations where we have empty spaces. Nature can create a rhythm and pattern of beautiful colors. On the other hand, at what point is "more" too much? And that's the point: it can be a matter of personal taste and whether your garden space can accommodate the bounty. If not, it might take some work removing the unwanted excess. Sometimes it's very easy to lift up unwanted seedlings, in other cases plants can have deep tap roots that make it more difficult. What about plants native to the U.S.? Some say that by definition a native cannot be described as invasive. But is that true?

Here are some topics we'll discuss:

- Which annuals will return next season by self-seeding?
- Which perennials increase by self-seeding, underground spreading, multiplication of tubers/bulbs, and spores?
- Which plants are considered "invasive" and how do we define invasive?
- Which native plants self-seed prolifically?
- Which seedlings or plants are easy or difficult to remove?
- What is the best and/or easiest time to remove unwanted seedlings and plants and why?
- Which plants are welcome spreaders and which not-so-welcome?
- Which plants in the photograph above have self-seeded?

We'll begin the program with a slide show of examples of such plants that grow well on the East End, and a list of common self-seeders, spreaders, and invasives will be distributed to attendees. Perhaps you will have plants to add to the list!

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



Spotlight on the Library:

In 1964, Remy Charlip authored a delightfully clever children's book, **Fortunately**. Every page of the story reveals a "fortunately" or "unfortunately" event.

I feel that way sometimes about our LoGerfo Library. For instance... Fortunately, over 50 amazing gardening books have been donated to our library. Unfortunately, we often own a copy already.

Fortunately, our library has many book shelves. Unfortunately, there is not enough room on the shelves for duplicate copies.

Fortunately, we will be offering these fabulous duplicate books to members for free. Unfortunately this event will not begin until March.

Check next month's newsletter for details. You won't want to miss this opportunity!



More Library information for those of you who enjoy garden magazines:

As you enter the LoGerfo Library, on your right is a bank of windows under which our magazines are housed. As a member you have access to more than two dozen informative gardening magazines arranged in alphabetical order. Current issues can be found in the round carousel as you enter the library and may not be checked out. All other issues are available to sign out for a month. The titles are posted, for now, in front of the air conditioner. Feel free to stop by on Tuesday or Saturday between 10:00 and noon to peruse our collection. Comfy chairs and a couch await you should you want to browse in-house.

The four pictures depict the covers of our first 4 subscriptions. *The American Gardener* is the Magazine of the American Horticultural Society, (AHS). *Arnoldia* is the Magazine of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University. The *Camellia Journal* has articles and gorgeous pictures of camellias. *Fine Gardening* needs no introduction as it is a favorite of members as well as many garden professionals.

Joan DiMonda, Library Chair



Saturday, February 28, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Late Winter Pruning Workshop

Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton

Come to Bridge Gardens to meet **Jackson Dodds**, Certified ISA Arborist and past President of the L.I. Arboriculture Association, to learn best practices for care of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Jackson will team up with Garden Director **Rick Bogusch** to identify and explain proper techniques, timing of pruning, and general tree and shrub management.

Refreshments will be provided.

This workshop is in partnership with the Peconic Land Trust.

\$10/person. Space is limited, reservations required. Rain cancels.

For more information and to reserve, please visit

<https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has shared an update about the launch of their new [Garden for Birds](#) Project.

We've heard from many Lab Members eager to do more for birds. Now, we are happy to provide them with concrete ideas for how they can add native habitat and bird-friendly features in and around their homes to support their feathered-friends. A significant part of this work is devoted to supporting people on their journey to see their properties as a part of the solution to biodiversity declines. As people learn more about birds through the Lab, they become more passionate about how to ensure we have birds to enjoy and celebrate for years to come. Gardening is one of the most hopeful solutions!

Lab's Mission: To interpret and conserve the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. The annual February backyard bird count is mid month and is an important source of data on bird populations. Anyone can join in this project. To learn more about projects you can find out here:

<https://www.birdcount.org>

<https://www.gardenforbirds.org>

MORE FEBRUARY GARDEN EVENTS

Tuesday, February 10, 6 pm. Untermyer Garden Conservancy 2026 Winter Lecture: Reflections on Japanese Gardens. Presented by Drew Schuyler, Assistant Head Gardener, Untermyer Gardens Conservancy. Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 921 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10021. \$35. For \$25, a recording will be available for those who cannot attend in person. For more info and to register: <https://www.untermyergardens.org/2026winterlecture.html>

Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15, 10am to 4 pm. The Camellia Festival. Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. \$20. For more info and to register: <https://plantingfields.org/happenings/the-camellia-festival-2026/>

Monday, February 23, 8 am to 4 pm. Evolution of the American Landscape: Making the Coastal Connection. Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Highway, Great River, NY 11739. \$125/person. For more info and to register: <https://bayardcuttingarboretum.com/symposium/>

Tuesday, February 24, 11 am to 12 pm. Peter Crane: The Botanical World of Bunny Mellon. NYBG, Ross Lecture Hall, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458. \$37 for NYBG members, \$41 non-members. For more info and to register: <https://www.nybg.org/event/26th-winter-lecture-series/>

Thursday, February 26, 12:00 pm. Garden Conservancy Winter Webinar Series: The Emperor's Western Maze and the Making of a Global Garden. Part 2: The Maze: Jesuits, Emperors, and the Invention of the Western Style Gardens in China. \$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>

2026 Gardens of London and the Chelsea Flower Show

HAH friend Dr. Mark Bridgen of Cornell has written to let HAH members know of a terrific trip to London planned for this spring.

"For the 3rd year, we have organized a group tour to the "2026 Gardens of London and Chelsea Flower Show" and specifically designed for gardeners and their friends/family who love gardening, growing plants, and beautiful gardens. The tour will be held from May 17-23, 2026. This year, a very special treat is in store; we have "Members Only" tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show. This means that we can visit the show on Tuesday before it is open to the public. Crowds will be much less on a "Members Only" day."

Other gardens to be visited on the tour are Kew Gardens, Hampton Court Palace and Garden and the RHS Wisley Garden.

The registration form and more information can be found at <https://agrotours.com/tour/gardens-of-london-and-the-chelsea-flower-show-may-17-23-2026/>.

Reservations must be made by February 15.

HAH Sunday Lecture Program - 2 pm

At the Bridgehampton Community House, Main Hall

2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY

February 8	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 🌕 Feb 1 afternoon

Last Quarter Moon 🌑 Feb 9 morning

New Moon 🌑 Feb 17 morning (eclipse) 7:11 EST

First Quarter Moon 🌒 Feb 24 morning



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