



HAH Happenings

October 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, October 18, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Please join us in the Main Hall of the
Bridgehampton Community House
for a talk by **Dr. Eve Beaury** on
Seeding Ecosystems of the Future

The decisions we make in our gardens will have a large effect on what species will persist under climate change, which is already impacting the distribution of biodiversity across time and space. In this talk, Dr. Beaury will discuss the latest research on these impacts and give you some ideas for how your garden can help seed ecosystems of the future, such as by reducing the spread of invasives and supporting climate-resilient native plants.



Dr. Eve Beaury is a research scientist in the Center for Conservation and Restoration Ecology at the New York Botanical Garden. She received her PhD in invasion ecology from UMass Amherst and conducted postdoctoral research on natural climate solutions at Princeton University. At NYBG, she is building a research program to better understand the spatial ecology of global change, including the spread and impacts of invasive species, climate change, and land-use change.

October Events at HAH

Saturday, October 3, Roundtable, 10:00 am, see page 4.
Saturday, October 10. Workshop, 10:00 am, see page 3.
Saturday, October 17, HAH Library Yard Sale, 9:30 am- 12:30 pm, see page 3.
Sunday, October 18, Lecture in the Community House, 2:00 pm, see above.
Thursday, October 22, Friends of the Garden, 10:00 am, see page 2.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

HAH membership renewals will go out this month. Watch your mail or email for the information.
Or head to our website now for an easy online renewal or new order for a friend.

Go to hahgarden.org/join-us



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fall is here for real, never mind the Halloween merch and pumpkin spice blitzkrieg that arrived in August—which might be seen as a sort of a weird reversal of Indian Summer. Not that, as we learn on the job how to garden in a rapidly changing climate, we can be sure these days what a “real” fall timeline is. Remember all those decades your jack-o’-lanterns froze the day before Halloween—they’ve been safe for a while now. This year we’ve also (as I type mid-September) seen a historically quiet Atlantic hurricane season due to a super-charged El Niño getting going in the Pacific.

However different the exact timing might be, fall is still the wrap-up-this-year, lay-the groundwork-for-next-year, season—as well as quite beautiful (don’t those leaves look great before they fall and even afterwards as you’re raking?).

First up this month for HAH is the return of the Roundtable series on October 3rd that will invite us to look back at what inspired us from HAH tours and share thoughts from our own garden adventures.

Next will be a fun HAH weekend tradition that starts on October 17th with a bargain-hunters’ treat, the HAH Yard Sale—which will wrap up after the HAH Lecture on the 18th, “Seeding Ecosystems of the Future,” by Dr. Eve Beaury—the lecture will be followed by coffee and cookies in the library and another chance at second-hand Yard Sale treasures.

On a more somber note that reminds us not just years have seasons but lives do, we’re sad to report the passing of long-time HAH stalwart John Benson and former board of directors’ member Ron Chapman. Each made a difference and we remember them fondly. If you have memories to share, please send them to hahmember@gmail.com.

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 Benson

PHOTOS this month: Joan DiMonda, Michael Longacre, Janet Ollinger, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, November 14, 2026

**HAH Workshop on Sashiko,
Japanese hand embroidery.**

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 continue its agenda of meeting on Thursdays this fall:

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

HAH LoGerfo LIBRARY ANNUAL YARD SALE

Saturday, October 17, 2026

9:30 am - 12:30 pm



You are invited to join us at our annual Yard Sale, Saturday, October 17, on the grounds of the Bridgehampton Community House, outside of the HAH John LoGerfo Library, on the corner of Montauk Highway and School Street in Bridgehampton.



This is an opportunity to share your gently used garden items with others for the benefit of the HAH Library. Please donate gently used items such as: tools, garden odds and ends, plant shelving, garden pots and containers. Non-plant donations can be dropped off at the HAH LoGerfo Library on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

There will also be pots and plants to purchase. If you donate a plant please be sure it is potted and labeled. Your plant divisions can be dropped off on the day of the sale beginning at 8:30 a.m.

You will find a place full of unique finds and plenty of bargains among the donated items. Remaining items will be sold as 'Half Price Sale' immediately following the Sunday, October 18th lecture.

Looking forward to seeing you. Joan Dimonda, Library Chair

Interested in assisting at the sale? Please email hahmember@gmail.com



HAH Workshop

"We're Making Kimchi"

Saturday, October 10, 2026 10am – 12pm

at the HAH John LoGerfo Library

Join us for a hands-on Kimchi making Workshop led by Justin Ruaysamran.

We will prepare cabbage and root vegetable Kimchi. Traditionally made in Autumn, Kimchi is a method of food preparation rooted in kimjang – the communal practice of gathering with family, friends and neighbors to prepare large batches for the winter months. Recognized by UNESCO as an intangible "Cultural Heritage of Humanity" kimjang celebrates cooperation, food preservation and community. Attendees should bring a sharp chopping knife, a paring knife, cutting board, rubber gloves, a very large mixing bowl, a one quart size ball mason jar with lid, a large wooden spoon, a scoop and mixing utensils. All ingredients will be provided.

This Workshop will be limited to 12 participants.

Cost: \$20 Members \$25 non-Members

Registration required at: hahgarden.org/tickets



HAH Roundtable Program

New Season! In Person at the HAH Library

Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 10:00am – Noon

Inspiration from our Garden Tours and a Look Back at our own Garden Season Sharing Ideas and Learning More

It's been another wonderful year for HAH local garden tours. We visited 15 gardens, some on grand properties and others in smaller spaces. What they all have in common is the love and appreciation all our hosts display for creating and maintaining gardens -- choosing the design, the plants, accessories, and the hardscaping; caring for them as they grow and mature; creating and enjoying places for tranquility and entertaining; and helping the environment in the process. The other party to all this loveliness is we members (and new host members!) who participated in the tours this season, taking long walks, observing, and appreciating so much beauty and inventiveness.

In addition to touring the gardens of others, we have also spent time in our own gardens, with so much happening every season. We buy new plants, lose others, we keep or edit what has self-sown, we observe the birds and other pollinators, sometimes we take on a new project. We weed and deal with the wildlife that's waiting in the wings to gobble up our bounty. In the end, we always say (or at least I do) "here's what I'm going to add, remove, do differently next year!"

Our first Roundtable in Fall is the perfect time to share what we learned and enjoyed most about this year's tours, both as visitors and as hosts, and to ask questions about or share our experiences in our own gardens this past season. I already have a list, both wonderful and so disappointing (I know you can relate)!

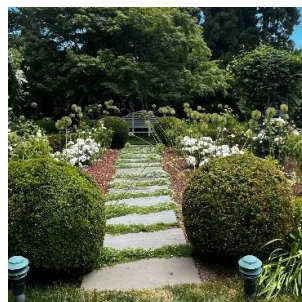
For those who did not have the opportunity to attend some or all of these tours as well as those that would like to see a selection of the scenes again, we will present a slide show of some highlights. And if you'd like to show a photograph of your own garden, bring your phone or other device.



Here are just a few of the topics we'd love our members to share:

- Did you see any plants you'd never seen before? Would you like to know more about them?
- Are there plants that thrive in these gardens & you'd like to know how to care for and position them?
- We saw some wonderful design elements, including hardscaping and garden ornaments. Are there ideas that you particularly admired?
- What successes and challenges did you experience in your garden? What would you do again and what do you plan on doing differently next year?

At the end of the program, if there are attendees who have gardening questions about other topics, you'll have the opportunity to ask them, or please feel free to stay a while longer and talk to one of our knowledgeable members. I hope to see you on October 3rd! -- **Moderated and with photos by Pamela Harwood**



Winter Planting for Ceramic Pots

Water expands about 9% in volume when it freezes. The water in wet soil also expands when it freezes. If that wet soil is in a pot, the expanding soil can expand upward without damaging the pot but it wants to expand in all directions putting stress on the pot walls. That stress can cause cracks that damages or destroys the pot. Using plastic or resin pots is one solution because the plastic has flexibility and can allow the soil to expand. Bringing the pot into a garage that stays a bit warm is also an option but moving the heavy pot can be cumbersome and evergreens still want light in winter that they won't get in an unlit garage.

I have many ceramic pots on my deck that are planted and are left out over winter. All of them I've planted into a plastic pot that I then place inside the ceramic pot. That solves the problem of winter soil expansion with only a little visual distraction of the plastic pot lip resting on the ceramic pot. I have ceramic pots planted in this way that have sustained no damage over the last 20 years! If you don't want that visual distraction or you can't find a plastic pot that will fit the size/shape of your ceramic pot I've come up with a solution.

This past June I planted evergreens into pots that will be left outside during winter. The pots are square and have a tapered shape so I couldn't find a plastic pot that fit inside. I decided to line the interior of the ceramic pot with heavy duty bubble wrap. The air bubbles of the wrap will flex and compress when the freezing soil expands so that the harsh pressure of the expanding soil isn't directly pushing against the pot wall. I first cut the bubble wrap width to fit below the interior height of the pot. I then secured it with tape. Any tape will do because you just need to secure it in place long enough to fill it with dirt. I placed the "flat" side of the bubble wrap toward the inside of the pot with the "bubble" side against the pot wall so the spaces between the bubbles can act as additional flex and compression points. Make sure you don't cover drainage holes with the wrap.

After getting the bubble wrap in place I partially filled with dirt and then my plant. I backfilled the plant with additional dirt but kept the level just below the top of the bubble wrap. After planting was finished, the bubble wrap is secured in place by the dirt and isn't visible because I kept the bubble wrap edge below the pot edge. If you have a glazed pot that is already planted and you'd like to safely leave out over winter, simply remove the plant, trim the roots back a bit and insert back into the pot after lining it with bubble wrap. Note that this approach to winter pot planting is only useful for pots that have a glazed interior and exterior. Unglazed terracotta absorbs moisture into the pores of the clay and the freeze/thaw cycles of winter will break down the pot wall. Terracotta pots should be brought into a warm-ish garage or basement for overwintering.

Greg Wiseman



Our HAH Summer Party drew more members than ever this year to enjoy the beautiful weather in a wonderful garden! Thank you, Barbara, for the hospitality and, Erika, for the photos.



OTHER GARDEN EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Garden Conservancy Virtual Programs, \$5 for Garden Conservancy Members, \$15 non-members.

- **Tuesday, October 6, 2 pm to 3 pm. Rome: City of Gardens.** For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-rome-city-of-gardens-webinar-only>
- **Thursday, October 22, 2 pm to 3 pm. An Ecology of Quilts.** For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-an-ecology-of-quilts>

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

- **Sunday, October 4, 10 am to 11 am. Garden Talk: Herbal Remedies for Winter Wellness.**
- **Sunday, October 18, 10 am to 11 am. Garden Talk: Mushroom Madness.**
- **Sunday, October 25, 2 pm to 3 pm. Cookies, Coffee & Conversation: Putting the Garden to Bed: Fall Garden Prep, Lawn Care, Fall Pruning**

Saturday, October 3, 11 am to 3 pm. Southampton Rose Society Annual Meeting and Luncheon/Lecture featuring Scott Sottile on *Architecture, Landscape & Designing Homes to Last*. The Meadow Club of Southampton, 555 First Neck Lane, Southampton, NY 11968. Tickets from \$175. For more info and to register: <https://southamptonrose.org>

Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 am to 4:15 pm. Living Landscapes Conference. \$85/person. Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, New York 11771. For more info and to register: <https://ccesuffolk.org/events/2023/08/14/living-landscapes-conference>



Within every organization, there is one person who seems to arrive with just the right tools; someone who instinctively sees what is needed and quietly proceeds to fulfill that need. There is also that special person who creates a warm welcome through gracious hospitality, making everyone feel at home. For HAH, that person was **John Benson**.

John became a member by default, brought into the organization by his beloved wife, Bettina. But what began as an association through Bettina soon became something much more meaningful. John became a treasured and stalwart member of our community. He was the person who noticed what needed doing before anyone had to ask. Whether it was setting something up, finding a missing tool, lending a hand, or making sure that guests were comfortable, John was there. He contributed not with fanfare, but with a generosity of spirit and a willingness to help that made a lasting difference. And then there was John's hospitality. He had a remarkable ability to make people feel welcomed and cared for. His warmth, thoughtfulness, and easy graciousness created a sense of belonging that extended far beyond any particular gathering or event.

John's contributions to HAH were measured not only in the things he did, but in the spirit with which he did them. He gave his time, his talents, and his friendship freely. In doing so, he became part of the fabric of our community—a steady, dependable, and deeply valued presence. We will miss John greatly: his kindness, his practical wisdom, his generosity, and the quiet way he always seemed to be there when he was needed. Most of all, we will miss the warmth he brought with him. We are grateful that Bettina brought John into our lives, and even more grateful that he made HAH his own. His memory will remain a cherished part of our community.

J.O.

Espalier Fruit Trees

By Henry Leuthardt

Webster's dictionary defines Espalier as, "a plant or plants trained flat." A good, functional espalier is more than a plant trained flat. The various shapes of espalier fruit trees were developed over hundreds of years by horticulturists who felt that certain designs or shapes allowed the fruit tree to produce fruit of large size and good flavor.

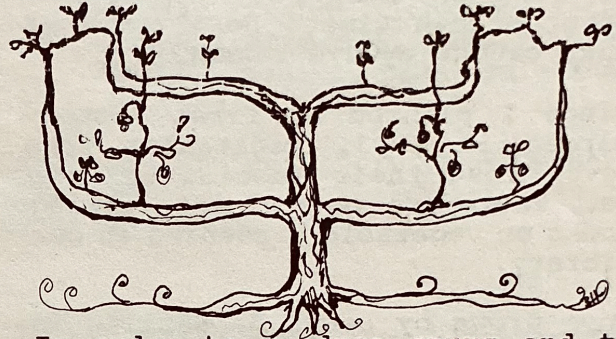
There exist in present day horticulture inventory hundreds of different types and species of ornamental plants trained as espaliers. These espalier ornamentals fit Webster's definition in that they are trained flat. Unfortunately this lack of design and formed shape result in an espalier that, after a number of years, is difficult to maintain.

The espalier fruit tree and the modern, flat, espalier ornamental both require pruning every year, regardless of their pedigree. In fact espaliers require pruning at least twice a year: once during the late winter or early spring while the plant is dormant and at least once during the summer.

The most common types of espalier fruit trees are apples and pears. These bear blossoms and fruit primarily on spurs. A spur is short (usually less than 8 inches) and grows in a contorted fashion. In the winter one can observe the blossom buds on a spur. Blossom buds are fat and the size of a pencil eraser, whereas leaf buds are flat and twice the size of a blunt pencil point.

During the growing season, apple and pear trees produce an abundance of vegetative shoots. These shoots or "water sprouts" are over 8

inches long and grow more or less in a straight line. This is a simplified description, but after looking closely at a fruit tree during the summer, you will understand.



In order to produce spurs and to keep the spurs producing blossom buds, it is necessary to prune these vegetative shoots once and probably twice during the summer. After the first growth of early summer or about the end of June, cut the shoots back to about 4 to 6 inches. Repeat this at the end of July or early August. Summer pruning can be done until Labor Day. The growth that appears from Labor Day until the first frost will be pruned during late winter or just prior to the first growth of the spring.

When determining how an espalier will be handled, whether it be an ornamental or a fruit tree, one must ask what it is being grown for: blossoms, leaf color, berries or evergreen needles. Another thing to determine is its growth habit. Are the desirable aspects produced on spurs, shoots or second year growth? One truth applies to all espaliers -- fruit or ornamental: the plant is grown in a two dimensional plane with height and width, but essentially no depth or thickness. Pruning is necessary to maintain this flat shape and it must be done at least once a year.

Henry Leuthardt and his wife **Pat** own and operate Henry Leuthardt Nurseries in East Moriches. If you have questions about espaliers, send a SASE to them at P.O. box 666 East Moriches, NY 11940

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

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

Last Quarter Moon 🌘 **October 3 morning** **New Moon** 🌑 **October 10 noon**

First Quarter Moon 🌒 **October 18 noon** **Full Moon** 🌕 **October 26 midnight**

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100% Recycled ♻️



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