

# The American GARDENER

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## An Inside Look

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY has admired the Master Gardeners International (MGI), in large part because both organizations are dedicated to spreading the word about successful and environmentally responsible gardening practices. In cooperation with MGI and with support from the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, an interactive map on the AHS Web site ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)) provides links to state Master Gardener Web sites.

In May, several members of the AHS staff—including President and CEO Linda Hallman, Director of Membership Joe Lamoglia, Director of Horticulture Janet Walker, and myself—participated in the MGI's three-day symposium at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Following presentations that Janet Walker and I gave on the AHS SMARTGARDEN™ program and Heat Zone gardening, respectively, one participant thanked us for turning what could have been rather technical topics into clear and useful information. She said she's convinced that understanding the ramifications of global warming is one of the biggest challenges for 21st-century gardeners.

Inspiration and education are the key elements of AHS's mission, and this issue of the magazine contains equal parts of both elements. You'll learn about three exciting but very different plant groups: hostas, native mallows, and twin-spurs (*Diascia* spp.). The last is a genus of tender perennials native to South Africa that is just starting to find its way to garden centers everywhere.

Those of you who have struggled to replicate the perfect English garden will identify with the experiences of Jerry Brown, a Missouri gardener who has been converted to the joys of growing prairie plants more appropriate to his regional climate and soil.

We traditionally think of fall as the time to harvest seeds, but the seeds of many ornamental plants are ripe for the picking in mid- to late summer. An article by Managing Editor and Designer Mary Yee offers tips for collecting and saving these seeds.

Everyone loves a secret garden. Thanks to the input we received from you, our members, Associate Editor Rita Pelczar has compiled a list of little-known or under-appreciated public gardens around the country. If you plan to travel this summer, give one of these regional "secret gardens" a try.

And Susan Davis Price profiles Harold Pellett, a University of Minnesota horticulturist who directs the plant-breeding program of the Minnesota Landscape Plant Development Center.

As AHS members, we are all part of a larger community of gardeners. I encourage you to become more active in this green network by joining your local Master Gardeners chapter. It's an opportunity to advance your own horticultural frontiers, while at the same time spread the word about the Society's important programs and gardening resources.

Ever in green,



—H. Marc Cathey, *AHS President Emeritus*