



River Farm main house and daffodil display



Field trip tour of Franciscan Monastery Garden in Washington, D.C.

A H S
EVENT

Washington Blooms!

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S first annual Washington Blooms! spring celebration took place March 29 to April 5 and provided gardening enthusiasts of all ages a whirlwind week of fun and educational events both at AHS headquarters at River Farm and on guided field trips in and around the nation's capital. While the world-famous cherry blossoms were in full glory around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., the grounds of River Farm were bursting with spring bulbs in bloom.

The celebration started off with the launching of the important Growing Connections program (see the story on page 10) and presentation of the newly revised USDA Plant Hardiness map (see page 30).

During the week, AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc Cathey and AHS Horticulturist Peggy Bowers gave informative lectures on various aspects of gardening. Experts from around the country also participated in a variety of workshops. Renowned landscape architect James van Sweden spoke about "New American Garden Design." R. Blake Whisenant, Florida inventor of the EarthBox™ and this year's co-winner of AHS's G. B. Gunlogson Award, was on hand at River Farm to demonstrate container gardening techniques.

There was plenty to see and do at River Farm. A bulb maze and daily craft activities delighted the younger set. Tours of the gardens at River Farm highlighted key plants in our collection, including a venerable osage orange tree and a franklinia grove. An educational "Green Garage" exhibit emphasized environmentally responsible gardening products and practices. And botanical paintings and sculptures were on show in River Farm's main house.

So if you didn't get a chance to come to this year's Washington Blooms! festival, plan on coming next spring!



Early tulips at River Farm



Dr. H. Marc Cathey lecturing



Daily children's activities



Container workshop with R. Blake Whisenant



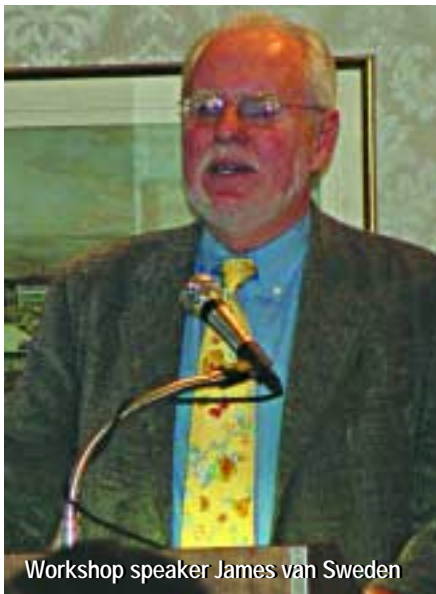
AHS Horticulturist Peggy Bowers lecturing

2003

Photographs by AHS staff,
K.K. Ottesen, and Andrea Ottesen



Blooming bulbs for sale at River Farm



Workshop speaker James van Sweden



AHS "Green Garage" exhibit



The bulb maze and gardens at River Farm

THANK YOU to the following Washington Blooms! sponsors

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