



# HAH Happenings

## February 2024



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons  
P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

631.537.2223 [hahgarden.org](http://hahgarden.org)  
at the Bridgehampton Community House



**On Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 2:00 pm**

Please join us  
at the Bridgehampton Community House, Main  
Hall, for a talk by **Dan Benarcik** on  
**“Design Principles of the Pros that can be Applied  
to the Home Landscape”**

### **A Design and Motivational Talk**

This talk will give the beginner and advanced gardeners tips from the pros to help freshen up their own gardens at home. It will provide inspiration and help with "creative block" when contemplating your own or your clients' beds, pots and combinations next season.

A graduate of the University of Delaware in Plant Science, Dan spent five years at Mt. Cuba Center, over three of those as Woodspath Gardener. He also spent four years as sales representative at Imperial Nurseries, a large re-wholesale nursery. Dan has been at Chanticleer for over 30 years as one of the primary horticultural specialists there, with an emphasis on seasonal courtyard and container displays.

Over the years Dan has written for *MSL*, *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Gate*, *Midwest Living*, and *PHS Grow* magazine. He is a contributing author to the Chanticleer book, *The Art of Gardening*. He has also done on-air sales with Cottage Farms on QVC for five seasons.

Dan and his wife garden a nearly one acre retreat in northern New Castle County, DE, close to where he grew up. Their home garden has been recently featured in the McCulloghs' book *"American Roots"* as well as Kelly Norris' book *"The New Naturalism"*. Dan also designs, builds and conducts chair building workshops for garden furniture. [pennsylvania-horticultural-socie.shorthandstories.com/living-color/index.html](http://pennsylvania-horticultural-socie.shorthandstories.com/living-color/index.html)

## **HAH February Events**

**Saturday, February 3, 10 am, HAH Library - Roundtable, see p. 3**  
**Sunday, February 11, 2 pm, Lecture, see above**  
**Saturday, February 17, 11 am, ZOOM - Book Group - see p. 4**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*“The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour.” – Vita Sackville-West*

Dear fellow members,

There is snow on the ground as I type these words—and it is the coldest it's been so far this winter—but the days have begun to lengthen with the promise of spring on the horizon. I've spotted a few snowdrops in bloom in my garden and I'll be on the lookout for signs of hellebores, crocus, winter aconite, and other early bloomers in the next few weeks. In the meantime, I'll begin bringing some of the bulbs that have been chilling in the garage into the house for an early dose of spring color. Some of you might begin sowing seeds this month. While they are germinating, I hope you'll find time to enjoy some of our great February programs. I look forward to seeing you there!

All my best,  
Erik

## HAH 2024

**OFFICERS:** (an officer serves for a 1 year term)

President	Erik Brockmeyer
First Vice President	Greg Wiseman
Second Vice President	Janet Ollinger
Recording Secretary	Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Marie DiMonte
Treasurer	Patricia Matheson

**DIRECTORS:** (a director serves for a 3 year term)

Valerie Hanley	'24
Erika Shank	'24
Pamela Harwood	'25
Michael Longacre	'25
Kathie McGinty	'26
Alex Sipkes	'26

**The Library Chair person** (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 - Pamela Harwood, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank







# HAH Roundtable Program

In Person at the HAH Library

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10:00am – Noon

## Garden Plans for the New Season

As I'm writing, it is 23F degrees outside, so I don't think I'm alone in saying I won't be doing a lot of outdoor garden work today or for most of January and February! But that is why February is the perfect month to dream about and create our wish lists for the additions, subtractions, re-arrangements, and other changes we're longing to make to our gardens. Remember all those promises and mental notes we made for ourselves last season?

So I'm thrilled to announce that one of our most experienced and accomplished members, and former HAH President, **Elaine Peterson**, will be the principal presenter at our February 3<sup>rd</sup> Roundtable. Many of us have had the absolute pleasure of visiting Elaine's incredible garden on Lake Montauk, especially in late winter and early spring to see her collection of early bulbs, and the wonderful, meandering paths that take the visitor through all manner of beds, borders, garden ornaments, focal points, and vegetable plots.

During a recent discussion, when I mentioned this month's topic, Elaine shared that, coincidentally, she had just come across an article she had written a while ago for a younger family member about what to consider in creating a garden. But perhaps there are no coincidences, because I took it as a sign that Elaine was meant to share her vision and expertise with our group at our upcoming Roundtable.

### Here are some topics we'll discuss:

- Wish list for new plant varieties
- Identifying and removing plants that just don't thrive or are too labor-intensive
- Rearranging plants to give them a fresh start
- Garden thugs
- Planning a new garden design
- Creating new borders and garden areas
- Adding or changing irrigation
- Creating new paths and other hardscaping
- Adding focal points and new garden features
- Pruning to rejuvenate and/or contain our shrubs and trees
- Protecting plants from wildlife
- Incorporating native plants



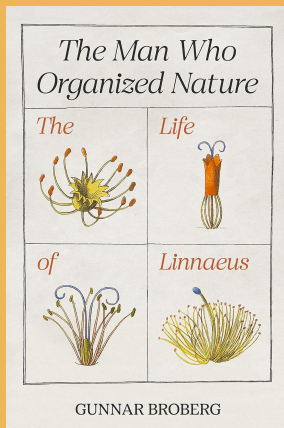
By the end of the program, if there are attendees who have unanswered gardening questions about these or any other topics, please feel free to stay a while longer and talk to one of our knowledgeable members. See you on February 3<sup>rd</sup>! -- **Moderated and with photos by Pamela Harwood**



**HAH WINTER BOOK GROUP**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 11am-noon**  
**Via ZOOM**

Look for the link in an email on Friday February 16th

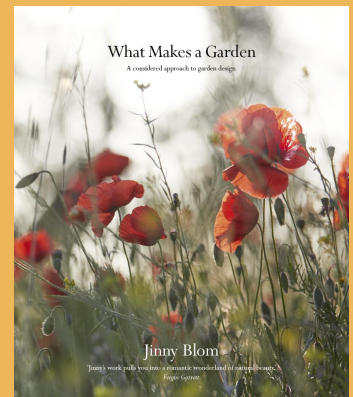
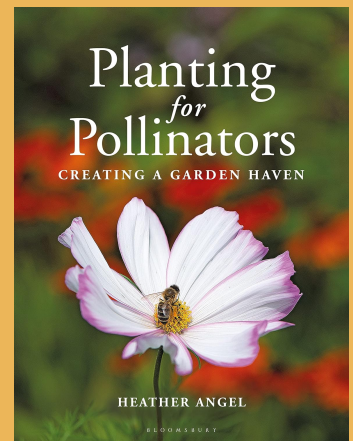
Hello my garden and book friends! With the weather finally acting like it is winter I am pleased to present a reason to stay inside with a cup of tea. **FEBRUARY WINTER BOOK GROUP!** We have another trio of wonderful presenters.



***\*Planting for Pollinators: Creating a Garden Haven*** by Heather Angel, presented by Carleen Borsella

***\*What Makes a Garden: A considered approach to garden design*** by Jinny Blom, presented by Alejandro Saralegui

***\*The Man Who Organized Nature: The Life of Linnaeus*** by Gunnar Broberg, presented by Alicia Whitaker



**More Gardening related events in February**

***In Person:***

**Saturday, February 17 and Sunday, February 18, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Annual Camellia Festival.** Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors. For more info and to register: <https://plantingfields.org/happenings/camellia-festival-2024/>

**Monday, February 26, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Evolution of the American Landscape: Evergreen with Envy.** Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Highway, Great River, NY 11739. \$40 for livestream, \$100 in-person. For more info and to register: <https://bayardcuttingarboretum.com/symposium/>

**Thursday, February 29, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Madison Square Park 2024 Horticulture Symposium: From the Ground Up.** For more info: <https://madisonsquarepark.org/community/calendar/event/from-the-ground-up/>

***Online:***

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

**Thursday, February 8, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Art and Nature: New Lessons from Russell Page.** For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-talk-art-and-nature-new-lessons-from-russell-page>

**Thursday, February 22, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Resilience & Rewilding.** For more info and to register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/education-events/virtual-talk-resilience-rewilding>

**Mt. Cuba Center...**

**Wednesday, February 7, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Amsonia for Every Garden.** \$19. For more info and to register: <https://mtcubacenter.org/event/amsonia-for-every-garden-online/>

**Wednesday, February 21, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Misunderstood Native Plants.** \$19. For more info and to register: <https://mtcubacenter.org/event/misunderstood-native-plants-online/>

**Saturday, February 24, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Edible Landscaping Using Permaculture.** \$25. For more info and to register: <https://mtcubacenter.org/event/edible-landscaping-using-permaculture-online/>



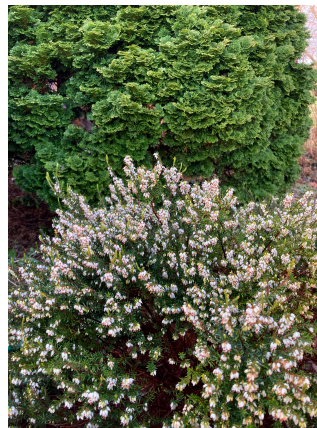
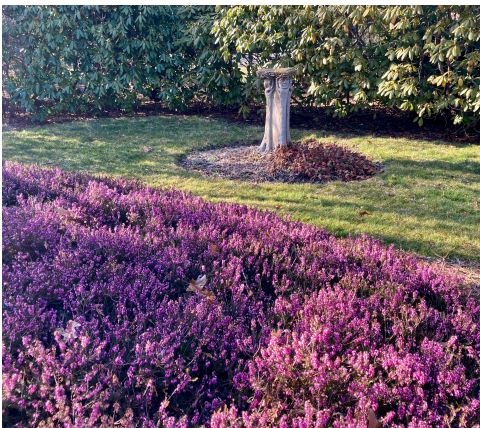
## Erica carnea, the winter heath

Elaine Peterson

When friends and family suggest a visit with them to Florida or farther south in winter, I shudder at the thought. It's not because I wouldn't enjoy a few days of warm weather with them, but I couldn't tear myself away from the glory of my winter garden which in many ways is the one I most anticipate enjoying. Along with myriad snowdrops and hellebores that have been added over 45 years, patches of winter heath are scattered around in many spots near the house so that I can enjoy their bloom from the windows. Their buds start forming in late summer and early fall, slowly developing as the earth turns its axis away from the sun and temperatures drop. By winter solstice, if not too cold, the buds slowly open and progress through several months of developing color and shape. The bloom is often suspended if the cold settles in for awhile, but then as it warms again, so grow the blooms. By the beginning of March everything is in full bloom and in its glory well into April, followed by a mass of evergreen structure that is pleasing all year round.

Heaths and their cousins, heathers, are tough plants requiring very little effort once planted. They like acid soils and are fond of peat where they were acclimated to grow in nature. Peat supply, however, has been decimated by the horticultural industry in the last 100 years, so best depend on adding plenty of compost you have made yourself which is a fine substitute. Neither plant species is fond of wind and can be badly burned by heavy winds, so find a sunny place where there are some trees and evergreen shrubs nearby to protect them or a warm wall to shelter against. Those evergreen backgrounds will also serve to set off their beauty all winter. They do not require fertilizer, though they appreciate the evergreen mulch supplied by their neighbors. Once planted they will spread gradually for many years. Unlike heathers, which require some trimming in March to ready them for summer bloom, heaths seem not to need the trimming of the old flowers and maintain themselves very neatly. Bees that emerge in a late winter/early spring warm spell will greatly appreciate the blooms for their first meal of the year. Deer seem uninterested in them as long as there are better temptations around. Voles may take up residence under them and eat some root but they were able to recover fully the one time I saw that happen.

Seen here below from the left are 'Rosalie' (at fullness in early March), 'Springwood White' (still tightly budded here in January) and 'Myreton Ruby' with late snowdrop 'Lady Elfinstone.' Top right is 'Early Sherwood's Red' (which starts blooming in November.) It isn't easy to find heaths for sale anymore on the east coast, but Ft. Pond Native Plants in Montauk has some on occasion in autumn. Tried and true longtime suppliers by mail order are 'Heaths and Heathers' on the other side of the country. [heathsandheathers.com](http://heathsandheathers.com) Hmmm, I think I just talked myself into placing an order for spring...more fun than a trip to Florida!







**HAH Workshop**  
**“The Care and Maintenance of Succulents”**  
**Introducing Catherine Warren,**  
**Broadview Gardens**  
**Saturday, March 9, 2024**  
**1:00pm – 3:00pm**



**Location: Broadview Gardens, 651 Sagg Main Street, Sagaponack, New York**

Catherine will lecture on the care and maintenance of succulents, offer her expertise on how to artfully arrange them in a container and guide us on a tour of Broadview Gardens. You will also be given an opportunity to purchase some superb specimens today.

Tour will be limited to 15 persons.

Cathy has been in the industry 30 years and Broadview Gardens was established 22 years ago. She has a lot of experience in the plant world and is known for the rare and unusual, not the everyday.

There will be no charge for this wonderful opportunity but pre-registration is required.

Registration Form:

Please sign me up for the March 9, 2024 Workshop “Care and Maintenance of Succulents” at Broadview Gardens **by March 2, 2024.**

Name(s)

---

Phone (cell preferred)

---

E-Mail

---

Questions: Call Marie DiMonte at 631-728-0292 or Email [osprey23@optonline.net](mailto:osprey23@optonline.net)

**Welcome back Chris Paparo, “The Fish Guy”  
“Birding on Long Island”  
HAH Workshop**

**Monday, March 11, 2024, 3:00pm – 5:00pm**

Workshop to be held in the HAH John LoGerfo Library  
in the Bridgehampton Community House.

Entrance on the School Street side of building just off parking lot.

Born and raised on Long Island (New York), Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the Island for over 30 years. As the owner of Fish Guy Photos, he is a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer who enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the Island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing and the outdoors led him to obtain a BS in Marine Science from LIU/ Southampton and he currently manages the new Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University.

Chris will be encouraging us to look at the sea’s feathered friends in this multi-media presentation. Find out what Long Island birds can be observed close to the shore and learn details about wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors, as well as where one can go to observe them.

An award winning member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the New York State Outdoor Writers association, Paparo is a freelance writer for several fishing and wildlife related publications. Although his work tends to focus on marine life, everything in the natural world is fair game. Follow Paparos’ adventures on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vimeo and YouTube at @fishguyphotos or by visiting his website at [www.fishguyphotos.com](http://www.fishguyphotos.com)

Cost: \$5 HAH Members \$10 Non-Members Payment to be made by 3/7/24

---

Please sign me up for the “Birding on Long Island” Workshop on Monday, March 11, 2024, 3pm, in the HAH John LoGerfo Library.

Phone (cell preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase tickets \$5 Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: Call Marie DiMonte at 631-728-0292 or Email [osprey23@optonline.net](mailto:osprey23@optonline.net)

Please make checks payable to HAH and mail to HAH, PO Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932 no later than March 7, 2024, Attention: Workshops

**HAH Sunday Lecture Program 2024 - 2 pm**  
**At the Bridgehampton Community House, Main Hall**  
**2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY**

**February 11 – Dan Benarcik – *Design Principles of the Pros that can be Applied to the Home Landscape***

**March 10 – Dan Jaffe Wilder – *Kill Your Lawn***

**April 14 – Susan Barton – *Sustainable Landscaping***

**May 5 – Abra Lee – *Conquer the Soil***

**June 9 – Jenny Bakshi – *Botanical Latin***

*no lectures in July and August*

**September 8 – Darrel Morrison – *Beauty of the Wild***

**October 13 – Jeff Epping – *Gravel Gardens – Gardens that Rock***

**November 10 – Michael Hagen – *Native Plants for the Rock Garden***

**December 8 – April Gonzales – *The American Chestnut***

**Last Quarter Moon** 🌘 **Feb 2 evening**    **New Moon** 🌑 **Feb 9 evening**

**First quarter Moon** 🌒 **Feb 16 morning**    **Full Moon** 🌕 **Feb 24 morning**



**HAH Happenings**  
**February 2024**  
100% Recycled 

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

