HAH Happenings
November 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**

On Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm



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

The Gibson Method: Reimagining Topiary As Living Art

Renowned topiary artist **Michael P. Gibson** explores how the ancient art of topiary can be reimagined as modern living sculpture. Through the Gibson Method, his creative approach to pruning, Gibson shares how storytelling, technique, and imagination can transform plants into meaningful works of art.

Michael P. Gibson is a contemporary topiary artist, educator, and creator of the Gibson Method, a creative pruning framework that reimagines topiary through storytelling, geometry, and illusion. With more than 30 years of experience, Gibson has created over 700 living sculptures and presented programs across more than 25 states.

A former Artist-in-Residence at Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden and a contestant on HGTV's Clipped, Gibson has created works for public gardens and institutions across the country. His work has been featured by The New York Times, NPR, Southern Living, and The Washington Post. Through living sculpture, education, and Topiary Therapy, Gibson continues to expand the possibilities of contemporary topiary while connecting people to creativity, nature, and self-expression.

November Events at HAH

Saturday, November 7, Roundtable, 10:00 am, see page 3.
Saturday, November 14, Workshop, 10:00 am, see page 4.
Thursday, November 12, Friends of the Garden, 10:00 am, see page 4.
Sunday, November 15, Lecture in the Community House, 2:00 pm, see above.
Saturday, November 21, Camellia Group Fall Meeting, 10 am, see p. 4.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

HAH membership renewals have been sent. Check your mail or email for the information.
Or head to our website now for an easy online renewal or a new order for a friend.
Go to hahgarden.org/join-us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A big round of applause for our amazing HAH Librarian Joan DiMonda and her tireless volunteers who made the October HAH Yard Sale such a fun shopping adventure. This year featured many beloved garden items that belonged to long-time HAH member Diana Pillsworth donated by her daughter, former HAH board member, Valerie Hanley. Another terrific fundraiser for the HAH John LoGerfo Library.

Earlier in the month a good time was had by all learning from Justin Ruaysamran how to make Kimchi; this month's workshop will be Japanese Sashiko embroidery led by Susan Scripter.

The Annual Meeting to elect next year's Board of Directors is on November 15, which will be followed by Michael P. Gibson's lecture describing how the ancient art of topiary can be reimagined as modern living sculpture. November also includes a Roundtable, Camellia Group, and the last Friends of the Garden get together to tuck the Marie Donnelly garden into bed for winter.

In the November 2025 newsletter I wrote: "What the weather looks like may be very different from recent years as the La Niña that started in September may bring colder cold snaps, more snow, even more nor'easters our way." which certainly proved to be the case. This year we're started a "super" El-Niño winter cycle that's expected to mean warmer winter temperatures, and, yes, wild nor'easters. We've already seen a doozy, fingers crossed going forward.

To keep receiving HAH emails, newsletters, attend lectures, garden tours, and workshops in 2027, be sure to renew by December 31st when memberships expire. You can mail back the membership renewal you received in October or renew online at https://hahgarden.org/join-us.

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: Michael Longacre, Pamela Harwood, Marie DiMonte, Elaine Peterson, Justin Ruaysamran, Erika Shank

The 2026 HAH Board is pleased to present the proposed HAH 2027 Officers and Board of Directors

The following slate of officers for 2027 and two directors (who will serve through 2029) will be presented for the membership's vote at the annual meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

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Alex Sipkes	'29
Marie DiMonte	'29

Thank you to the 2026 Nominating Committee:

Erik Brockmeyer, chair
Taylor Donn Janet Donohoe Ollinger
Pat Garrity David Reese



HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

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

November in the Garden

What to Do (and maybe not do) this Month to Prepare for Winter

Moderated and with Photos by Pamela Harwood

Despite the Nor'easter in late September, which blew off lots of leaves and some of the more delicate flowers, many of our gardens still looked beautiful throughout October. With late-blooming annuals, perennials, and even shrubs and trees still in flower, mild weather, and the first signs of fall foliage color, we could put off thoughts of winter. But November is among the busiest and most important months of the year for garden work on the East End. We read differing advice as to what we should do or not do in our gardens to prepare for the winter months. HAH to the rescue! It's a perfect time to get together and share ideas about the pros and cons of various approaches. And there are also certain tasks that everyone agrees must be done now to save plants for next year and to keep your garden healthy. Here are some topics we'll discuss:

- Should we leave everything in place to **provide shelter for pollinators and other wildlife?**
- Should we clean up to avoid harboring **voles, moles, other rodents, and fungal diseases?**
- Is there a middle ground, and if so,
- **What to selectively cut back now and why**
- **What to leave in place until spring and why**
- **What to bring inside** for overwintering
- **Pruning:** we'll describe the various tasks that fall under this umbrella term, what to do now, and what should or might wait until spring
- **Dividing and Transplanting:** how and why
- Which plants should I leave for **winter interest**?
- **Fallen leaves**: how to put them to work in your garden instead of throwing them away
- **Composting**: the ultimate garden recycler and what to add or not to add
- **Collecting and saving seeds**: a how-to primer
- **Protecting evergreens and some woody shrubs** (from weather and wildlife)
- **Winterizing garden hoses, irrigation, birdbaths, planters, furniture, and ornamental features**
- **Fertilizing and mulching**
- **Great tools that make it all easier**
- **There's still time to plant late-winter and early spring-blooming bulbs and other plants**

Sometimes the answers are clear - such as what not to prune now so you don't lose spring blooms, and which plants should be removed so they don't rampantly self-seed - and other times the answers are not so clear, according to one's own aesthetics and goals. We welcome all samples for show and tell.

At the end of the program, if there are attendees who have additional gardening questions about these or any other topics, please feel free to stay a while longer and talk to one of our knowledgeable members.






HAH - Friends of The Garden - FOG

Our last meeting of the year is on
Thursday, November 12.
The time: 10 am to 11:30 am

Anyone interested is invited to attend and help put the garden to bed for winter.

Elizabeth Berg

The Fall Meeting of the Camellia Group
is on Saturday, November 21 at 10 am.

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

HAH Workshop at the LoGerfo Library

Sashiko, Japanese Hand Embroidery

Saturday, November 14, 2026, 10 am - 12:30 pm



This is a hands-on make-and-take workshop led by Susan Scripter. Sashiko embroidery is a traditional technique that transforms simple "running stitches" into beautiful geometric designs. Originally developed to repair and strengthen clothing, Sashiko has evolved into a decorative art form known for its striking white stitches on indigo fabric and its calm repetitive patterns.

Attendees should bring small sharp scissors. All other materials will be provided (indigo cotton panel, thread and needle). Non-refundable fee of $20 for HAH members and $25 for non-members to cover materials.

This Workshop is limited to 10 attendees, no walk-ins, and has been filled. If you would like to join a wait list, please register at hahgarden.org/tickets



Holiday Amaryllis Planting Workshop
Saturday, December 12, 10 am
at the HAH LoGerfo Library

Join us for a hands-on workshop led by Lydia Wallis.

The Holiday Flowering Miniature Amaryllis, “Lemon Sorbet” is a prolific bloomer. The flowers are pale ivory with a prominent green throat and will grow from 12”-14” tall.

HAH will provide each participant with three bulbs, a clay pot, and potting soil. Everyone will take home their potted bulbs so please bring a carton in which to transport them. In addition, participants should bring gloves, if they'd like, and a trowel.

This workshop will be limited to 15 attendees; no walk-ins. Non-refundable fee of $30 for HAH members and $40 for non-members to cover materials. Registration, please, at hahgarden.org/tickets



We got sad news last month that former HAH Board member **Ron Chapman** has passed away. Our sympathies to his wife Rebecca, another vivid presence for many years in HAH.

Ron is remembered for his good-natured hard work. Former Board member Pat Matheson says, "He was terrific as my partner for the Garden Fair, handling all the permits when I organized the party. He had a great sense of humor too!"

Rebecca Chapman shared with us, "HAH really did mean so much to Ron because of the truly wonderful and welcoming group of people that HAH brought together under its community focused mission. Nothing transactional about membership. Just a diverse and friendly group who found joy and friendship at the beautiful gardens of local gardeners and an eager group of learners on Sunday afternoons capped off with cookies, tea, and coffee among the inspiration found in the well tended HAH library.

We were 61 years in marriage and more if you include going to each proms in high school and receiving undergraduate degrees from the University of Michigan and graduate degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit. I was so blessed to share my life with Ron and the circle of friends and acquaintances who enriched our life together over so many years."

Here, above, is Ron at the 2015 HAH Garden Fair.



Painting Workshop with Dr. Quincy Egginton

Our painting workshop, Flowers & Fields, was a huge success thanks to Dr. Quincy Egginton. We learned so much and experimented with a variety of techniques.





Her explanations of materials needed gave everyone a solid basis to continue exploring this medium in the future. Thank you Dr. Egginton.

Marie DiMonte

Kimchi Workshop with Justin Ruaysamran

A special thank you to Justin for helping attendees to make kimchi. Everyone had such a great time dicing, chopping & laughing and we all came home with a jar of healthful kimchi. Thank you also to Richard Russo who helped out and was so patient assisting us and answering all our questions.

Marie DiMonte







PLANT CULTURE

The Pruning of Pines

Certainly, to my mind anyway, the thing to look forward to after the transplanting season is past is the pruning of pines and other trees. By then one can wear enough clothes to embrace the tree and avoid the inevitable cuts and scratches. I find there is almost no other activity in gardening that can make one feel more alive and in contact than giving a pine a new lease on life and removing its unnecessary debris.

All pines should be pruned in the fall or winter. Pine resin rises in spring, summer and early fall so that cuts made at the wrong time are likely to weaken the tree.

Make sure clippers, saws and loppers are sharp. Clippers and loppers can easily be sharpened by rubbing a flat file on the cutting edge making sure to create an angle for sharpness.

There are many reasons for pruning pines. Often the lower branches die from being shaded out by the upper branches. In the course of trying to find light branches grow at odd angles, sometimes headed back into the tree, causing congestion and rubbing of branches that results in broken membranes open to disease and insects.

Before you begin the most important thing to know is what type of pine you are pruning. Some of the pines sold in our nurseries are really forest trees and will grow to be 80 feet tall. They are lovely when young but need to be in the proper setting. Most will eventually shade out their own lower branches and should not be planted in a confined space or where they might damage property if toppled in a storm. Most of these trees if given enough space will form large pyramids during their adolescence or first 20 years. Some of the pines in this category are:

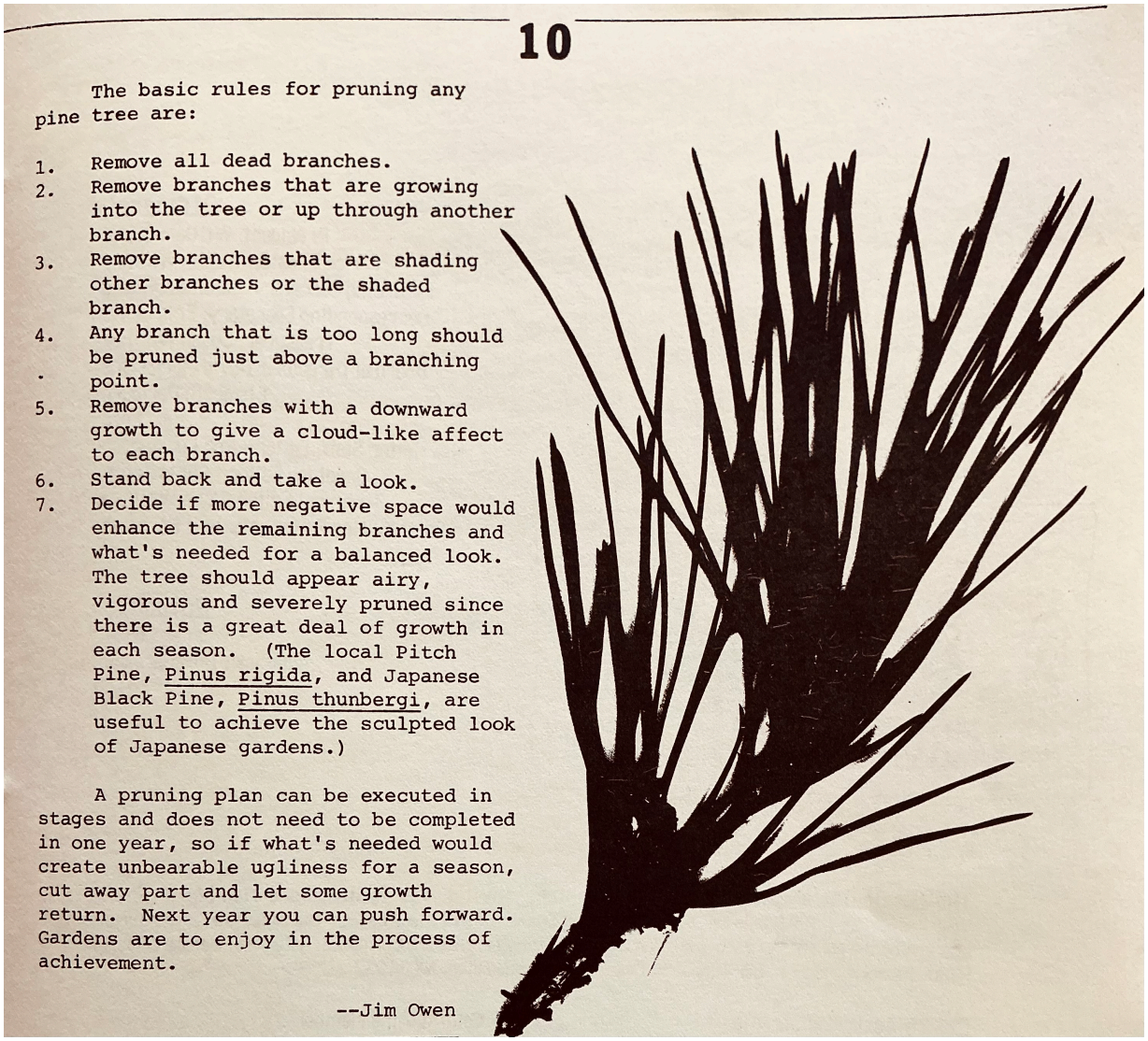
Pinus albicaulis - White Bark Pine
" aristata - Bristlecone Pine
" leucodermis - Balkan Pine
" nigra - Austrian Pine
" resinosa - Red Pine
" strobus - White Pine
" rigida - Pitch Pine (our local pine)
" bungeana - Lacebark Pine
" densiflora - Japanese Red Pine
" flexilis - Limber Pine
" wallichiana - Himalayan or Bhutan Pine
" koraiensis - Korean Pine
" lambertiana - Sugar Pine
" monticola - Western White Pine
" ponderosa - Ponderosa or Western Yellow Pine
" sylvestris - Scotch Pine
" thunbergi - Japanese Black Pine
" jeffreyi - Jeffrey Pine
" parviflora - Japanese White Pine

When these trees are small, only dead wood and misdirected branches should be removed.

The next group of pines could be considered large shrubs or small trees. They include:

Pinus cembra - Swiss Stone Pine
" densiflora 'Umbraculifera' - Tanyosho Pine
" mugo - Mugho Pine
" strobus 'Contorta' - Contorted White Pine

If there is a shortage of light, the mughos may need to be kept from getting too leggy by clipping the longest branches back to side shoots. The dwarf pines seldom need much pruning because of their slow growth rate but d grow better and develop a better shape if dead wood and any reversion from the graft is removed, taking care to accentuate the natural shape of the plant. Some of the dwarf pines are:



10

The basic rules for pruning any pine tree are:

1. Remove all dead branches.
2. Remove branches that are growing into the tree or up through another branch.
3. Remove branches that are shading other branches or the shaded branch.
4. Any branch that is too long should be pruned just above a branching point.
5. Remove branches with a downward growth to give a cloud-like affect to each branch.
6. Stand back and take a look.
7. Decide if more negative space would enhance the remaining branches and what's needed for a balanced look. The tree should appear airy, vigorous and severely pruned since there is a great deal of growth in each season. (The local Pitch Pine, Pinus rigida, and Japanese Black Pine, Pinus thunbergi, are useful to achieve the sculpted look of Japanese gardens.)

A pruning plan can be executed in stages and does not need to be completed in one year, so if what's needed would create unbearable ugliness for a season, cut away part and let some growth return. Next year you can push forward. Gardens are to enjoy in the process of achievement.

--Jim Owen

OTHER GARDEN EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

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

- **Tuesday, November 2, 2 pm to 3 pm. The Jungle Garden: Preserving a Tropical Landscape.** For more info and to register: https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-the-jungle-garden-preserving-a-tropical-landscape-webinar-only
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2 pm to 3 pm. Southern Women, Southern Landscapes: Real and Imagined Afterlives of Gardens.** For more info and to register: https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/web26-southern-women-southern-landscapes

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Eric Kramer: Tree, Grove, Forest: The Scales of Landscape Architecture, part of the NYBG Landscape Design Portfolios Lecture Series. (ONLINE) $37 for NYBG members, $41 non-members. For more info and to register: https://www.nybg.org/event/28th-annual-landscape-design-portfolios-lecture-series/eric-kramer/

Sunday, November 22, 10 am to 11:30 am. Wreath Making Workshop. Marders, 120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. $125 for adults, $85 for children 12 and up; all materials provided. Prepaid reservations required and space is limited. For more info and to register: https://www.marders.com/events

Erik Brockmeyer

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

2026

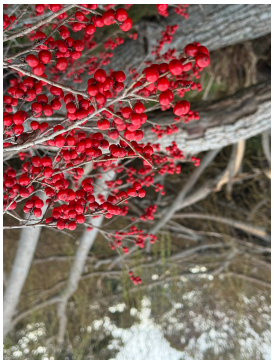
November 15	Michael Gibson - *The Gibson Method: Reimagining Topiary As Living Art*
December 20	Roman Roth - *How to Grow and Achieve World Class Vineyards Right Here on the East End*

2027

January 10	Advolly Richmond - *A Brief History of Flowers* (on Zoom)
February 14	Joseph Charap - *The Graveyard Shift: Choosing Curiosity Over Control* (on Zoom)
March 14	David George Haskell - *How Flowers Made Our World*
April 11	Leslie Needham - *Making the Garden Pivot: From Traditional to Ecological*
May 2	Dr. Jared Barnes - *Migrating North: Inspiration From A Southerly Plant Palette*
June 13	Thomas Woltz - *The Land Is Full*
September 12	Lisa Roper - *The Chanticleer Gravel Garden*
October 17	Carly Still - *Fleeting Moments From The Cloisters Gardens*
November 14	Blue Carreon - *Secret Gardens of New York City*
December 12	Stephen Orr - *Lessons Learned From Four Gardens*

Last Quarter Moon November 1 afternoon New Moon November 9 midnight

First Quarter Moon November 17 morning Full Moon November 24 morning



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100% Recycled

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