



News

AHS Programs and Events

AHS Supports New Furman Symposium

THIS PAST JUNE, four AHS officials helped Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, launch the university's first annual horticultural symposium, "Landscapes for Living and Learning." The goal was to promote horticulture, the SMARTGARDEN™ concept, and one of AHS President Emeritus **H. Marc Cathey's** signature phrases: "Green is the color of hope." In



AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc Cathey fields questions about the AHS Plant Heat-Zone Map at the Furman University Symposium last June.

In addition to Dr. Cathey, other AHS participants were AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**, AHS Board Chair **Kurt Bluemel**, and AHS Editorial Advisory Board Chair **John A. Floyd**.

Dr. Cathey played an instrumental part in developing the symposium by working closely with Furman University President **David Shi** over the course of two years. David's idea for the conference stemmed from his desire to build up the gardens on his campus. "For years, Furman has been widely recognized as having one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country," says David, "so it seemed appropriate that we should sponsor a major horticultural symposium."

With an estimated 180 people in attendance, it was clear that the symposium generated considerable interest from the gardening community. "The South knows how to entertain," says Dr. Cathey. **Gayle Warth**, public relations spokesperson for Furman University, described the symposium as a huge success, thanks in part to a lineup of speakers that included some of the biggest names in gardening.

Keynote speaker John A. Floyd, editor of *Southern Living* magazine, discussed southern gardens today. Children's gardens were the focus of Katy's presentation. Kurt, owner of Kurt Bluemel Nursery, in Baldwin, Maryland, lectured on designing with perennials and ornamental grasses. The AHS SMARTGARDEN™ program was the subject of Marc's address. Other speakers included West Coast garden and food writer **Rosalind Creasy**, who discussed edible theme gardens, and **Richard Webel**, founder of PlantAmerica, who lectured on how technology is influencing the way gardening information is shared.

"This symposium was an opportunity to take another look at how gardening can play a prominent role in our lives and in the priorities of our nation," says Dr. Cathey.

ALL PARTICIPANTS at the Furman symposium received complimentary AHS memberships, so we would like to welcome those new members to the Society! For more information about the university and upcoming events, call (864) 294-2186 or visit www.furman.edu/news@fu/.

Underwood Joins AHS Team

AHS'S NEW Director and Curator of Gardens and Buildings has one goal: helping to make River Farm a model of gardening for everyone in America. **Tom Underwood**, an experienced horticulturist, joined the team on July 29 and is eager to make a difference with his work.

"I really enjoy making the connection between plants and people," says Tom, who is enthusiastic about making the vision of AHS become a reality. Tom believes he offers creative and strategic thought to achieve the society's goal of sharing the excitement of gardening with the nation.



Tom Underwood

Tom is particularly excited about this position because it combines three of his loves: horticulture, education, and communication. And the setting doesn't hurt. "River Farm is a beautiful property," he says.

As a 20-year employee of Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Tom spent 15 years managing horticultural services. His experience includes employee training,

running summer horticulture internships, coordinating guest programs, horticultural documentation, and developing and implementing the annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. During that time he also worked closely with current AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**. "I think we make a great team," says Tom, who is pleased to work with Katy once again.

Tom grew up in southern California before moving to Florida to pursue his career at Disney. He holds a bachelor of science in ornamental horticulture from California Polytechnic State University and plans to complete his master of arts in science education this fall from the University of Central Florida.

AHS Gala 2002

AHS HORTICULTURE staff members have been hard at work this summer dressing up the grounds of the Society's River Farm headquarters in preparation for the 80th Anniversary Gala, "The Garden as Art," which will be held on Saturday, September 28 from six to 11 p.m.

"I'm looking forward to a glorious evening at River Farm,"

says AHS Gala Chair **Leslie Ariail**. "Celebrating the relationship between gardens and art is a perfect focus for a program like this, which is the Society's most important fundraising event of the year."

In keeping with the theme of art in the garden, the honorary chairman for this year's gala is **Earl A. "Rusty" Powell III**, director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. "I am delighted to be the Honorary Chairman of the River Farm Gala 2002," says Rusty. "By supporting this event, members of the community and the Society are directly contributing to the American Horticultural Society's important preservation of the historic buildings and gardens at River Farm."

A variety of inspirational artwork will be on display for the gala, including a collection of botanical art by **Countess Clarissa Bonde** and sculptures by internationally known artists **Tomas Fernandez** and **Dorothy Gillespie**. After viewing the art and the River Farm gardens, guests will enjoy dinner under tents overlooking the Potomac River, light music for listening and dancing, and both a silent and live auction.

With the assistance of her gala committee, Leslie has se-

GARDEN CLASSES: The following Saturday educational programs are scheduled at River Farm this fall. For more information, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 124. **Sept. 21: Floral Designs from Your Garden.** H. Marc Cathey, AHS President Emeritus. **Oct. 5: Selecting Trees & Shrubs for Winter Interest.** Katie Burney, Landscape Architect and River Farm Volunteer. **Oct. 19: Attracting Birds to Your Garden.** Peggy Bowers, AHS Landscape Gardener. **Nov. 2: Pruning Shrubs and Trees.** Peter Deal, Certified Arborist, The Care of Trees.



CELEBRATE SPRING with AHS and CHERRY BLOSSOMS!

Next year, the Society will be holding its Great American Gardeners Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The event, being held in participation with the city's renowned annual Cherry Blossom Festival, will include a moveable feast of activities spread over nine days from March 29 through April 6.

River Farm will also be brilliant with displays of thousands of spring-blooming bulbs and trees throughout its gardens. So mark your calendars now and make plans to join us! Look for more details in the next issue of the magazine.

cured dozens of wonderful and truly one-of-a-kind auction items. Gardeners who enjoy traveling will find it hard to choose between an AHS Travel Study garden tour to Tahiti, a week's stay in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and a three-night stay at the Athenaeum Hotel in London. In addition, one very special auction package includes a "garden walk-about" with University of Georgia horticulturist **Allan Armitage**—a member of the Society's Board of Directors—along with a signed copy of Allan's latest book and a collection of 50 perennial plants donated by AHS Board Chair **Kurt Bluemel**.

Kurt is also providing three additional collections of 50 mixed herbaceous perennials and grasses specially designed to provide spring, summer, and fall effect. And Monrovia nursery in Azusa, California, is donating a collection of 50 perennials, shrubs, and trees from its *Southern Living* Garden Collection.

Among the other auction items are a variety of sculptures and paintings, including a joyful abstract garden sculpture donated by Dorothy Gillespie.

For further information about the gala or to purchase tickets, please call (800) 777-7931 ext. 144.

Brookside Volunteer Appreciation Day

FIFTEEN RIVER FARM volunteers were among 250 garden volunteers from throughout the Washington, D.C., region who attended "Wings of Fancy," the Eighth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day, held June 12 at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. The event was sponsored by the Horticultural Consortium of the Greater Washington Area—a group of public gar-

dens that includes the United States National Arboretum, the United States Botanic Garden, Hillwood Museum and Garden, Brookside Gardens, the Smithsonian, the National Cathedral, Randall Farm, and the American Horticultural Society.

The participants at this year's event were treated to a variety of special lectures and workshops throughout the day. A tour of Brookside Gardens' ongoing Wings of Fancy display—a summer-long special exhibit featuring hundreds of butterflies fluttering in a plant-filled conservatory—was also offered.

One of the featured lecturers was **Carole Ottesen**, an associate editor for *The American Gardener*, who discussed ways to lure butterflies into home gardens. She spoke about selecting native plants butterflies prefer, avoiding the use of harmful pesticides, and learning to accept caterpillars. "Gardeners have to understand, you need caterpillars to have butterflies," she says.

Marianne Polito, coordinator of volunteers for AHS, is an active member of the Consortium and has helped plan the event for three years. "Every year it gets better and more exciting," she says. "It's a wonderful way to thank these volunteers for their hard work and dedication."



AHS Associate Editor Carole Ottesen, also author of *The Herbal Epicure*, gave a lecture and book signing at Brookside Gardens.

WILT-PRUF® It's like an HMO for your plants



Wilt-Pruf® protects your plants from drying out during periods of water stress.



Wilt-Pruf is a protective spray coating that holds in moisture on plant foliage and stems, reducing water loss during summer drought or in winter when drying winds and frozen ground deprive plants of their natural moisture intake. Wilt-Pruf also provides moisture protection during transplanting.

Completely organic and biodegradable, Wilt-Pruf can be used on valuable shrubs, broadleaf evergreens, Christmas trees and wreaths.

Visit your garden center now

Wilt-Pruf Products
PO Box 469, Essex, CT 06426
www.wiltpruf.com
email: wiltpruf@wiltpruf.com



The #1 anti-transpirant for more than 50 years.