



HAH Happenings

May 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, May 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm

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

Garden to the Max: Joyful, Visionary, Maximalist Design



For those of you compelled to make room for “just one more plant,” this talk is for you. In Teresa’s newest book **Garden to the Max** (Timber Press 2025), she dives into the maximalist style as it boldly unfolds in the garden.

She will showcase 20 maximalist gardens with gorgeous images by photographer Bob Stefko. She'll share how these talented garden creatives curate plant collections, defy rules, build drama with multiples of plants, or max out all-sized spaces to support nature. Her wish is for gardeners to find great joy in designing highly personalized jam-packed patios, exuberant tropical paradises, wildly diverse habitats for birds and butterflies, and stylized plant collections. Besides, the Earth and all its wildlife will thank you.

Teresa Woodard brings a background in magazine writing and gardening experience. She is author of **Garden to the Max: Joyful, Visionary, Maximalist Design** (Timber Press 2025) and co-author of **American Roots: Lessons and Inspiration from Designers Reimagining Our Home Gardens** (Timber Press 2022). She also has two more books in production. During her 16-year writing career, she has written and produced garden content for regional and national publications including *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Country Gardens* and currently serves as contributing garden editor at *Midwest Living* magazine and content creator for digital garden media. She has won Gold and Silver Media Awards from GardenComm. Outside of work, she gardens at her home near Columbus, Ohio, volunteers at an urban youth garden, and advises America in Bloom communities across the country.

May Events at HAH

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm, Lecture, in the Community House, see above.

Thursday, May 7, 10:00 am, Friends of the Garden meet, see p.2.

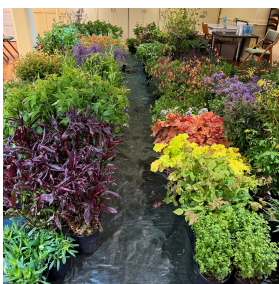
HAH Annual Garden Fair Preview Party - see inside for details!

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



Our May 3rd lecturer, Teresa Woodard, promises to inspire us to “Garden to the Max” through “Joyful, Visionary, Maximalist Design,” just in time for us all to romp through the May 15-16 HAH Garden Fair. The “max” definitely includes attending the Preview Party on May 15 to be the first to scoop up the wonderful selections our HAH team comes up with every year. Tickets are available at www.hahgarden.org/previewparty.

Another reason to be extra excited about attending the Preview Party is that at long last our tireless dynamic duo sisters, Marie DiMonte and Bettina Benson, gave in to our pleas to be our annual honorees. Each of them has brought so many special gifts to HAH, and the East End gardening community, with such good humored camaraderie, it's impossible to think of the organization without their smiling faces!

Speaking of gardening to the max, I'm writing this while in Spain and have again encountered a seriously amazing example of maximal gardening in Madrid next to the CaixaForum. I first saw this in 2012 a few years after it was first installed, again in 2018, and it's striking how a vertical garden can morph and change. Bonus this visit was seeing the way it's groomed.



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: Michael Longacre, Janet Ollinger, 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.

Please note the dates for this year are all on Thursdays: 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!

Elizabeth Berg



Please join us for our
Spring Garden Fair Preview Party

Friday, May 15, 2026

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Single admission \$50 in advance

hahgarden.org/gardenfair/

\$60 at the door



HAH Auction – Special Message to our Members

As you all know, one of the highlights of our Garden Fair Preview Party is our Silent Auction – this year marks our twelfth year for this incredibly successful event! Our local nurseries as well as our many generous members continue to surprise us with many unusual and extraordinary items. I would again like to tap the creative energy of many of our own members. If you would like to donate a planted container or a garden related item, I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me by emailing hahmember@gmail.com. With special thanks, Bettina Benson



Call for volunteers

Our Garden Fair is approaching quickly now and volunteers are critical to the success of our sole fundraiser! Check your email for the volunteer solicitation and signup. Or you can email Greg Wiseman at hahmember@gmail.com

PLANTS FOR SALE AT THE FAIR

As always we will have many perennials and annuals at the Fair and the lists of those are here on pages 5 and 6. We will also have a selection of shrubs, small trees and roses from local suppliers and lots of plants that are grown locally and are native to our area. We also strive to offer some exciting, often rare or hard to find, plants which are included with the Connoisseur's collection. Many are tropicals, succulents and unusual varieties grown by talented and generous members. Others are rock garden or woodland treasures sourced from specialty growers.

AND we always have lots of great plants dug from members' gardens at very reasonable prices. These are tried and true plants well adapted for our location!

THE FAIR CONTINUES ON SATURDAY, MAY 16

WITH FREE ENTRY FOR ALL

9 AM - 1 PM

**We are thrilled to be honoring
Marie DiMonte and Bettina Benson
at the
40th Anniversary
Horticultural Alliance Garden Fair**

Every organization has a culture, and the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons is no different. From our founding 40 years ago, we have been gardeners—a welcoming, curious, and engaged community. In 1994 that culture was deepened when sisters Marie DiMonte and Bettina Benson joined HAH, and infused it with even more heart and soul.

Marie was a transplant from Astoria, Queens to Hampton Bays - what she calls “God's Country”- 45 years ago and still has a smile on her face. She worked for 34 years at the Department of Justice, retiring in 1992 when she began a new career of volunteer work. Marie has served in many HAH board roles and currently is Corresponding Secretary, Chair of Workshops, Grant Chair, and Chair of Annuals for the HAH Garden Fair. She cherishes the friendships formed through HAH and still calls herself a “gardening novice.”



Marie’s gracious and kind manner reflects her deep belief in the importance of our organization. Though she calls herself a novice, her extensive horticultural knowledge and genuine appreciation for plants are evident, and she gladly shares and discusses what she knows with others. Beyond her board roles, Marie has contributed in countless, quiet ways: greeting everyone as they arrive at our lectures, showing up and supporting all of our programming, and offering wise and caring advice when called upon. She is a bright star in our community.

Bettina and her husband, John, discovered the Hamptons in 1969, initially renting before buying their first Hampton Bays home in 1978. Raised in apartment buildings, Bettina embraced gardening immediately and weekend trips to local nurseries fueled her love for unusual and rare plants. She has been described as a plant collector and a onesie—no need for three of anything! Bettina spent most of her career at Pfizer’s New York City headquarters and after 35 years retired in 2001. In 2004 she and John left Manhattan permanently and bought their current home in Hampton Bays, where she continues to pursue her passion for discovering the new and unusual for her garden. Bettina has held nearly every leadership position at HAH, including President, First Vice President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Program Chair.



With her business acumen and cultural insight, Bettina has guided HAH well. She embraced technology and encouraged our leadership to do the same, building infrastructure that has grown with the organization. Bettina has connected HAH with leaders in horticulture, nurseries, and cultural institutions that are important and meaningful to our members. She has solidified our standing as a key horticultural institution on the East End of Long Island. And by organizing countless local bus tours for our members, she acquainted many of us with public and private gardens we might not have seen otherwise.

Together, Marie and Bettina have mentored the next generation of leaders within our community. They extend their hands and offer help whenever and wherever they can. We are a better and stronger organization because of them!

All of this was made possible by the loving support of Ben DiMonte and John Benson.

Perennials and Vines at the Fair

From Glover Perennials

- Agastache 'Black Adder' 4 QT
Agastache 'Blue Fortune' 4QT
Allium maximowiczii 'Album' 1QT
Amsonia hubrichtii 3 QT
Amsonia tabernaemontana 'Short Stack' 3 QT
Angelica 'Ebony' 3 QT
Angelica gigas 4 QT
Aquilegia 'Black Barlow' 1QT
Aquilegia canadensis 3QT
Aruncus dioicus 3 QT
Asclepias incarnata ssp. pulchra..1 QT
Asclepias verticillata 3QT
Astrantia 'Purple Happiness' 3 QT
Astilbe 'Snowdrift' 3 QT
Baptisia australis..3 QT
Baptisia 'Pixie Periwinkle' 3 QT
Baptisia tinctoria 3 QT
Baptisia 'Twilite' 3 QT
Calamintha 'Marvelette Blue' 3 QT
Calamintha 'Montrose White' 3 QT
Clematis 'Betty Corning' 4 QT
Clematis 'Diana's Delight' 4 QT
Clematis 'Diamantina' 4 QT
Clematis 'Etoile Violette' 4 QT
Clematis 'Roguchi' 4 QT
Clematis 'Sapphire Indigo' 4 QT
Clematis 'The President' 4 QT
Daphne 'Eternal Fragrance' 2 QT
Dianthus plumarius 'Rose de Mai' 3 QT
Dicentra 'Titanium' 3 QT
Digitalis 'Snow Thimble' 4 QT
Echinacea pallida 1 QT
Echinacea tenesseeensis 'Rocky Top' 1 QT
Fern dryopteris erythrosora 'Brilliance' 1 QT
Fern polystichum acros....Christmas 3 QT
Fern cyrtomium fortunei 1 QT
Fern dennstaedtia punc..Hay-Scented 3 QT
Fern athyrium 'Lady in Red' 3 QT
Fern adiantum pedatum Maidenhair 3 QT
Fern polystichum polybleph...Tassel Fern 3 QT
Filipendula purpurea 4 QT
Geranium macrorrhizum..'Album' 3 QT
Geranium maculatum 'Espresso' 3 QT
Geum 'Totally Tangerine' 3 QT
Geum 'Tempo Yellow' 3 QT
Heliopsis 'Bleeding Hearts' 4 QT
Helleborus 'Anna's Red' 3 QT
Helleborus 'Moondance' 3 QT
Helleborus 'Pippa's Purple' 3 QT
Heuchera villosa 'Caramel' 3 QT
Heuchera 'Green Spice' 3 QT
Heuchera 'Guacamole' 3 QT
Iris fulva 3 QT
Kalimeris 'Blue Star'..3 QT
Kalimeris pinnatifida 'Hortensis' 4 QT
Ligularia 'Britt Marie Crawford' 4 QT
Ligularia 'Pandora' 3 QT
Lonicera semp. 'Blanche Sandman' 4 QT
Lonicera 'Goldflame' 4 QT
Lonicera periclymenum 'Serotina' 4 QT
Monarda 'Claire Grace' 4 QT
Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'..3 QT
Nepeta 'Joanna Reed'..4 QT
Nepeta yunnanensis..4 QT
Origanum 'Kirigami' 1 QT
Papaver 'Beauty of Livermere' 3 QT
Papaver 'Royal Wedding' 3 QT
Penstemon 'Dakota Burgundy' 4 QT
Perovskia 'Little Spire' 4 QT
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium 3 QT
Rodgersia 'Bronze Peacock' 4 QT
Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush' 4 QT
Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry' 4 QT
Salvia nemerosa 'Caradonna' 3 QT
Salix 'Hakuro Nishiki' 6 QT
Salvia uliginosa 4 QT
Spigelia marilandica 'Little Redhead' 3 QT
Thalictrum 'Black Stockings' 6 QT
Tiarella 'Elizabeth Oliver' 3 QT
Veronicastrum 'Fascination' 3 QT
Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly'.. 3 QT
Veronica spicata 'Pink Damask' 3 QT
Veronica incana 'Pure Silver' 3 QT
Viola labradorica. 1 QT
Viola odorata 'Rebecca' 1 QT
Veronica incana 'Pure Silver' 3 QT
Zizia aurea..Golden Alexanders 3 QT

Our selection of Annuals come from the superb local growers at Beds and Borders and Landcraft Environments

Acidanthera murielae
 Agastache 'Blue Boa'
 Agastache cana 'Heather Queen'
 Agastache 'Kudos Ambrosia'
 Agastache 'Pink Pearl'
 Agastache 'Tutti Frutti'
 Ageratum 'Lemon Lime'
 Ageratum 'Monarch Magic'
 Ammi majus 'Dara'
 Anagallis 'Wildcat Blue'
 Angelonia 'Angel Flare Cranberry'
 Angelonia 'Bicolor Violet'
 Angelonia 'Fuchsia Bicolor'
 Arctotis 'Flame'
 Argyanthemum frutescens 'Vera'
 Asclepias physocarpa 'Balloon Flower'
 Asclepias 'Orange Milkweed'
 Begonia x boliviensis 'Groovy Red'
 Begonia x boliviensis 'Groovy White'
 Begonia 'Gryphon'
 Begonia 'Sparks Will Fly'
 Bouvardia terrifolia
 Brachyscomb iberidifolia 'Swan River Daisy'
 Browallia 'Endless Flirtation White'
 Browallia 'Endless Illumination Blue'
 Calibrachoa 'Callie Apricot'
 Calibrachoa 'Callie Blue'
 Calibrachoa 'Callie White'
 Ceratotheca tribloba 'Mauve & White'
 Ceratotheca tribloba 'Purple '
 Cissus discolor - Rex Begonia Vine
 Coleus 'Brandy'
 Coleus 'Felix'
 Coleus 'Pineapple Queen'
 Cosmos 'Cherry Chocolate'
 Cosmos 'Cupcake White'
 Cuphea ignea 'David Verity'
 Cuphea 'Sweet Talk Lavender Splash'
 Dianthus 'Amazon Neon Duo'
 Dianthus 'Kiwi Mellow Cool'
 Dichondra argentea 'Silver Falls'
 Erigeron karvinskianus 'Profusion'
 Eschscholzia - California Poppy
 Euphorbia 'Diamond Snow'
 Evolvulus 'Blue My Mind'
 Felicia amelloides 'Variegata'
 Fuchsia 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt'
 Fuchsia 'Versicolor'
 Fuchsia 'Mrs. J.D.Frederick'
 Gomphrena pulchella 'All Around Purple'
 Lantana 'Bandana Cherry'
 Lantana 'Luscious Marmalade'
 Lantana 'Radiation'
 Leonotis leonurus Lion's Ear
 Malva 'Zebrina'
 Nicotiana 'Chocolate Smoke'
 Nicotiana 'Daylight Sensation'
 Nicotiana 'Deep Purple'
 Nicotiana 'Tinkerbell'
 Pelargonium sidoides
 Pentas 'Abby'
 Petchoa 'French Vanilla'
 Petchoa x 'SuperCal Terra Cotta'
 Petunia 'Easy Wave Pink'
 Petunia 'Midnight Gold'
 Petunia 'Radiant Ruby'
 Pilea glauca 'Aquamarine'
 Phygellius rectus 'Moonraker'
 Portulaca grandiflora 'Double Sunset Fire'
 Salvia 'Blue Arrow Leaf' Sage
 Salvia 'Lady in Red'
 Salvia 'Victoria Blue'
 Salvia 'Ember's Wish'
 Salvia 'Wendy's Wish'
 Scabiosa 'Black Knight'
 Scaevola 'Brilliant'
 Scaevola 'Surdiva White'
 Snapdragon 'Avignon Silver II'
 Snapdragon 'Chantilly Mix'
 Snapdragon 'Doubleshot Yellow'
 Snapdragon 'Potomac Summer Berry'
 Talinum 'Variegata'
 Torenia 'Large Silver'
 Torenia 'Summer Wave Blue'
 Torenia 'Summer Wave Silver'
 Trachelium caeruleum 'Black Knight'
 Verbascum 'Southern Charm'
 Verbena Bonariensis
 Verbena 'De La Mina'
 Verbena 'Lanai Red'
 Verbena 'Lanai Twister Pink'
 Zinnia 'Benary's Giant Orange'
 Zinnia 'Benary's Giant Sunrise Mix'

OTHER EVENTS IN MAY

Events at Bridge Gardens. 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, NY 11932.

- **Saturday, May 16, 9:30 am to 11 am. Organic Lawn Care Workshop.** FREE. Space is limited, reservations required. Rain cancels. For more info and to register: <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/get-involved/events/event/organic-lawn-care-workshop-26>
- **Tuesdays, May 19 & 26, 3 pm to 4:30 pm. FREE Lawn Care Advice with Paul Wagner.**

Garden Conservancy Virtual Talks. \$5 GC members, \$15 non-members.

- **Tuesday, May 5, 2 pm to 3 pm. Rooting the Soul.** For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-rooting-the-soul>
- **Tuesday, May 19, 2 pm to 3 pm. Writing the Garden.** For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-writing-the-garden>

Garden Conservancy Open Days. Pre-registration is required. Capacity is limited and no walk-ins will be allowed. For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/garden-directory/open-days>

- **Saturday, May 9, times vary by garden.** 3 gardens in Sag Harbor, Wainscott, and East Hampton (Springs).
- **Saturday, May 23, times vary by garden.** 3 gardens on the North Shore.

Events at Landcraft Garden Foundation. 4342 Grand Avenue, Mattituck, NY 11952. For more info and to register: <https://www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org/upcoming-lectures/>

- **Saturday, May 9, 10:30 am. Rainforest Frames: A Mother's Day Treat** with Kerry Ann McLean. \$108 members, \$120 non-members.
- **Friday, May 29, 11 am to 1 pm. Propagation (and Intro to Grafting): A Hands-on Workshop** with Dr. Mark Bridgen. \$32 members, \$35 non-members.

Events at LongHouse Reserve. 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, NY 11937. For more info and to register: <https://longhouse.org/pages/programs>

- **Sunday, May 3, 2 pm to 3:30 pm. Spring Garden Walk.**
- **Saturday, May 9, 11 am to 12:30 pm. The Living Art of Bonsai.**
- **Saturday, May 9, 2 pm to 3:30 pm. Art in the Garden Walk.**

Marders Lecture Series. FREE. 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. More info: <https://www.marders.com/events>

- **Sunday, May 3, 2 pm to 3 pm. Cookies, Coffee & Conversation: Rethinking How You Garden: Feed your Soil, Not Your Plants.**
- **Sunday, May 10, 10 am to 11 am. Keeping Your Mother's Day Orchid Happy.**
- **Sunday, May 17, 10 am to 11 am. Biodynamic Beekeeping Methods.**

Events from Perfect Earth Project. For more info and to register: <https://perfectearthproject.org/events/>

- **Saturday, May 2, 11 am to 1 pm. Landscape Therapy Workshop** cohosted by Perfect Earth Project and Third House Nature Center at Third House Nature Center, 1929 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954. FREE.
- **Sunday, May 3, 4 pm to 5:30 pm. Grounded Conversations: Killer Lawns.** Guild Hall, 158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937. \$35

Monday, May 4, 6:00 pm. Madoo in Manhattan: The New Beautiful: Inspiring Gardens for a Resilient Future by Stephanie Mahon. Lecture and cocktail reception. The University Club, 1 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Tickets from \$135. For more info and to register: <https://www.madoo.org/events>

Friday, May 8, 4 pm to 5 pm. Southampton Rose Society Children's Mini Rose & Art Workshop. Rogers Memorial Library, 91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton, NY 11968. For more info: <https://southamptonrose.org/2026-events/>

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

May 3 Teresa Woodard - *Garden to the Max: Joyful, Visionary, Maximalist Design*
June 14 Christian Douglas - *Garden with Purpose: The Art and Ecology of Designing with Food*

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 🟡 May 1 afternoon Last Quarter Moon 🌔 May 9 afternoon
New Moon 🟠 May 16 afternoon First Quarter Moon 🌒 May 23 morning
Full moon 🟡 May 31 morning



100% Recycled 
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