

The American GARDENER

EDITOR

David J. Ellis

MANAGING EDITOR AND ART DIRECTOR

Mary Yee

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Viveka Neveln

EDITORIAL INTERN

William Clattenburg

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Rita Pelczar

Joanne Wolfe

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Carole Ottesen

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

CHAIR John Alex Floyd Jr.
Birmingham, Alabama

Allan M. Armitage
Athens, Georgia

Nina L. Bassuk
Ithaca, New York

Richard E. Bir
Brevard, North Carolina

John E. Bryan
San Francisco, California

John L. Creech
Columbus, North Carolina

Keith Crotz
Chillicothe, Illinois

Panayoti Kelaidis
Denver, Colorado

Richard W. Lighty
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Elvin McDonald
West Des Moines, Iowa

Felder Rushing
Jackson, Mississippi

ADVERTISING AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS
The American Gardener
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308
(703) 768-5700
E-MAIL: emonheim@ahs.org

The American Gardener (ISSN 1087-9978) is published bimonthly (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December) by the American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308-1300, (703) 768-5700. Membership in the Society includes a subscription to *The American Gardener*. Annual dues are \$35; two years, \$60. International dues are \$50. \$10 of annual dues goes toward magazine subscription. Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, Virginia, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to *The American Gardener*, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308-1300.

Botanical nomenclature is based on *The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, on *A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada and Greenland* and on the *Royal Horticultural Society Index of Garden Plants*. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Society. Manuscripts, artwork, and photographs sent for possible publication will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We cannot guarantee the safe return of unsolicited material. Back issues are available at \$8 per copy.

Copyright ©2005 by the American Horticultural Society.

Printed in the U.S.A. on recycled paper.

NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

AS WE WIND down this year and look to the next, I took a little time to reflect on the many challenges faced, tasks well met, and plans for the future.

It has been a tough year overall. Nationally, we faced tragedy from Hurricane Katrina, and each of us in our own way reached out to help. Globally, we continued to see suffering from the ravages of both war and natural disasters, and, again, we sought individual ways to make a difference. Personally, I experienced great sadness this year with the loss of my father. It was sometimes difficult to find a silver lining among the dark clouds.

And then I reflect on what we are doing at the American Horticultural Society. When Dr. Marc Cathey retired this past summer, he left the AHS with a significant legacy relating to the power of plants in our lives. He frequently reminded us, "Green is the color of hope." I often come back to this very simple and inspirational thought. And I am encouraged that the work we do at the AHS to educate and inspire people of all ages to garden, to appreciate plants, to grow food, to value big trees, to cherish natural environments, and add beauty in their communities, is critically important, especially in tough times.

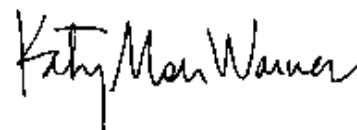
And so, at the AHS, we continue to strengthen our educational programs nationally, expand our partnerships with those who help gardeners be successful, and inspire our AHS members to treasure all that is green. In addition, we continue to ask AHS members to support gardening programs for youth and help us preserve the national treasure that is George Washington's River Farm.

Our many successes this year are encouraging harbingers for the future. Through the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, the River Farm Intern Program, and *The Growing Connection* we have established strong programs to support the connections between young people and plants. The AHS Garden Schools, Reciprocal Admissions Program to public gardens, and the AHS Awards Program shine a spotlight on horticultural excellence and offer every one of us an opportunity to participate in great gardening and expand our knowledge.

And the Eastern Performance Trials, held for the first time this year, provided a chance for AHS to work closely with the American green industry. The displays of new introductions at River Farm and five other Mid-Atlantic sites showcased the companies that bring us exciting new plants each year so that we will continue to find pleasure and solace in gardening. (See page 14 for more about EPT.)

Over this past year, I have become acutely aware of the importance in my life of flowers and house plants, trees, and beautiful gardens. So with renewed energy I ask each of you to join me in supporting the power of plants and gardens to make the world a better place. Together, through the AHS, we can truly show that green is the color of hope!

My very best wishes to all for a joyful holiday season!



—Katy Moss Warner, *AHS President*

