



HAH Happenings

April 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, April 12, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Please join us in the Main Hall of the
Bridgehampton Community House
for a talk by **Leslie Duthie** on

Native Ferns and Wildflowers for Shade Gardens

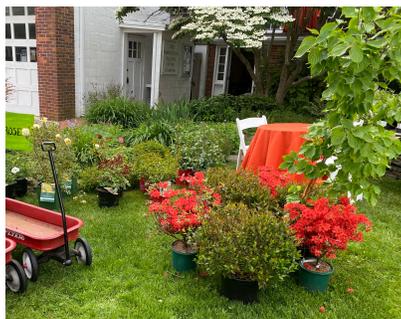
Shade can be a problem when you garden. It seems like so many plants are sun lovers, what is a gardener to do? Many of our northeastern native plants, ferns, and flowers will grow well in shade and are surprisingly resilient. The program will focus on plants that make great combinations to brighten up the darker parts of any garden.

Leslie Duthie has worked in native plant horticulture for over 40 years. From her humble beginnings as a gardener at 'Garden in the Woods' in Framingham, MA to over 30 years at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, Massachusetts where she gardened over 75 acres, she has an extensive knowledge of native plants and plant culture for many growing conditions. A confessed seed-aholic, Leslie is an experienced plant propagator, growing many plants from seed and spore. Now retired, Leslie cares for over 268 young heritage apple trees at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill as a volunteer. Leslie is also on the board of the Ecological Landscape Alliance and president of the Opacum Land Trust in south-central Massachusetts.



April Events at HAH

- Saturday, April 4, 10:00 am, Roundtable, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 3.**
- Thursday, April 9, 10:00 am, Friends of the Garden meet, see p.2.**
- Sunday, April 12, 2:00 pm, Lecture, in the Community House, see above.**
- Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am, Camellia Group, HAH LoGerfo Library, see p. 5.**



HAH Annual Garden Fair Preview Party

Friday evening, May 15, 5-7pm

www.hahgarden.org/PreviewParty

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

It's not too early to volunteer for the Garden Fair! Watch your email for a link to sign up or email our chair Greg Wiseman at hahmember@gmail.com to tell us how you can help.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm typing this mid-March after most of my seven-foot-tall driveway snow mounds have melted (some revealing they were half driveway gravel!). Looking forward to advice from Jackson Dodds at the upcoming April 4 Roundtable: "Garden CPR! How to Repair Winter Damage." I'm just now able to start CPR for the hopefully savable damage and cutting up the hopelessly damaged to add to my woods brush piles to, hopefully, lure some turkeys to nest. The garden is trying to offer hope by pent-up bulbs and corms bursting out and I'll take it.



Our monthly lecture, on the 12th, by Leslie Duthie, is titled "Native Ferns and Wildflowers for Shade Gardens," which is a reminder that leaves will be coming back starting in April and we'll be back to our usual complaining that we have no shade or too much.

Also coming back in April is the HAH Friends of the Garden group meeting at our office/library space in the Bridgehampton Community House to tend our lovely Marie Donnelly Garden out front. It's an all-volunteer effort (like everything HAH) and they're welcoming new volunteers—if you're a new gardener, it's a great opportunity to learn on the job with experienced pros, but seasoned gardeners are also very welcome. Check out the FOG item below for details.

Speaking of the Bridgehampton Community House—it's also, of course, the location for the 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.

March was the last meeting of the 2025-26 Winter Book Group but if you missed any they are all on video at www.hahgarden.org/videos.

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: Marie DiMonte, Pamela Harwood, Kathy Kennedy, Michael Longacre, Elaine Peterson

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, April 4, 2026 at 10:00am – Noon

Garden CPR!

How to Repair Winter Damage
Special Guest, Jackson Dodds

Moderated by Pamela Harwood

In his prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, written during the Middle Ages, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote, “*When April the sweet showers fall / And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all / The veins are bathed in liquor of such power / As brings about the engendering of the flower ...*” In the early 20th century, T.S. Eliot, in a less cheerful twist on Chaucer, wrote in his poem *The Waste Land*, “*April is the cruelest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain.*”

Now, in 2026, we East End gardeners, perhaps in a less poetic but more practical fashion, are welcoming April with open arms. I know that I am, following the very cold fall and frigid, snowy winter from which we are emerging. After we took our first walks through our gardens beginning in mid-March after most of the snow had melted, we could see for the first time the full extent of the damage that heavy, wet snow and strong, drying winds can bring mostly to our trees and shrubs, especially evergreens and weaker plants.

All is not lost: HAH to the rescue. That’s why it brings me special pleasure to announce that esteemed local certified arborist and landscaper Jackson Dodds will attend this Roundtable and offer advice. Jackson and his company specialize in tree care, maintenance, landscaping, and plant care solutions. He has conducted several pruning workshops for HAH and was our honoree at our 2025 Plant Fair. Jackson has taken amazing photographs of the damage he has seen this season on the properties he maintains, and will share with us some of the methods he uses to ameliorate and correct the damage.

Here are some topics we’ll discuss:

- Proper pruning of broken branches and support of branches weighed down by heavy snow
- Proper pruning to prevent damage
- Dealing with winter burn, desiccation, freeze/thaw cracks, and salt damage on evergreen leaves
- Damage to woody shrubs and trees from wildlife
- Easiest ways to cut back collapsed and flattened perennials and shrubs
- Removing invasive winter weeds like chickweed, bittercress, deadnettle, etc.
- Checking for possible root rot from the melting of significant snow accumulation
- When to “wait and see” before taking action
- General spring garden clean up tips

We’ll begin the program with a slide show of examples of winter damage to the garden, including Jackson’s photos, followed by advice from Jackson and general discussion. Perhaps you will have garden CPR tips 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.



DIGS 2026

The Garden Fair is almost here, and we need your help with the Digs. We are so grateful for your participation.

Please consider hosting a Dig in your garden. Our team comes and digs, divides, pots and labels plants you no longer have room for or want. We take them with us and care for them until the Garden Fair - leaving lots of room in your garden for all the new treasures you will be purchasing at the Fair. All donated plant material is 100% profit for HAH.

We also would love to have you join us doing the digging. Digs are held on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays in April, beginning at 10:00 am. Occasionally we hold a Dig on a weekday depending upon our host garden. You will need to bring a shovel, trowel, clippers and gloves. It's a lot of fun and a good way to learn about different plants and meet members of HAH.

Please let me know if you can help. You can send an email to hahmember@gmail.com to reach me. Thank you. Laurie Gibbs

DIGS DONATIONS ARE 100% PROFIT FOR HAH

We eagerly welcome divisions you have dug from your own garden. Please remember, plants need to be potted by May 1st to give them time to acclimate prior to our sale. Here are a few tips:

- 1 - Use an appropriately sized pot. Cover holes with a piece of newspaper.
- 2 - Add some soil.
- 3 - Place the plant in the pot and fill with soil, leaving a space of about ½" from the rim.
- 4 - Shake pot to settle soil and water well. Add additional soil.
- 5 - Place plants in indirect light and water as needed.
- 6 - **Thursday, May 14th, groom plants;** remove dead leaves, stems and weeds.
- 7 - **Question. Would you buy this plant from a nursery the way it looks?**
- 8- **Deliver** your beautiful, well groomed donations to the sale on **Friday, May 15th by noon.** (We need the afternoon for pricing.)

Please send your list of plant donations (color, height, sun/shade) asap to us at hahmember@gmail.com so that we can make labels for them in advance.

We will not be able to make labels for you on set up day or sale day. Thank you.

Lydia Wallis

A list of desired plants for the digs was printed in last month's newsletter so please refer to it, if you would like some suggestions. The newsletter is readily available in pdf on our website at www.hahgarden.org/newsletter. And we are always eager to have new and unusual selections for our members to explore.

CAMELLIA GROUP

The Spring Meeting of the Camellia Group is set for April 18 at 10 am at the HAH LoGerfo Library. Anyone with an interest in growing Camellia plants is welcome to attend. Come to learn or to share information that you have on the cultivation of Camellias.

If you have any plants in bloom, please bring a flower or two for others to see.

George Adams



Accolades to Jackson Dodds and Rick Bogusch for a wonderful Late Winter Pruning Workshop held at Bridge Gardens on February 28, 2026. Jackson and Rick demonstrated the best practices for pruning deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. We are so appreciative that they have taken the time to do this with their especially busy schedules at this time of the year.

A special thank you also to Kathy Kennedy at the Peconic Land Trust who invited HAH to partner with them in this very worthwhile endeavor.



And a wonderful thank you to Katrina Vanderlip, Master Crafter, for a terrific Pajaki Workshop on March 14, 2026. Katrina led us through the intricate steps necessary to create our Polish Folk-art masterpieces. She even managed to squeeze in an Origami lesson. Lots of fun and camaraderie were had by all.



Spotlight on HAH's LoGerfo Library...

As I continue to acquaint our members with the fabulous collections of magazines we possess, I impress myself with the depth and breadth of our collection! Today I offer: *The Herb Companion*, *Horticulture*, *HORTUS*, and *Hybrid*.

The magazine, *The Herb Companion*, Grow-Cook-Heal, has everything you would expect from such a title. There are recipes for making your own organic pesticide, for coping with stress through herbs, for cleaning with lavender and for herbal cookies and lemonade. There is also an article on introducing 21 native plants to your garden.

Horticulture, The Art and Science of Smart Gardening, is an outstanding magazine published four times a year. I have come to look forward to each issue with its 4 or 5 in-depth articles and an assortment of columns. Some titles are conifers, native sedge, labyrinths and Hügelkultur (hoo-gul-culture). Another issue addresses naturalistic bulb design, blue fruiting shrubs for birds, beyond mums and how to build an herb spiral. You are sure to find an article that appeals to you.

Hybrid is a 7 page newsletter from the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. Articles relate to personnel, campus horticultural activity and 2 plant portraits. It is informative and easy to read.

HORTUS, subtitled *A Gardening Journal*, is published 4 times a year. The table of contents reveals about 16 articles, each written by a different person. A favorite of many of our members - see Elaine's comments below.

The library is open on Tuesday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Members are always welcome to browse our collection.

Joan DiMonda, Library Chair



HORTUS came into my gardening life at the same time as HAH did, in 1987, soon after both were born and both have been constant companions for nearly 40 years. Although it is published in Britain and has articles written mostly by British gardeners, *HORTUS* has much of interest for all gardeners and people who love plants. The 4 journals per year are issued according to the current season and are a comfortable size to sit in your hands and not take up much space on your night table - each article just the right length to end your day with before heading off to sweet dreams. It is pure pleasure to hold and behold, quite unlike the digital reading we do most of the time now.

David Wheeler, editor and publisher of *HORTUS*, is a fine gardener himself and seeks out the finest garden writers in the English language to include in his journal's articles. I am guaranteed to learn something I didn't already know from every single piece of writing. Whether I am reading about far away gardens somewhere in the world I likely will never visit, or a familiar public garden nearby, I am enchanted by the description and learn much through the writer's astute observations. Often a writer will write several articles on a theme that appears in several issues, each one taking you deeper into a personal approach of witnessing nature. In recent issues, Peter Dale writes exquisitely on color and light and shadows in the garden raising our experiences there to an other level of delight. Adam Ford writes on the birds who frequent our gardens and what they bring to our attention. We are so fortunate to have this publication in our lifetime. It will go down in garden history as the highpoint of garden writing and the one many generations of readers will turn to for learning about the gardening world.

Ed.

OTHER EVENTS IN APRIL

- **Events at East Hampton Library**, 159 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937.
Thursday, April 2, 6-7 pm. Rain Gardens. FREE. For more info and to register: <https://easthampton.librarycalendar.com/event/rain-gardens-presented-cornell-cooperative-extension-suffolk-475>
Tuesday, April 14, 6-7 pm. Pollinator Pathways. FREE. For more info and to register: <https://easthampton.librarycalendar.com/event/pollinator-pathways-master-gardener-patty-collins-479>
- **Garden Conservancy Virtual Talks.** \$5 GC members, \$15 non-members.
Tuesday, April 7, 2-3 pm. The Young Man and the Tree: Fernando Wong Landscape Design. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-the-young-man-and-the-tree-fernando-wong-landscape-design>
Tuesday, April 21, 2-3 pm. Chasing Lewis's Monkeyflower: The Amazing Afterlife of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's Wild Plants. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-chasing-lewis-s-monkeyflower>
- **Marders Cookies, Coffee & Conversation Series.** All programs start at 2 pm. FREE. 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. More info: <https://www.marders.com/events>
Sunday, April 12: Cannabis Culture, let's get growing.
Sunday, April 19: Cottage & Cutting Garden Plants (Dahlias etc.) & How to Grow Them
Sunday, April 26: Planning a Potager: How to Combine Herbs, Vegetables, & Flowers in One Beautiful Garden
- **Saturday, April 11, 9:30-11:30 am. Getting the Vegetable Garden Started.** 6062 Sound Avenue, Riverhead. \$10/person. Space is limited, reservations required, rain or shine. For more info and to register: <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/event/getting-the-vegetable-garden-started-2026>
- **Saturday, April 11, 10 am to 12 pm. Southampton Rose Society Rose Planting and Pruning Workshop with Peter Bertrand.** Rogers Memorial Library, 91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton, NY 11968. For more info: <https://southamptonrose.org>
- **Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26. Hamptons Doc Fest presents Docs Equinox**, a weekend program of films, speakers, and receptions at the Southampton Arts Center. This year the theme is *Wildlife 360°*. For more info and to purchase tickets: <https://www.hamptonsdocfest.com>
- **Saturday, April 25, 9:30-11 am. Organic Rose Care.** Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. \$10/person, free to Bridge Gardens Members. Space is limited, reservations required, heavy rain cancels. For more info and to register: <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/event/organic-rose-care>
- **Saturday, April 25, 10:30 am. Meadow Restoration and Maintenance.** Landcraft Garden Foundation, 4342 Grand Avenue, Mattituck, NY 11952. Free but preregistration required. For more info and to register: <https://www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org/upcoming-lectures/>
- **Saturday, April 25, 10 am to 1 pm. Arbor Day Celebration.** Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Highway, Great River, NY 11739. FREE. For more info: <https://bayardcuttingarboretum.com/event/arbor-day-celebration/>
- **Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 10 am to 4 pm. Branches in Bloom: A Spring Festival Celebrating Arbor Day.** Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. \$30 per car. For more info and to register: <https://plantingfields.org/happenings/branches-in-bloom-2026/>
- **Sunday, April 26, 2-3 pm. Gardens to Attract Birds and Butterflies.** John Jermain Memorial Library, 201 Main Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963. Free but preregistration required. For more info and to register: <https://johnjermain.libcal.com/event/16502194>

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

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*

No lectures in July and August

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 🟡 April 1 evening Last Quarter Moon 🌑 April 10 morning
 New Moon 🟡 April 17 morning First Quarter Moon 🌒 April 23 evening



100% Recycled 
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