



# News

*AHS Programs and Events*

## Green Industry Leaders Bring New Vision to AHS

TWO INTERNATIONALLY renowned horticultural experts are teaming up to lead the American Horticultural Society's new vision for American gardening. **Katy Moss Warner**, former director of horticulture and environmental initiatives at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, took over as the Society's new CEO and president in April. As she begins her tenure at AHS, Katy will be working closely with **Kurt Bluemel**, who is the incoming board chair. The owner of Kurt Bluemel Nursery, a landscape design-build company and nursery in Baldwin, Maryland, Kurt takes over from horticulture industry consultant **Jim Corfield** of Geneva, Illinois, who will stay on the board as immediate past chair. "We are so very fortunate at this time to have in Katy and Kurt two people who combine horticultural skills, business experience, and leadership qualities," says Jim. "Their passionate commitment to the Society and to gardening is truly inspiring."

A member of AHS since 1980, Katy served on the AHS Board of Directors for 10 years in a variety of capacities, including as chair from 1998 to 2000. "I bring to this position a strong belief in the important role new media and technology can play in horticulture," says Katy, "and I feel the Society's River Farm headquarters can serve as a model for gardening in America." Forging close relationships with other horticultural and non-horticultural organizations is also high on Katy's priority list. "Creating partnerships with like-minded groups will help AHS expose more Americans to

the importance of gardening," she says.

Kurt, who was trained in horticulture and landscape design in Germany and Switzerland, is known as one of the earliest proponents of the current trend for using ornamental grasses in garden design. His landscape design company works with



New leadership at AHS: Katy Moss Warner and Kurt Bluemel.

**"We need to make plants and gardens fun, colorful, and lively so that we can stay focused on the important role they play in our lives."**

—Katy Moss Warner, AHS President/CEO

Fortune 500 companies, zoos, theme parks, and businesses throughout North America and overseas. He is a past president of the Perennial Plant Association and lectures to gardening groups and organizations around the world. "I am very excited about the prospect of working with Katy," says Kurt. "You could not find any more charismatic or experienced leader to step in at this point in AHS's history."

Katy has received numerous awards for her work, especially for her focus on environmentally responsible horticulture. Most recently, in April, she was awarded the Garden Club of America's Margaret Douglas Medal for notable service in the cause of conservation education. She is also a recipient of the George Robert White Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Award of Excellence from the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

A strong proponent of the importance of touching children's lives through plants and gardens, Katy is currently helping to develop a curriculum-based schoolyard garden at the Garrison Union Free School, a public elementary school in Garrison, New York. During her tenure at Disney she worked closely with four different children's gardens in the Orlando area. She has been a member of the AHS Youth Garden Advisory Panel for four years and in that capacity has been very supportive of the Society's Children and Youth Garden symposia and the establishment of AHS's Jane L. Taylor Award for excellence in children's gardening.

One of the most important lessons Katy learned at Disney is that gardens need to be engaging and inventive. "As modern Americans, we face a multitude of daily distractions. We need to make plants and gardens fun, colorful, and lively so that we can stay focused on the important role they play in our lives," says Katy. "At the same time, we should do everything we can to honor our environmental responsibility as stewards of this beautiful land of ours."

## New Direction for AHS

IN FEBRUARY, the American Horticultural Society's Board of Directors set a new direction by enthusiastically adopting a new vision for the Society: "Making America a nation of gardeners, a land of gardens." Over the past year, a visioning committee led by **Susie Usrey**, vice president of Consulting Services for Monrovia nursery in Azusa, California, has been working on this new direction. "AHS has served American gardeners well for the last 80 years," says Susie, "but the world is a changed place and this visioning process will help us adapt to better meet the needs of today's world and today's gardeners."

AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** has been actively working with the visioning committee since its inception. "In kicking off this process, we start with big goals: Connect every person in America with plants and gardens and create a land of gardeners," says Katy.

The visioning committee is continuing to meet to develop programs associated

with this new direction and would welcome your feedback during this process. You can share your thoughts with us by calling (800) 777-7931 or e-mailing to [feedback@ahs.org](mailto:feedback@ahs.org).

## New Officers and Board

AMONG THE Board officers, **Arabella Dane** of Boston, Massachusetts, will be moving to first vice chair. Arabella is a Garden Club of America horticulture and flower arranging judge as well as a master flower show judge and landscape consultant for the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Other officers are **Valerie Thomas** of Alexandria, Virginia, second vice chair; **Albin MacDonough (Mac) Plant** of Baltimore, Maryland, secretary; and **Christine Perdue** of Middleburg, Virginia, treasurer.

Incoming members of the Society's Board of Directors for 2002 include **Dr. Allan Armitage**, professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia in Athens and well known horticultural author and lec-

## Grant for AHS Youth Gardening Symposium



The American Horticultural Society has received a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust in support of the 10th Annual AHS Children and Youth Garden Symposium to be held August 1 to 3 in San Francisco (see page 2 for registration information). The trust supports education and research in ornamental horticulture at not-for-profit, tax-exempt institutions, primarily in North and South America.

The receipt of this grant will allow AHS to once again offer the symposium registration fees at a lower rate, which is an important consideration at this time when budgets for education and teacher training are tight.

The focus of this year's symposium is nutrition and environmental education, two areas that are of particular interest in garden-based school programs today.

## AHS Co-Sponsors Cleveland Youth Garden Event

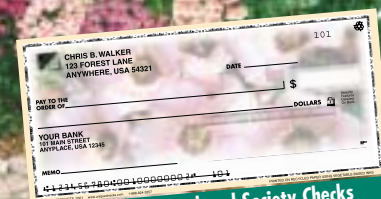
AHS is proud to be a co-sponsor of the Cleveland Botanical Garden's "Ripe from Downtown" Symposium to be held July 18 to 20 at the garden in Cleveland. This symposium will present the best ideas, model programs, and resources for horticultural and community organizations to create educationally and financially successful garden-based entrepreneur programs for youth—especially urban teens.

Among the nationally recognized programs featured will be Los Angeles' Food from the Hood™, Cleveland Botanical Garden's Ripe from Downtown, Boston's The Food Project's Urban Enterprise Program, and Seattle's Youth Garden Works.

For information about the symposium call (216) 721-1600 or visit the Cleveland Botanical Garden's Web site at [www.cb garden.org](http://www.cb garden.org).

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ture; **Dr. William E. Barrick**, executive director of horticulture at Bellingrath Gardens in Theodore, Alabama; **Katherine Stark Bull** of Washington, D.C., from the Stark Nurseries family; **M. James Leider**, president and CEO of Leider Horticultural Companies in Buffalo Grove, Illinois; **Felder Rushing** of Jackson, Mississippi, a horticulturist, garden columnist, and award-winning author; and **Robert D. Volk** of San Marino, California, who is past president of the Men's Garden Club of Los Angeles and a member of the Southern California Horticulture Society.

### CONTACT BOARD MEMBERS

The AHS Board of Directors welcomes feedback from members. If you have questions or thoughts about the Society that you'd like to share with one or all of the members of the AHS Board of Directors, you can contact them by sending an e-mail to [boardofdirectors@ahs.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@ahs.org), or contact Board Chair **Kurt Bluemel** directly by sending an e-mail to [kbluemel@ahs.org](mailto:kbluemel@ahs.org).



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## River Farm Weekend Hours

NOW THAT summer is here again, River Farm is open to the public on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. once again. A number of educational programs will be held on select Saturdays, starting June 1 with a special two-hour class on building with bamboo that will be hosted by **Ed Raduazo**, an AHS volunteer.

Raduazo is an expert craftsman who converts bamboo stems into a variety of attractive and functional gardening structures, such as trellises, arbors, plant cages, and other supports.

The cost of the bamboo program is \$20 (\$16 for AHS members). This program is expected to be very popular, so early reservations are recommended. Call (703) 768-5700, extension 124, to reserve a spot. Other weekend programs at River Farm will be announced soon.

If you are planning to visit the Washington, D.C., area this summer and are interested in attending a program, please give us a call.

## 2002 AHS Book Award Winners

Timber Press of Portland, Oregon, nearly swept the 2002 AHS Book Awards, winning four out of the five awards selected this year by the Society's Book Award committee. Publisher W.W. Norton of New York City averted a clean sweep by winning for *The Greater Perfection*, by Francis H. Cabot.

The award winners profiled here were selected from among all American gardening books published in 2001. Thomas Cooper of Watertown, Massachusetts, editor of *The Gardener* magazine, chaired this year's committee, which also included Linda Askey of Birmingham, Alabama, former senior writer for *Southern Living* magazine; Dick Dunmire of Los Altos, California, a former editor of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*; Susan Eubank, librarian at the Grand Canyon National Park library in Arizona; Rommy Lopat of Richmond, Illinois, a garden writer and former editor of *The Weedpatch Gazette*; and Marco Polo Stufano, who retired last year after 34 years as director of horticulture at Wave Hill in New York City.

This year's book awards will be presented to the publishers at the Society's Great American Gardeners Annual Conference, to be held in Seattle, June 6 to 8.

Books that have received the AHS annual award can be distinguished by a gold seal embossed with the Society's name. Look for these books in your local bookstore.

**Armitage's Manual of Annuals, Biennials, and Half-hardy Perennials** by Allan M. Armitage. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$39.95.

THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA guide to annuals, biennials, and tender perennials was hailed as the most comprehensive book on the topic published in recent years. "I've been waiting for this book for years," said Linda Askey. "I found the opinionated writing delightful and the coverage of what is available in this category in the marketplace excellent."

Susan Eubank described it as "a necessary and useful book that will be an indispensable reference for many gardeners."

**Bulbs of North America**, edited by Jane McGary. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$34.95.

A COOPERATIVE effort between Timber Press and the North American Rock Garden Society, this book received acclaim for its authoritative and comprehensive coverage of a relatively unexplored area of horticulture. "There's no comparable book on this topic that I know of," said Tom Cooper, "so this will



become an essential addition to any collection of books about growing bulbs."

Marco Polo Stufano said, "This book describes a great many different bulbs in a broad and knowledgeable fashion."

**The Cactus Family** by Edward F. Anderson. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001. Publisher's price: \$99.95.

AS WITH THE bulb book, this monographic treatment of the cactus family was highly commended for its authoritative coverage of an important group of plants indigenous to the Americas.

"This is a very thorough treatment of the subject—there's little more you could learn about cacti after reading this book," said Dick Dunmire. "A book like this enriches our knowledge and may encourage people's interest in growing unusual plants," said Stufano.

**The Greater Perfection** by Francis H. Cabot. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, New York, 2001. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$75.

FRANK CABOT'S evocative description of the creation of his acclaimed garden Les Quatre Vents received across the board praise. "The book is written by a consummate plantsman who has created a significant garden," said Stufano. "It is intelligently written, beautiful to look at, and inspiring."

"My expectation was of a well-written book," said Askey, "but upon its arrival the only way I can describe my reaction to it is: Jaw dropping."

**Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of Garden Ecology** by Eric Grissell. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$29.95.

"ON FIRST glance understanding insects seems to be a very unlikely subject for a garden book, but I found it a pretty impressive little volume," said Cooper. "It addresses an area that no one has really ventured into before."

Rommy Lopat liked the book's ecological approach to gardening and the author's self-deprecating humor. "It's a highly readable book that ought to be read in every classroom," she said. ♡

