

Making America a Nation of Gardeners, a Land of Gardens

American Horticultural Society Annual Report

July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005

Dear AHS Member,

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is pleased to present its Annual Report for fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005). As you will see, fiscal year 2005 was another exciting year for the Society, from our headquarters at River Farm to the far reaches of the globe.

At home, River Farm continued to establish itself as a national center of American horticulture. Stretching down to the banks of one of the most iconic of American rivers, the Potomac, and close to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, River Farm is uniquely American. To ensure that generations of gardeners can enjoy this special place, the AHS has been working to preserve and protect its legacy. We have been tending the property's buildings and nurturing and expanding its gardens, while at the same time protecting the natural landscape.

Some of the Society's most important work takes place when we jump the boundaries of River Farm to reach out to members and friends across the nation. This year, the AHS's Garden School launched the third of its courses, "The Art & Science of Color in the Garden." Our magazine, *The American Gardener*, exceeded its already high standard with each new edition by offering a wealth of insightful, practical, and cutting-edge information.

In July, the AHS sponsored the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Ithaca, New York, bringing together educators, designers, and a host of individuals committed to using plants and gardens as tools to engage the minds and imaginations of young people. Our Great American Gardeners Conference in Orlando, Florida, recognized the achievements of those whose childhood dreams became significant adulthood realities.

American gardening, like the nation itself, is an amalgam of ideas and practices. Whether brought to this country as valued cultural possessions by new immigrants or collected by native travelers, the elements of American horticulture hint at cultures and conditions far beyond our own shores. This year the AHS's travel program explored the roots of American horticulture as they are found in New Zealand, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Japan, Italy, and the British Isles.

We hope you will continue to join us on whatever journey you choose—as a visitor to River Farm; as an armchair gardener flipping through the informative pages of *The American Gardener*; as a participant in one of our workshops or conferences; or as we explore the roots of American horticulture around the world. It's a grand journey and we are delighted to have you along!



Arabella S. Dane
Chair, AHS Board of Directors



Making America a Nation of Gardeners, a Land of Gardens

The American Horticultural Society has been working to promote horticulture and help gardeners across America fully experience the joys of gardens and gardening since 1922. AHS members come from all across the country—they are gardeners of all ages, from urban and rural communities, and of many different levels of experience and interest.

Sharing the Rewards of Gardens & Gardening

Although many AHS programs are open to all, membership in the Society provides a variety of benefits, including *The American Gardener* magazine, the AHS website, complimentary or reduced admission at many public gardens and flower shows, discounts on educational programs, and the annual member's Seed Exchange. Membership also supports the Society's work to share the importance of plants and gardens with more Americans.

With its in-depth articles and informative regular columns, *The American Gardener* magazine provides

The 2005 AHS Member Guide listed 188 public gardens and 27 flower and garden shows that offer free admission or discounts to Society members.

a nationwide forum for some of America's most respected garden communicators to share their gardening know-how. Feature articles this past year included insights into the genus *Mahonia* by Dan Hinkley, an inspirational profile by Linda Askey of a Virginia gardener who conquered his disabilities, and a fascinating look by Carole Ottesen at Chanticleer, one of America's garden treasures. Regular columns such as "Gardening by Design" with Tres Fromme and "Everyday Garden Science" with Dr. H. Marc Cathey offered readers engaging discussions of a topical nature.

In addition to the annual member's Seed Exchange listing, the *2005 AHS Member Guide* offered a directory to 188 public gardens and 27 flower & garden shows that offer admission or discounts to Society members. An article on saving seeds in the September/October issue of *The American Gardener* provided valuable tips to members considering participation in the annual Seed Exchange.

While the Society's award-winning magazine continues to enjoy a loyal readership, traffic on the AHS website is steadily increasing. The site averages 15,000 visitors each month and many members are going online for news of special events and program offerings.

The AHS website averaged 15,000 visitors each month.

Cultivating the Gardeners of Tomorrow

As a leader in promoting and supporting the inclusion of gardens in children's lives, a primary focus of the AHS is on programs for teachers, public garden educators, extension educators, and community program leaders. By providing the opportunity for the exchange of new ideas and serving as a catalyst for change in this important arena, the AHS plays a valuable national role in encouraging programs across the country that help shape positive environmental attitudes and values that last a lifetime.

The 12th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium was held at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Response to the symposium was strong; more than 200 children's gardening professionals and enthusiasts from 29 states plus the District of Columbia and two foreign countries attended. Keynote speakers Roger Hart, director of the Children's Environments Research Group at the City University of New York, and Frank S. Rossi, assistant professor of turfgrass science at Cornell, engaged the attendees with lively presentations on the future of gardening with children and youth.

More than 200 children's gardening professionals and enthusiasts from across the country attended the 12th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Ithaca, New York.

The *Growing Connection*[™] project was highlighted at several World Food Day activities in New York City and Washington, D.C. Among the World Food Day activities was the first live web class involving U.S. and international schools. *The Growing Connection* is a pilot program in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

that brings together middle-school students across America with peers around the world to explore the cultivation of food and the science of good nutrition.

Promoting the Art & Science of Horticulture

Ranging from national symposia to intimate garden tours, the AHS offers educational programs that provide a variety of opportunities for members to explore the world of gardening and to pursue their passion for plants. Participation in the Society's programs offers the chance to meet some of the nation's most respected gardening authorities, to visit some of the world's most renowned gardens, or to gain



Participants in the Great American Gardeners Conference in Florida tour the Hermann Engelmann Greenhouses, a producer of tropical plants.

unparalleled personal enrichment and inspiration.

A new AHS Garden School, "The Art & Science of Color in the Garden," was unveiled to a sold-out audience this spring at River Farm. Seventy-one attendees from 14 states gathered to learn invaluable tips and techniques for effectively using color in the garden. Presenters included AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc Cathey, AHS President Katy Moss Warner, Heather Will-Browne of Walt Disney World Resort, garden writer Pamela Harper, Longwood Gardens Designer Tres Fromme, educator and author Allan Armitage, and artist Sara Poly.

This year, a new educational offering, The Great American Gardeners Conference, was established to celebrate outstanding American horticulture and the people that make it happen. Debuting in Orlando, Florida, the conference showcased "Sub-Tropical Garden Treasures, Old and New" and included visits to Orlando's Harry P. Leu Gardens, Hermann Engelmann Greenhouses, the University of Florida's Research and Education Center in Apopka, and the Town of Celebration. Attendees were also treated to opening day of the 2005 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. The conference attracted 90 participants from 25 states.

The 2004 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Ithaca, New York, included sessions at Cornell.



The AHS internship program encourages young developing professionals to get hands-on experience at a national horticultural institution. In 2004–2005, nine talented interns worked with AHS staff in the areas of education, publication, and horticulture to gain practical experience in their respective fields of study. Two interns traveled to Cornell University to assist at the National Children & Youth Gardening Symposium, including publishing a daily newsletter for participants.

Offered in partnership with the Leonard Haertter Travel Company, the Society's Travel Study Program led participants to such outstanding garden destinations as New Zealand, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Japan, and Italy.

The Society's educational programs are supplemented by a number of well-respected, co-sponsored programs such as the Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, the Magic of Landscaping Symposium, and the Horticulture Gardening Institute's online courses, including "The Art & Science of the SMARTGARDEN™" and "Herbaceous Perennials: Identification, Culture, and Garden Attributes."

Offering Useful and Authoritative Information

Throughout its history, the AHS has been a leader in standardizing, communicating, and enriching the language of gardening. Over the years, nearly 100 separate AHS reference books have found a place on the bookshelves of American gardeners. In partnership with DK Publishing, the Society is recognized as one of the leading sources of authoritative references, covering all aspects of horticulture.

In 2004, a revised and updated edition of *The AHS A–Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* was released. AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc Cathey served as the American editor for the 2004 edition, which contains 15,000 entries—including some 500 plants new to this edition. The revised edition includes AHS Plant Heat Zones and USDA Plant Hardiness Zones for all plants. Selling over 200,000 copies, the previous edition of the encyclopedia has become a cornerstone of horticultural reference libraries across the nation.

Based on the AHS Plant Heat Zone Map, an interactive heat-zone finder has been added to the Society's website. Introduced in 1997, the heat zone

concept continues to reshape the way that American gardeners select region-specific plants.

In addition to the regular "Pronunciation and Planting Zones" guides in each issue of *The American Gardener*, the annual index published in November/December makes the Society's flagship publication a formidable reference tool unto itself. Since its beginning as *The National Horticultural Magazine* in 1922, well over 600 issues have been printed.

Archives of the magazine maintained at the Society's River Farm headquarters tell an unparalleled, and fascinating story of horticulture in America.

Celebrating Horticultural Achievements

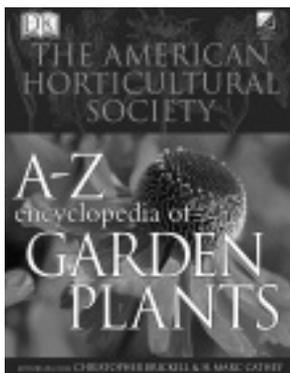
Through its prestigious awards program, the AHS celebrates outstanding achievements, encourages excellence, and inspires innovation in the art and science of horticulture.

In 2005, 12 Great American Gardeners Awards were presented, honoring contributions in a variety of disciplines including plant breeding, teaching,



commercial horticulture, horticultural communication, and landscape design. Among the awards is the prestigious AHS Liberty Hyde Bailey award, honoring an individual who has made significant contributions in three key areas of horticulture. Edward R. Hasselkus, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, noted for his significant contributions to American horticulture through research on woody ornamental plants, was this year's recipient of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. The late Donald R. Egolf was honored with the Luther Burbank Award for his work in plant breeding. Egolf's research at the United States National Arboretum resulted in the introduction of 57 cultivars, including dozens of crape myrtle selections which are now commonplace in American landscapes. Steve Bender, senior writer for *Southern Living* magazine and former AHS intern,

Steve Bender, recipient of the AHS Horticultural Communication Award, with AHS President Katy Moss Warner, left, and AHS Board Chair Arabella Dane, right.



received the Horticultural Communication Award.

Five gardening books published in 2004 received the American Horticultural Society's 2005 Book Award. Books are judged for overall quality as well as the contribution they make to American horticulture. The books recognized in this year's program are: *American Household Botany: A History of Useful Plants 1620–1900*

The AHS Environmental Award was presented at 33 flower and garden shows across the country.

by Judith Sumner; *The Com-pleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds* by Amy Goldman; *Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants* by Greg Speichert and Sue Speichert; *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*

by Nora Harlow; and *Understanding Orchids: An Un-complicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants* by William Culina.

Across the nation, the AHS Environmental Award was presented at 33 flower and garden shows in 2005. The Award recognizes green-industry leaders who demonstrate sensitivity to environmentally responsible gardening through flower show exhibits.

Creating a Showcase for American Horticulture

River Farm, national headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, is a historic 25-acre site on the banks of the Potomac River just a short drive from the nation's capital. Once part of George Washington's original five farms, River Farm has been the home of the AHS since 1973 when the Society acquired the property through the generosity of the Enid A. Haupt Charitable Trust. The site features an early 20th-century estate house and an artful blend of naturalistic and formal garden areas. Keeping George Washington's legacy alive, the Society's River Farm headquarters serves as a national platform from which to promote horticultural innovation, practical experimentation, and conservation.

In December, 2004, River Farm was named an American Horticultural Landmark site by the American Society for Horticultural Science. This prestigious honor recognizes River Farm's distinguished history and its leadership role for American gardeners. Previ-



ous gardens receiving this designation include Monticello, the Arnold Arboretum, and the United States Botanic Garden.

Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of the Society's volunteers, Corporate Partners, and many other friends, River Farm continues to evolve toward the dream of becoming a national center for horticulture in America. Now in its second phase, the André Blumel Meadow continues its transformation with the addition of more than 36,000 plugs of wildflowers and grasses. *The Growing Connection* Demonstration Garden benefited from the addition of new deer fencing for its second season and produced bountiful harvests of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The Alphabet Garden—part of River Farm Children's Garden—received a facelift thanks to the hard work of volunteer Brittany Amerau, who undertook the project for her Girl Scout Gold Award. A National Garden Clubs Historic Garden grant provided funds to plant nine replacements for trees lost during Hurricane Isabel in 2003.

The Society's historic White House gates took center stage at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show following their complete restoration and conservation. Having stood at the northeast entrance to the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue for nearly 120 years, the gates served as the ceremonial entrance for 28 presidents, from James Monroe to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The gates will ultimately become the focal point of a new showcase garden at River Farm, once again holding a distinguished place in the American landscape.

AHS staff members Trish Gibson, left, and Tom Underwood, right, with AHS Board Chair Arabella Dane in front of the restored White House gates at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show.

AHS President Emeritus H. Marc Cathey accepts the American Horticultural Landmark Award recognizing River Farm.

American Horticultural Society Financial Summary

With assets of over \$4 million and debt-free ownership of its headquarters property, George Washington's River Farm, The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is in a strong financial position to fulfill its mission. A growing membership and generous donors make it possible for continued enhancement of programs, services, and outreach efforts.

Statement of Financial Position Year ended June 30, 2005

ASSETS	
CASH ACCOUNTS	\$67,366
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE, NET	87,261
OTHER ASSETS	69,736
INVESTMENTS	2,854,688
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE, NON-CURRENT PORTION	68,166
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	877,899
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,025,116
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	\$175,723
DEFERRED REVENUE AND SUPPORT	752,688
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$928,411
NET ASSETS	
UNRESTRICTED	2,684,936
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	196,345
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	215,424
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$3,096,705
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$4,025,116

Statement of Financial Activities Year ended June 30, 2005

REVENUE SUMMARY	
MEMBERSHIP	\$976,177
EVENTS AND SERVICES	303,115
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GALA	902,718
RIVER FARM RENTALS	263,753
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	175,804
ROYALTY AND OTHER INCOME	35,246
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$2,656,813
EXPENSES SUMMARY	
MEMBERSHIP	\$473,817
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS	255,760
COMMUNICATIONS	515,744
DEVELOPMENT	365,986
GARDENS AND BUILDINGS	393,128
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	430,359
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,434,794
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$222,019

The above numbers have been excerpted from the American Horticultural Society's June 30, 2005 audited financial statements. A copy of the complete audit report is available upon request from the American Horticultural Society national office.

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