

The American GARDENER

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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

BY THE TIME you sit down to read this issue of *The American Gardener*, I trust that we will all be enjoying more moderate temperatures. It has been unusually hot and humid here in the mid-Atlantic this summer, as it has been in many other parts of the country. All of us—our horticulture staff, in particular—are ready for a break.

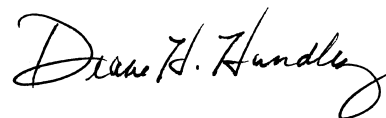
In this issue, you will find something for every gardener. Feature articles include a profile of the fall-blooming bulbs in the genus *Colchicum*, an article about nurseries that specialize in heirloom plants, advice on creating espaliers with fruiting and ornamental trees, and an in-depth discussion of saxifrages for the woodland or shade garden. There's also an article on the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. We have a vested interest in this new garden because Maureen Heffernan, an American Horticultural Society alumna, is the executive director. On the recommendation of AHS board member Margaret Kulp, I visited the garden last year, before it officially opened. This summer, while I was in Maine to attend a friend's wedding, I went back and the transformation was astounding.

My summer travels also took me to the Minneapolis–St. Paul area in late July for the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. The AHS's education department team, led by Stephanie Jutila, put together another truly extraordinary event this year, which is highlighted in an article on page 14. If you have not participated in this program before, I strongly encourage you to consider attending next year's symposium, which will be based in the Philadelphia area. All of us, whether we are directly involved with children and youth gardening programs or not, can benefit from exposure to the passion and creativity of the incredibly talented people who are leading the way in this important field.

In addition to the symposium, I am happy to report on a number of other successful projects and events that have transpired since I wrote my last column. As the summer started, the AHS was proud to partner with a number of local institutions to host the annual conference of the American Public Gardens Association in Washington, D.C. What a great occasion it was to welcome more than 600 of our professional colleagues to the nation's capital and introduce them to all the horticultural treasures the region has to offer. The summer also brought with it several new interns to River Farm and the requisite field trips, plant identification walks, and projects. And, most recently, our staff, along with members of our board have been hard at work finalizing the plans for some critical infrastructure upgrades at our River Farm headquarters. These upgrades are certainly not glamorous, but they represent a major step forward that will ultimately improve the visitor experience and set the stage for development of new facilities on this beautiful site.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the AHS. I know we ask a lot of our members and friends, but as a 501-C-3 non-profit, we must reach out to you for support so that we can continue to expand the outreach programs, publications, and member benefits that you, our members, want and deserve.

With all good wishes for a great fall,



—Deane H. Hundley, *President & CEO*



KASSIE BAKER