



HAH Happenings

March 2026



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, March 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Please join us in the Main Hall of the
Bridgehampton Community House
for a talk by **Helen O'Donnell** on
Gardening In a Changing World



In this presentation Helen will discuss her relationship to gardening in terms of horticultural and agricultural practices. Helen will touch on ideas of gardening as both an artistic practice as well as an ecological one, and how we wrestle with making the “right” choices in our gardens. She will discuss some of her own growing and gardening practices and give some examples of other ideas that inspire her.

Helen O'Donnell is a professional gardener, designer, and grower. She owns and manages the Bunker Farm in Dummerston, Vermont, along with her husband, sister, and brother-in-law. She manages Bunker Farm Plants, a specialty plant nursery, as part of the farm operation, offering unusual annuals and perennials, natives and non-natives, primarily grown from seed. In her gardening business, Helen designs, installs, and maintains gardens for private clients, works as a consultant, writes, and lectures. Helen believes that design, maintenance, and growing are symbiotic practices and that a garden is an ever changing interspecies collaboration! She loves plants — especially the unkempt wild ones — and is a painter and printmaker and spends time each winter making art.

March Events at HAH

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am, Roundtable, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 3.

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 am, Workshop, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 5.

Sunday, March 15, 2:00, Lecture, in the Community House, see above.

Saturday, March 21, 11:00 am, Winter Book Group, on Zoom, see p. 5.

HAH Annual Garden Fair Preview Party - Friday evening, May 15, 5-7pm

HAH Annual Garden Fair - Saturday, May 16, 9am -1pm

It's not too early to sign up to volunteer at the Garden Fair! Watch your email for more info or email our chair Greg Wiseman directly at hahmember@gmail.com to volunteer.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, THAT was a colorful month. Definitely a backintheweek February's worth of snow, more snow, some extra snow, and more cold than you could shake a stick at if you were so inclined. I learned a phrase new to me, "ice dam," which I could have had a long and happy life never knowing.

Thankfully, the weather calmed down for a sunny reception for our 40th Anniversary Lecture, "In the Footsteps of Giants," which was a truly special event. Thanks to all of y'all for the big turnout.

March is never a dull weather month, but let's hope it's a lot less icy. The Roundtable will be a do-over on the topic of "Welcome Spreaders and Self-Seeders or Unwelcome Invasives?" that was sort of snowed-out last month. As one of five who DID brave the elements and had a great time, you don't want to miss it, it's a very lively topic.

The drums have started for the 2026 HAH Garden Fair, May 15-16. You won't want to miss the choice selection of special plants and auction items at the May 15 Preview Party. Tickets are available online at www.hahgarden.org/PreviewParty.

As per our January lecture on houseplants by C.L. Fornari, I'm very grateful for my indoor troupers like this 10 year-old phalaenopsis that coordinates so well with a 3-foot drift of snow outside.

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, Erika Shank

HAH - Friends of The Garden - FOG

FOG are volunteers who take care of the garden in front of the HAH Library/Meeting Room on School Street, in Bridgehampton, off the parking lot behind the Bridgehampton Community House.

FOG will start its 2026 program on Thursday, April 9 and will meet every 4th week thereafter. Please note that the dates for this year are all on Thursdays:

April 9, May 7, June 4, July 2, July 30, Aug 27, Sep 24, Oct 22 and Nov 12.

Rain date: the following Thursday

The time: 10am to 11:30am

Anyone interested is invited to attend and help, for one or as many meetings as you would like. Looking forward to gardening with you!

Cornelia Bostwick and Elizabeth Berg



HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

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

Due to the snow storm that prevented many from attending in February, we are offering this program again on March 7.

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.



HAH Winter Book Group

Saturday, March 21, 2026

11AM-Noon On Zoom

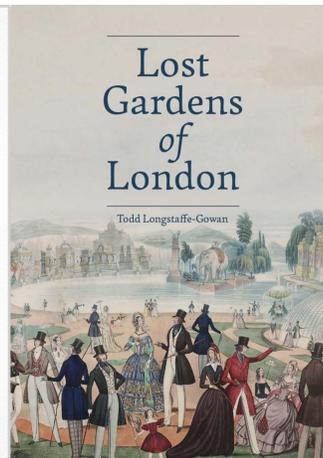
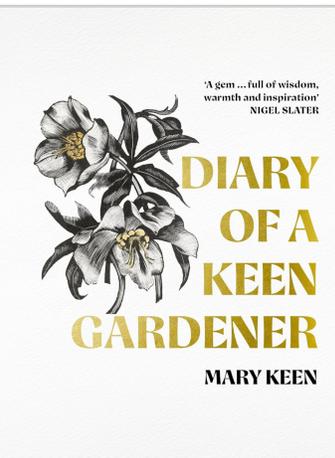
Please look for the Zoom link in your email.

Dear Readers, March will be our final Winter Book Group for this season. As always, I would like to thank all of our presenters and everyone who joined us during this very cold and snowy winter. I enjoyed all of your books and all of your company.

Our March Book Group will take us on an adventure from America to France then on to London. I am looking forward to making the journey with all of you!

Janet Donohoe Ollinger

1. **Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes: Her Gardens and Campuses** by Diana Balmori; Diane Kostial McGuire; Eleanor M. McPeck, presented by Christie Peck
2. **Diary of a Keen Gardener** by Mary Keen, presented by Alicia Whitaker
3. **Lost Gardens of London**, by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, presented by Alejandro Saralegui



REMINDER:

The Pajaki Willow Workshop takes place on March 14 from 10 am - noon.

Registration for this workshop is required ahead of the program and the workshop is limited to 12 attendees. As of our printing deadline there were a couple of spaces available for this fun creative endeavor.

Katrina Vanderlip will lead the workshop at the John LoGerfo Library.

Fee \$15.00, all materials will be provided.

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.

Also, attendees may bring any decorative items to personalize their creation.

Registration is required at hahgarden.org/tickets

SPRING IS COMING.....

...and with it the 2026 HAH Garden Fair. The Digs will be getting into full swing in the coming months in preparation for this exciting annual event. As you are contemplating your garden for the season ahead, please consider potting up any extra plants and donating them to the Garden Fair. Your plant donations are 100% profit for the HAH and truly appreciated. Think of the space you'll create for new plants! Donations we would love to see:

Achillea millefolium (yarrow)
Aconitum (monkshood)
Agastache (anise)
Alchemilla mollis (lady's mantle)
Allium (ornamental onion)
Amsonia (blue star)
Arisaema triphyllum (Jack-in-the-pulpit)
Aruncus dioicus (goat's beard)
Astilbe (false goat's beard)
Asarum (ginger)
Baptisia australis (false indigo)
Convallaria majalis var. rosea (pink lily-of-the-valley)
Dendranthema (chrysanthemum)
Dahlias
Digitalis (foxglove)
Epimedium (fairy wings, barrenwort)

Ferns (all but invasives)
Galium odoratum (sweet woodruff)
Geranium (cranesbill)
Helleborus (Lenten rose)
Hemerocallis (daylilies—interesting ones)
Iris cristata (crested iris) & Iris siberica
Iris, tall bearded, interesting varieties
Lamprocapnos spectabilis (bleeding hearts)
Nepeta (catmint)
Phlox paniculata (garden phlox)
Podophyllum peltatum (mayapple)
Polemonium reptans (Jacob's ladder)
Salvia (sage)
Sanguinaria canadensis (bloodroot)
Stachys monieri 'Hummelo'
Vernonia (ironweed)
Zizia aurea (golden Alexander)

Thank you. *Lydia Wallis*, hahmember@gmail.com

OTHER LOCAL GARDEN PROGRAMS IN MARCH

- **Saturday, March 14, 2 pm to 4 pm. Long Island Grown Lecture Series: Making the Case for Native Plants.** Peconic Land Trust, 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968. \$20/person, \$10/person for Bridge Gardens members. For more info and to register: <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/event/long-island-grown-lecture-series-making-the-case-for-native-plants>
- **Thursday, March 19—Saturday, March 21. Resilient Long Island: A Symposium on Invasive and Native Species for Long Island's Future.** Multiple events including presentations and interactive workshops over three days. From \$75. For more info and to register: <https://liisma.org/resilient-2026/#tickets>
- **Saturday, March 21, 10 am to 12 pm. Starting Seeds at the Farm.** 660 Old Stone Highway, Amagansett, NY 11930. FREE. For more info and to register: <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/event/starting-seeds-at-the-farm-2026>
- **Saturday, March 28, 8:30 am to 2 pm. Cornell Cooperative Extension Spring Gardening School 2026.** Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901. For more info and to register: <https://ccesuffolk.org/events/2026/03/28/spring-gardening-school>
- **Madoo Winter Lecture Series: New Wonders: Plant Discoveries for 2026.** Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack, NY 11962. \$35/person. For more info and to register: madoo.org
 - **Sunday, March 22, 12 pm. David L. Culp** of Brandywine Cottage.
 - **Sunday, March 29, 12 pm. Carl S. Hesselein** of Pleasant Run Nursery in Allentown, NJ

Spotlight on the Library...

A glance out the window on this frigid day, informs the senses that it is blustery and snowy outside. According to the television newscaster it is a great day to clean the house, but if you are a gardener you know it is a perfect day to cozy up with a gardening magazine or a recently arrived plant catalogue.

In an attempt to acquaint our members with the wealth of information in our LoGerfo Library, I present three amazing magazines in our collection...***Gardens Illustrated U.K.***, ***(RHS) The Garden***, and ***Grow, the Magazine of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society***.

The motto of ***Gardens Illustrated*** is "Planting Ideas, Beautiful Gardens and Expert Advice" and they never fail to live up to their ideals. No wonder Rick Bogusch (Bridge Gardens) and Dennis Schrader (Landcraft Environments) consider this magazine their favorite.

Membership in ***the Royal Horticultural Society*** comes with a website brimming with information, members exclusive e-newsletter, and an exclusive members competition. This may be far too much exclusivity for some so maybe just browsing the 13 monthly, beautifully photographed and informative issues of ***The Garden*** will suffice.

GROW has a unique format centering around KNOW, DISCOVER, LEARN, PLANT, and SHARE. Additionally, two in-depth features round out each issue. I like the contemporary topics they discuss like the need for community gardens to survive real estate pressure and an explanation of the updated USDA Plant Hardiness Zones as they impact gardeners.

If I have piqued your interest, please stop by the library on Tuesday or Saturday between 10:00 am and noon to peruse these magazines. As a member, magazines can be checked out for a month, except for the latest issue which is on the round carousel as you enter the library.

Joan DiMonda, Library Chair

MARCH is a good time to.....

- Divide/repot houseplants
- Begin full fertilization schedule for houseplants
- Start seeds for cole crops, early lettuce, early peas
- Prune fruit trees, berry bushes and grapes
- Move small trees and shrubs while they are dormant, especially dogwood
- Plant a small salad garden in a window box
- Prune brambles, hydrangeas

Duplicate Gardening Books Give Away!!!

During the time frame, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., duplicate gardening books will be available free at the LoGerfo Library for HAH members to take home on

**Tuesday, March 3rd
Thursday, March 5th
Friday, March 6th
Saturday, March 7th**

**Many books look brand new, they cover all different gardening topics and are written by names you will recognize.
You will not be disappointed!**

HAH LoGerfo Library Magazines 2026

The American Gardener (Magazine of the American Horticultural Society-AHS)
Arnoldia (Journal of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University)
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Camellia Journal and Camellia Yearbook
Conifer Quarterly
English Garden
Fine Gardening
The Garden UK
Garden Design
Garden History
Gardens Illustrated
Green Prints
Green Scene (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society)
Grow (Magazine of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society)
Herb Companion
Horticulture
Hortus
Hybrid Newsletter (Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College)
Journal of the American Rhododendron Society
The National Horticultural Magazine
Organic Gardening
North American Rock Garden Society Quarterly
Silva (Harvard University Newsletter)



Thanks to the Bridgehampton Association for its support of the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons!

**Tour Brandywine Valley Gardens
April 1-2, 2026**
with Cornell's Mark Bridgen. Visit Chanticleer Gardens, Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens, Mt. Cuba Center, and the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. The cost of this 2-day, package trip is \$290 (plus the cost of the hotel room.) Participants need to register before March 17, 2026. Email Mark at mpb27@cornell.edu to reserve a space and for more info on hotel go to www.mendenhallinn.com

HAH's 40th anniversary celebration got off to a fantastic start with an amazing presentation from some of England's best gardeners talking about three of England's greatest women gardeners of all time and their influence on and lessons for all of us. Brava!!



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

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

Full Moon  March 3 morning
 New Moon  March 18 evening
 Eclipse - March 3, 6:33 am EST

Last Quarter Moon  March 11 morning
 First Quarter Moon  March 25 afternoon
 Equinox - March 20, 10:46 am EDT

Snowdrops.....Digging



 100% Recycled
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