

The American GARDENER

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Joe Lamoglia

EDITOR

David J. Ellis

MANAGING EDITOR AND DESIGNER

Mary Yee

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rita Pelczar

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Sarah Schroeder

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

CHAIR John Alex Floyd Jr.
Birmingham, Alabama

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
Greenville, Delaware

Elvin McDonald
West Des Moines, Iowa

ADVERTISING Mitchell Petersen, Inc.
1775 Jamieson Street
Suite 210
Alexandria, VA 22314-5715
(703) 518-4700
FAX: (703) 518-8495

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 ©2001 by the American Horticultural Society.
Printed in the U.S.A.

An Inside Look

MY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE with plants and gardening have allowed me to share the joys of gardening with countless people I have met through lectures, radio shows, and in daily life. Sometimes the experience comes back in a most surprising way. Recently, a parishioner in my church asked me to call on Elsie Horn, a church member and avid gardener who had just been moved into a long-term care facility.

Almost 20 years before, Elsie had heard me speak to her garden club about how to care for poinsettias. She had memorized my suggestions for providing an appropriate light and water regimen for poinsettias and had put them into practice each succeeding year. When I visited her at the nursing home this past winter, she was no longer able to walk, yet a poinsettia flourished in her room. In thanks for all she had learned over the years, she gave me the plant and urged me to continue to inspire others with the message that it's possible to garden anywhere.

Inspiration and education are key elements of our mission here at the American Horticultural Society, and nowhere is this more evident than in our magazine. In this issue, Associate Editor Rita Pelczar describes how to design small-scale plantings that have a big impact in the garden.

Plant buffs will enjoy C. Colston Burrell's in-depth profile of meadow rues (*Thalictrum* spp.), an exciting, diverse, and underused genus of herbaceous perennials that includes selections suitable for a range of sites in both sun and shade. In addition, Sonja Nelson writes about rhododendrons that have proven successful in different regions of North America, as selected by members of the American Rhododendron Society.

American gardening reflects the backgrounds of the many immigrants who have arrived here in the last four centuries. Garden writer Susan Davis Price's recent book *Growing Home: Stories of Ethnic Gardening* is a superb chronicle of the diverse gardening traditions in the Minneapolis area, so we have published an excerpt from her book focusing on a remarkable group of Korean gardeners.

Vegetable gardeners will find that plant support can be both functional and attractive. Harold Taylor explains how to create natural-looking supports for beans, cucumbers, and other climbing plants that can be literal works of art.

And for those gardeners who love to share their cultivated habitats with wildlife, there's a special section on attracting hummingbirds to the garden. Hummingbird expert Arnette Heidcamp describes the migration patterns of the various hummingbirds that visit North America and lists the indigenous plants they rely on to survive.

The poinsettia Elsie gave me now sits in my office at River Farm, a daily reminder of the value of sharing information and knowledge. I hope this issue of *The American Gardener* will sow seeds of inspiration that will bear fruit in your own gardens and be passed on to others. Read, learn, share, and enjoy life.

Ever in green,



—H. Marc Cathey, *AHS President Emeritus*