Ellen Ecker Ogden: The Complete Kitchen Garden

A well-designed kitchen garden goes beyond simply growing food: it is a way of life that can improve health and build natural connections with the landscape. Ellen Ecker Ogden’s lecture, The Art of Growing Food, will give you fresh ideas for how to plant your vegetable garden with an artist’s eye. Discover the six steps to success for a more efficient, productive and beautiful garden. Featuring full color photos from her book, The Complete Kitchen Garden, you will learn about the four-square rotation system, what to plant for the best flavor, and how to add artful touches to bring out your own style and personality, that will make your garden easier to maintain and more inviting.

ELLEN ECKER OGDEN is the co-founder of The Cook’s Garden seed catalog and author of five books on food and gardens, including The Vermont Country Store Cookbook, The Complete Kitchen Garden, From the Cook’s Garden and The Vermont Cheese book. Her kitchen gardens have been featured in national magazines including Martha Stewart Living, Country Gardens, Organic Gardening, Eating Well, the Boston Globe and The New York Times. Ellen is a freelance writer, and her articles and garden designs have appeared in Garden Design, Eating Well, Organic Gardening, Country Gardens, The Boston Globe, The New York Times, and Martha Stewart Living, among others. She blends classic design with artful creative touches that are both practical and productive. Ellen has been a guest on PBS Victory Garden, and HGTV – as the baroness of basil.

Free for HAH Members, $10 for not-yet-members. This is a great introduction to a year at HAH. Come join us!

Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 2 pm is our Annual Meeting of the HAH. We will be voting for the Officers and New Directors for 2018. Our President will deliver her Annual Report on all of our activities this past year. It won’t take long and will be followed immediately by our Monthly Lecture. A reception and book signing, downstairs in the HAH Library, follows the lecture. Please come!

PLEASE WATCH FOR YOUR HAH RENEWAL NOTICE IN THE MAIL THIS MONTH
All at once summer collapsed into fall  
Oscar Wilde

HAH is always looking for trends in horticulture and I think our November lecture is on point for the ongoing trend of food gardening. Ellen Ecker Ogen will be discussing *The Complete Kitchen Garden*. Ellen’s book is resplendent and her lecture comes just in time to start planning your vegetable garden for next year! Another ongoing trend in horticulture is social media and HAH is part of it with over 1,000 followers on Instagram and 100’s of friends on Facebook. Please visit us at HAHGarden on Facebook or @horticulturalalliancehamptons on Instagram. For those of you who are social media shy, you do not need an Instagram account to look at our photos. Google Instagram horticulturalalliancehamptons and you will be able see all of our posts.

Finally, as we settle into fall, I would like to say thank you to all of our FOG (Friends of the Garden) members and especially to Cornelia Bostwick for tending to our little piece of paradise, the Marie Donnelly Garden; it is perfection in all seasons!

I’ll see you in the garden,  
Janet

The Fall Meeting of the Camellia Group will be on Saturday, November 11th, at 10 am in the HAH LoGerfo Library. All are welcome.

HAH 2017

OFFICERS: (an officer serves for a 1 year term)
President Janet Donohoe Ollinger
First Vice President Bettina Benson
Second Vice President Marie DiMonte
Recording Secretary Susan Brackett
Corresponding Secretary Erika Shank
Treasurer Pamela Harwood

DIRECTORS: (a director serves for a 3 year term)
Alicia Whitaker 2017
Jeffrey Glick 2017
Elaine Peterson 2018
Mary Maran 2018
Rick Bogusch 2019
Lydia Wallis 2019

LIBRARY CHAIR
Susan Kennedy Zeller

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE EDITOR
Elaine Peterson
hahmember@optonline.net
Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please include NL in the subject line.

MAILING
John Benson

PHOTOS
Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank, Susan Kennedy Zeller

Proposed 2018 Officers and Board of Directors

The following slate of officers for 2018 and two directors (who will serve through 2020) will be presented for the membership’s vote at the annual meeting on November 12, 2017.

2018 OFFICERS: (an officer serves for a 1 year term)
President Janet Ollinger
First Vice President Bettina Benson
Second Vice President Susan Brackett
Recording Secretary Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary Erika Shank
Treasurer Pamela Harwood

2018 DIRECTORS: (a director serves for a 3 year term)
Elaine Peterson 2018
Mary Maran 2018
Rick Bogusch 2019
Lydia Wallis 2019
Jeffrey Glick 2020
Marie DiMonte 2020

The Library Chairperson (who serves on the Board with a vote) is currently: Susan Kennedy Zeller

On occasion the board may appoint someone to fill an unexpired term if necessary.
In Honor of John Wood

John Wood passed away on September 17, in New Hampshire, at the age of 95. His accomplishments are staggering: medical researcher, professor, and practicing physician; musician singing in the Hampton Choral Society until the age of 90; formidable croquet competitor; student of classics and history; and wonderful husband, father, mentor and friend.

In retirement, he and Pat made their Water Mill house a full-time home, including a gorgeous garden. HAH members were frequently welcomed there as part of our local garden tours -- and, year after year, to dig plants to contribute to our Plant Fair fund-raiser. John loved the Fair, and was usually tempted, especially by Japanese maples.

John was a knowledgeable contributor at our Garden Roundtables. At an early Workshop, he tried his hand at grafting Japanese maples and insisted that the Bracketts take some leftover root-stock for our woods. John's maples are waving in the breeze today. He loved the Sunday lectures and often helped take down and roll up the window shades for safe-keeping downstairs. He was a great presence at the Garden Book Group and loved the John LoGerfo library. We are told by a reliable source that he may be the only HAH member to consult our Library volumes printed in Latin and Greek. And John was always an enthusiastic supporter of Pat in her work in the garden and for HAH.

Last year, John and Pat moved to New Hampshire to be nearer family -- and because they found a home with fantastic garden potential. They took along many plants. But they also handed out trees, shrubs and perennials to grateful gardeners and the Plant Fair digs! Their roses, camellias, azaleas, blueberry, lady's mantle, hellebores, Jack-in-the-Pulpits, St. John's Wort, sedums, and ferns are thriving throughout the Hamptons.

The Woods have tentative plans for a memorial service on the East End sometime in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pianofest, Inc., P. O. Box 639, Hudson, Ohio, 44236 or The Hampton Library, P. O. Box 3025, Bridgehampton, New York, 11932.

We remember John with appreciation and love,

Susan and Ron Brackett
HAH Amaryllis Planting Workshops 2017

We have 5 more children’s workshops scheduled for November. If you can assist at any of these HAH sponsored learning experiences for children in grades K-3, please call our education chair, Terry Coppola, at 631-668-3022 or e-mail montaukdaisy668@aol.com. The program at each library lasts approximately 45 minutes. These are fun for old and young alike! Please volunteer.

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The Peconic Estuary Program

Sarah Alford

With algae blooms and water quality a growing concern, the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) offers incentives to homeowners for simple garden projects that will help to capture nitrogen runoff and increase native species in the area. In an effort to improve the ecosystem around the Peconic estuary, homeowners who implement specific changes to benefit the watershed can receive a rebate of up to $500. Rebates cover the purchase of plants and materials for:

- **Native plants** to support pollinators and birds
- **Rain barrels** to collect water and reduce water runoff
- **Rain gardens** to absorb storm water and redirect it away from catch basins that otherwise would empty into the watershed.

The process to apply for the rebate is straightforward: submit a plan; receive an approval from the PEP; purchase the plants and materials; and submit a copy of the receipts to the PEP for reimbursement. The plan can be a hand-drawn sketch and list of the native plants you intend to purchase for the project.

The PEP’s website offers a list of nearly 400 approved native species, including shrubs, grasses, ferns, trees, perennials and annuals. Note that some plants listed are not deer-resistant, but the dynamic list can be sorted to filter them out. The list also indicates when the native plants bloom, to enable plant selection that will provide an array of blooms and berries to nourish wildlife throughout the year.

Living in Bay Point, a neighborhood surrounded on three sides by Sag Harbor Cove, it’s evident to me how water runoff can impact the estuary. I added a raingarden to absorb storm water that otherwise would flow down the street to a catch basin, and directly into the bay. Instead, rain water from the street now flows to a garden in an existing lower elevation in my yard. By directing water to the raingarden, water runoff that may contain excess nitrogen-rich fertilizer from neighbors’ yards feeds the raingarden instead of polluting the bay and increasing algae growth. Additionally, I planted native blueberry bushes nearby, but above the raingarden, in case the street runoff contains undesirable contaminants. And for rain barrels, I purchased used wine barrels from Roanoke Vineyards which sells its excess barrels locally.

The PEP’s program offered a terrific way for me to introduce new native species to my burgeoning garden, when my budget was tight after purchasing a home. Among the standout flowers which I’ve found to be deer and rabbit resistant: *Lobelia cardinalis*, whose tall scarlet spikes attract hummingbirds and butterflies. *Aquilegia canadensis*, a columbine with charming double heart-shaped leaves and red bell-shaped flowers that scatter seeds to multiply profusely. *Cercis canadensis* (redbud) is a sweet early-blooming small tree. *Cleome hassleriana* (white cleome) whose white blooms resemble fireworks swaying in the breeze. *Echinops ritro* (globe thistle) are drought-tolerant with blue spheres that attract bees. *Mirabilis jalapa* (4 O’clocks), whose prolific white and showy hot pink trumpet flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

For specific details of the rebate program as well as a very helpful list of native plants, refer to [https://www.peconicestuary.org/what-you-can-do/create-a-peconic-friendly-yard/homeowner-rewards-program/](https://www.peconicestuary.org/what-you-can-do/create-a-peconic-friendly-yard/homeowner-rewards-program/)

The native plant list including 380 species: [https://www.peconicestuary.org/plant](https://www.peconicestuary.org/plant)
This year’s Karish Seminar on September 24 featured a series of experiences organized around a lecture given by Ken Druse -- master gardener, photographer and writer. His topic, *Shade Gardening in a Time of Climate Change*, provided the organizing principle for tours and a plant sale. We closed the day with a reception and book signing.

Shade helps us to manage the intensity of the sun and heat and gives us a different palette of plants to use in the garden. Our three tour gardens were located in Bridgehampton and featured shade areas. Dianne Blell’s garden has developed on an acre site since 1992 and now has mature trees and shrubs. A line of stately yews, cloud pruned shrubs, inventive fencing and trellis structures, and the use of shade-loving perennials in dusky hues made for a great deal to see. Jenny and Trey Laird have a garden designed by Deborah Nevins that features a series of garden rooms in a long narrow space. High hedges and straight lines organize the spaces that take you through a series of surprises – water features, a magnificent old Butternut tree, and a path with a shade border on one side and a march of boxwoods on the other are among the delights in this largely green and white garden that shows the strength of simplicity. Marlene Marko and Loren Skeist have the makings of a personal arboretum on their seven-acre site, featuring many rare trees and shrubs, sculpture and scholar rocks, and water features teeming with koi. Woodland plantings are used on many pathways and include masses of Actaea, Hosta, Heuchera, Brunnera and ferns. All three gardens fit the vision of being “lush oases.”

Ken provided a list of plants used in his lecture (we have a copy in the HAH library) and Erika Shank worked with Glover Perennials to source a selection of shade plants featured on Ken’s list that we sold after the lecture. This special event reflected Paul Karish’s wish that we use his legacy to support the ongoing education of our community of gardeners.

HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM CONTINUES ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2017 10am - noon

THE BEST PLANTS TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES, HUMMINGBIRDS, AND OTHER POLLINATORS TO YOUR GARDEN, INCLUDING DEER-RESISTANT, PARTIAL SHADE-TOLERANT, AND NATIVE PLANTS - Did you wish that you had more butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators in your garden this year? Come to the next Roundtable.

PLANTS THAT PUT ON A GREAT DISPLAY IN LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER - Who doesn’t wish in November and December that their garden had more of a show? Come to the next Roundtable to learn about plants that you can enjoy during these months, including deer-resistant and native varieties.

HAH SEED EXCHANGE PROGRAM
As this is the time of year when, if not deadheaded, the flowers on your herbs, perennials, and vegetables will go to seed, we encourage you to collect, save, and label them to donate to HAH. We will begin to sell and/or exchange donated seeds in January.

Many thanks, Pamela Harwood
It has been the gardening and lawn topic of the summer, many calling it this year’s cyclical epidemic. Mary Meyer of Eastland Nursery told me that this summer complaints about vole damage were 10 to 1 over deer damage. And little did I know when I chose this topic a month ago that it would also be one of the lead stories in the current issue of Fine Gardening magazine. To quote the Editor’s Letter, “Anyone who has ever tugged on a healthy plant only to find the roots sheared off just below the soil, is willing to take a few steps to strike back....” Here is information from research, along with tips from our roundtable attendees, all of whom I thank for attending and sharing their knowledge and experience. Due to space constraints in the newsletter, this is a very condensed version of the article. Go to our website, www.hahgarden.org, to see the complete article.

Voles are herbivore rodents that eat plant matter like grass and plant roots, seeds, and bulbs; in winter they may gnaw the bark off trees and shrubs. Voles look like furry mice with shorter tails.

- Look for surface runways about 2” wide and golf ball-sized holes near where damage is occurring, but no mounds of earth.
- Voles are active 24/7, 365 days a year. If the ground freezes, they will go deeper, hopefully beyond reach of many of your plants. If we have a warm winter, and the ground does not stay frozen for any significant period of time, they will stay active making surface tunnels on your lawn, and feeding on grass and plant roots.
- Voles are prolific reproducers that can quickly colonize an area. To make up for a short life span of 16 months or less, voles can go from impregnation to baby delivery in 21 days. Because voles reproduce quickly, have an abundant food supply in lawns and gardens, and are usually out of sight, they can do a lot of damage before the results are visible. The vole population just below your lawn and garden beds may be in the hundreds.

VOLE CONTROL:
Encourage natural vole predators.
Maintain a poison-free garden so you will not kill your best allies in this venture. Cats: adopt a cat to patrol your property; most hunt for and kill rodents; Hawks, owls and snakes are vole predators. Ordinary garter or garden snakes are native to N. America.
Snap traps manufactured mainly for mice also are effective at catching voles. Peanut butter and apple slices are good bait.
Add sharp materials into your soil. Voles, like humans, do not like the feel of anything sharp. These can include shards of glass, rock, lava rock, or shells. To discourage voles from tunneling into beds, dig a moat around your garden beds, trees, shrubs, and plants, and fill it with sharp materials. Commercial products such as Permatil (available at Marder’s) and Soil Perfector are ideal for this purpose, but expensive. About 10 percent sharp materials to 90 percent soil are enough to make uncomfortable tunneling for a vole.
Metal screens in bulb beds, can be laid over the base of the beds to prevent voles and other rodents from burrowing down.
Non-toxic scent and taste-based repellents - the most widely used is castor oil - whether it’s in a commercial product such as Mole-Med or pelletized Volescram or mixed as a homemade treatment. All must also be reapplied periodically and after heavy rains.
Create a barrier around trees and shrubs. Hardware cloth is stiff and can be wrapped around the base of the trunks of young trees and shrubs to prevent bark-gnawing by voles. You can also use ¼ wire screen mesh. Be sure to bury the screen 4 to 5 inches deep and go up the trunks at least 2 feet or the height of a typical snow fall.
Cultural and habitat modification: Eliminate hiding places like weeds, high ground covers, plant and leaf litter in and around garden beds and lawns. Mow lawns regularly. Mulch should be cleared 3 feet or more from the bases of trees. Remove fallen fruit, pine needles, acorns, and mulch.
REPELLENTS THAT HAVE NO PROVEN RESULT: Sonic chasers, gas cartridges flooding the burrows with water, chewing gum, kitty litter, frightening agents.

ADDITIONAL TIPS FROM OUR ROUNDTABLE ATTENDEES
- Our local dumps may be a free source of glass shards. Masonry are a good source of rock shards. Chicken grit is a source as an organic, sharp material. (Contact Eastport Feeds, 140 East Moriches Blvd., Eastport, NY or phone 631-325-0077.) Thorns of roses, barberry, and other thorny shrubs make another good, sharp material to use; To reduce habitat of pine voles, do not use pine needles as a mulch; Make your own custom screen box; Even though this month’s issue of Fine Gardening magazine lists ornamental onions, daffodils, and grape hyacinths as vole-deterring plants and fritillaria and hellebores as vole-proof plants, our attendees did not find these suggestions to be reliable. For new plantings, mix sharp materials right into the soil in which you plant or place a metal or hardware cloth cylinder around the new plant, buried 6” deep.

Sources for this article were greenview.com, vegetableGardener.com, veggielover.com, imustgarden.com, nhhostas.com, thespruce.com, gardenweb.com, WikiHow.com, Fine Gardening magazine. Read member Lois Sheinfeld’s gardening blog at www.floragloria.com
Musings and Ramblings

George Biercuk

The guardian of Summer’s heat refused to relinquish her grip as we segued into Autumn even though Old Man Winter forcefully staged a surprise attack in early September, thankfully unsuccessfully. The garden became somewhat confused. Though the garden should have been initiating winterizing, tropica ls continued in their exuberance. Worrisome, though, was the lack of rain needed by plants to initiate winterization in our climatic zone as decreasing daylight hours trigger the process.

Having experienced high desert aridity in Albuquerque, New Mexico in early October, I had mixed feelings about returning to our normal high humidity levels even though they are beneficial to our flora, but which I find to be uncomfortable. I was surprised at the adaptability of some plants to humidity ranges of mid-teens to upper twenties in the desert and our much higher levels as well as drastically different levels and timing of rainfall. Also considering differences in sunlight intensity and summer heat there were a few plants being used successfully in both locales. Who would have thought that Perse caria (Russian sage) would grow to such humongous proportions in desert heat. Likewise photinia, vitex, buddlea and crabapples. Similar, yet with some differences. Vitex, which for us ceases blooming after early September, was far surpassing buddlea which has been known to hold on to some leaves through a mild winter in our area. And how could I forget roses! Low humidity = no black spot = no spraying. What an unexpected sight in the high desert.

What an unexpected surprise upon our homecoming in the view off the den. Camellia ‘Jean May”, as we arrived home on the late morn of October 14, was in the most glorious profusion of bloom. In the past, we marveled when she imitated bloom in very late October. This year early October? What toll is this taking on her? Perhaps a sign was in the flower’s color. Instead of her rich light pink coloration the flowers were a wishy-washy off white with a hint of a pink overlay. I’m guessing that much cooler temperatures are needed to produce her usual cheery pink coloration. Having bloomed profusely last year from late October until sometime in the following March, we worried about her. Flower production being such an energy consumption hog, what does this signal about her long term survival? I don’t know if this is a normal flowering span in her ancestral range. As a zone straddler for us today, lagerstroemia as a species should do OK in the near future as heat zones continue to move toward the poles. Plants we saw in Albuquerque, though growing, showed little sign of having flowered. Too hot? Too little water/humidity? Our future as climate change continues to advance? Remember that this spit of outwash on which we are residing has too many zeros to the right of the decimal point to register on Gaia’s geologic scale. Evolution and adaptation will nonetheless proceed undeterred.

There were disappointments as we walked the garden. Fuchsia “Gardenmeister”, almost universally, failed to flower with their usual exuberance. Only one plant upheld the “family honor”. Cannas proved to be perplexing. The c. “Tropicana” that successfully overwintered in the ground last winter continued to bulk up nicely through the season while the new ones planted this year only sported the shoots they had when purchased in the spring. The c. “Australia” though bulked up beautifully. Helleborus foetidus, worrisomely, was beginning to sprout flower stalks, way too early. One of the clerodendrum trichotomum that appeared to have died a few years ago was awaiting cut-down when it commenced sporadic sprouting so was left to see what developed. It flushed out and the ensuing crown continued to provide shade to its space. That will be no more. It snapped mid-way from strong winds. Seedlings planted for this eventuality have a long way to go before they provide the same quality and quantity of shade. Rabdosia longituba, a Japanese autumn flowering woodland salvia with light sky blue somewhat ephemeral flowers, has retreated in our garden from its original territory although there has been some introduction in new territory. It would be a shame to lose this autumnal performer if climatic changes are the cause.

The changing climate is also affecting our autumnal colorfest. Mid October and this year nary a hint of shifting from green to the myriad colors we associate with autumn as deciduous trees and shrubs finalize their winterization. Cold (especially at night) is the obvious main missing ingredient after sufficient hydration leading up to the initiation of the change. Warm days + cool/cold nights + sufficient hydration = spectacular fall color (usually). The entire northeast was experiencing delayed coloration. Time will tell whether a somewhat sudden drab leaf drop was all there was.

The garden as a whole was not showing much inclination toward winterization. Eventually, whether/weather ready or not, the piper will have to be paid. With any luck the price won’t be onerous.

Garden with gusto.
HAH 2017-2018 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM - BH Community House

All lectures are free to members, $10 for not-yet-members. Memberships start at $45. Please join us!

November 12 – Ellen Ecker Ogden – The Complete Kitchen Garden
December 10 – Jan Johnsen – Serenity by Design
January 14 – Joseph Tychonievich – Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style
February 11 – Rick Bogusch – Herb Blends & Spice Mixes: How to Make Them & How to Use Them
March 11 – Bill Noble – Imaginary Gardens with Real Toads in Them
April 8 – Thomas Mickey – America’s Romance with the English Garden
May 6 – Diane Barthel-Bouchier – Botanical Art: A Continuing Tradition
June 10 – Ken Greene – The Wonder of Seeds

There are no lectures in July & August

September 9 – Lynden Miller – The Designer’s Eye
October 14 – Anne Haines - Fragrant Plants
November 11 – Jane Garmey – A Sense of Place – An inside Look at a Wide Variety of Private Gardens in Connecticut & the Hudson Valley
December 9 – Donald W. Hyatt – Chasing the Bloom in the Southern Appalachians

LOCAL GARDEN EVENTS November 2017

BRIDGE GARDENS, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, 631.283.3195 ext 19 or peconiclandtrust.org.
Open Saturdays, 10-5 and Sundays noon-5. Tuesdays, 2:30 - 5 - Lawn Care Expert Advice, Paul Wagner of Greener Pastures Organics is available to answer your questions.
Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:00 -11:30 am, Organic Rose Care, Step #3, reservations requested, $5 per person, free to members
PECONIC LAND TRUST has many garden related events around the East End, see their calendar at peconiclandtrust.org
MARDERS, 120 Snake Hollow Rd., Bridgehampton, www.marders.com, 631-537-3700 – FREE Sunday Garden lectures at 10:00 am
THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY, Wednesday, November 8 - Talk on “The Memory of Gardens”, NYC. go to their website for more info www.gardenconservancy.org

November 2017 Happenings

www.hahgarden.org
(631) 537-2223
Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202
P.O. Box 202
Bridgehampton Community House
The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

THE HORTICULTURAL ALLIANCE