



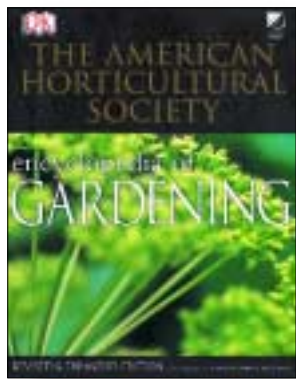
News

AHS Programs and Events

Hot Off the Press

WHEN IT WAS FIRST published in 1993, the *AHS Encyclopedia of Gardening* quickly became an indispensable reference for every serious gardener. It is still highly sought after, even though it has been out of print for some years.

The good news is that the updated second edition of this classic, released by DK Publishing, Inc., in August, is even bigger and better than the original. With updated nomenclature, the inclusion of USDA Hardiness and AHS Heat zones, and expanded sections on container gardening and fruits and vegetables, this book will become the mainstay of your gardening reference shelf.



Also just released by DK are the first two editions of the much anticipated AHS SMART GARDEN™ Regional Guide series, tailored to gardeners in the Northeast and Northwest. More information about these books and other upcoming new releases from AHS and DK Publishing will be forthcoming in *The American Gardener* and the AHS Web site (www.ahs.org).

New AHS Board Members Welcomed

FOUR NEW MEMBERS were elected to the American Horticultural Society's Board of Directors at the AHS Annual Meeting in April. "We are privileged to have these distinguished national leaders on our board," says AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**. "Each of them brings a strong commitment to connecting plants with people."

Natasha Hopkinson received her master's certificate in landscape design from Radcliffe College. She was the former urban and special garden host for National Public Radio's program, "The Cultivated Gardener," and worked as a segment host for The Home and Garden Television Net-



Natasha Hopkinson

work's program, "Breaking Ground." Natasha apprenticed for three years with landscape designer **Allen Haskell** before starting her own garden design firm in New York City. In addition to serving on the AHS Board, Natasha is hospitality chairman for the Garden Club of America.

Robert Malesardi earned his bachelor's of science degree from Bucknell University. Now retired, Robert once worked as a CPA in New York and New Jersey and as a real estate investor and developer. He was a trustee at Bucknell University and is now making important contributions as a member of the AHS development committee. He lives in Jupiter, Florida, and has a seasonal home in Easton, Maryland.

A resident of Annapolis, Maryland, **Donald Riddle Jr.** is a graduate of the University of Maryland's horticulture program and has been owner and president of Homestead Gardens, Inc. in Davidsonville, Maryland, since 1973. He is the former president of Garden Centers of America and the former director of Londontown Publik House and Gardens. He is currently the president of Excelling in Creative Gardening Concepts and serves on the America In Bloom executive committee.

Steven M. Still earned his doctorate in horticulture from the University of Illinois and is now a professor of landscape horticulture at Ohio State University. He is the executive director of the Perennial Plant Association, regional director of the Garden Writers Association, author of *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants*, and the recipient of medals from both AHS and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He lives in Hilliard, Ohio.

Master Gardeners

AHS WOULD LIKE to welcome the more than 1,000 Master Gardeners who have joined AHS as a result of the Society's participation in two Master Gardener conferences held this past summer.

AHS sponsored a booth at the 2003 International Master Gardener conference, which was held in the greater Cincinnati area in June. Four AHS representatives—AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**, AHS Board Chair **Kurt Bluemel**, AHS Board Member **Felder Rushing**, and Associate Editor **Carole Ottensen**—made presentations during the conference. Carole and Felder, who are also authors of many gardening books, participated in book signings after the presentations.

AHS was also a sponsor of the Michigan State Master Gardener Conference, held in East Lansing in June. As part of the arrangement with both conferences, all attendees are now AHS members.

Botanical Art on Display

THIS FALL AND WINTER, the display of a remarkable historic collection of botanical illustrations is expected to draw art aficionados and garden lovers alike to River Farm.

Titled "With Paintbrush and Shovel: The Watercolors of Bessie Niemeyer Marshall," the exhibit runs from October 27 to January 2, 2004, at AHS's headquarters building at River Farm and will feature about 60 illustrations. The exhibit is made possible by the Petersburg Garden Club (PGC), which owns the illustrations.

"The collection has relevance, whether you're an art fancier or a serious student of botany," says **Bettie Guthrie**, co-chairwoman of the PGC Herbarium Committee.

Marshall's watercolors date from the Depression era, when she was hired as an illustrator by the PGC to record the plant life in the newly formed Lee Park Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary in Petersburg, Virginia, which was established by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. Marshall (1884–1960) produced 238 watercolors over the course of three years, documenting everything from the common cattail to a rare red milkweed.

"From the standpoint of accuracy and beauty, [her watercolors] are outstanding," says **Betty Steele**, co-chair of the PGC Herbarium Committee.

Despite such contemporary praise, Marshall's paintings went virtually unrecognized until the 2000 publication of *With Paintbrush and Shovel: Preserving Virginia's Wildflowers*, a book by **Nancy Kober** and botanical consultant **Donna Ware** that includes 222 reproductions of Marshall's original illustrations.

In Memoriam: Georgie Van de Kamp

A PASSIONATE gardener and philanthropist, **Georgie E. Van de Kamp**, whose dedication to AHS made her a leader and friend of the organization, died May 5 in California after a short illness. She was 96 years old.

"Many of us remember Georgie's unflagging energy and enthusiasm as she traveled with us and encouraged us to do great things for horticulture in America," AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** wrote to board members.

Georgie was a longtime member of the AHS President's Council and served as first vice president of the AHS Board of Directors from 1987 to 1990. She received the AHS Meritorious Service Award in 1988 and co-founded the AHS Advisory Council with former board member John Whitworth.

"She really wanted to inspire people to become more involved in horticulture," remembers **Bob Volk**, a member of the AHS Board of Directors and friend of Georgie's.

She played an integral part in creating **Lawry's California Center** gardens, and her many contributions to **Descanso Gardens** in La Cañada, California, led to the creation of an exhibition hall at the gardens named in her honor.

Georgie lived in Padasena, California, for most of her life and committed herself to horticulture in California, developing a strong interest in the wildflowers of her home state.

She will be remembered by many in the field of horticulture for her friendship and support.

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Seeds Launched into Space to Initiate “The Growing Connection”

DOES SPACE travel affect seed germination? Will seeds bombarded by cosmic rays develop into normal plants? How does solar radiation affect how tomatoes grow? These are a few of the questions that participants in the initial phase of The Growing Connection will try to answer.

SPACE SEEDS

As this issue goes to print, a payload of seeds is about to take a ride in a huge, helium-filled space balloon. Carried to an altitude of approximately 120,000 feet above 99 percent of the Earth’s atmosphere on a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) balloon, the seeds will experience temperatures of approximately minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit and reduced atmospheric pressure, along with a variety of other conditions they would never encounter on Earth.

“They will be exposed to everything that comes in from space,” says NASA mechanical engineer **Henry Cathey**—who happens to be the son of AHS president emeritus **Dr. H. Marc Cathey**. The younger Cathey explains that the sun’s “radiation is reduced by the atmosphere, limiting cosmic rays, X-rays, and a number of other things from reaching Earth.”

“We are extremely fortunate to have this chance to send seeds up so that kids



Seeds for The Growing Connection will be carried into space as the “payload” (shown above, hanging from a crane) for a giant NASA science balloon like the partially inflated one you can see above. Once in space, the balloon will inflate to roughly the size of the Houston Astrodome.

can not only hypothesize about the chance for abnormalities or mutations, but to conduct experiments to test their theories,” says **Mary Ann Patterson**, AHS director of national programs.

Ball Horticultural Company, headquartered in West Chicago, Illinois, collected the seeds for the project from several different companies. The seeds include tomatoes, eggplants, lettuces, peppers, and five varieties of sunflowers.

“This program is particularly compelling to us, because it combines two of our main goals at Ball: fostering education and creating excitement in the world of

horticulture,” says **Sue Amatangelo**, national retail accounts manager for Ball.

After returning to Earth, the space traveling seeds, along with packages of “control” seeds will be included in complete growing kits distributed to participating schools and youth groups. To find out how to order The Growing Connection Kit, see the box below.

THE MAIN MISSION

The initial experiments with the space seeds are an exciting and educational introduction to The Growing Connection, which was developed by AHS, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, and several other partners.

Next year, when the formal component of the program debuts, 10 schools in the United States and 10 schools in the West African nation Ghana will be linked to investigate the science behind growing food plants and learn important lessons about nutrition and sustainability.

Through state-of-the-art information technology, exchanges will be possible among students, teachers, and scientists participating in the program.

Participate in The Growing Connection

To get involved with the exciting space seed experiments—and at the same time, support the broader goals of The Growing Connection—order one or more The Growing Connection Kits. In addition to 26 packages of seeds (some launched into space aboard the NASA balloon), each kit includes a self-contained growing unit called an Earth Box™, one bag of soilless mix, fertilizer and dolomite, and activity guides describing how to conduct experiments on the plants—everything you need to get your children or youth group started growing and learning.

For each kit you purchase for \$59.95 plus \$15 shipping, one-third of your purchase price will be credited toward donation of an additional kit for the program. To order, visit the AHS Web site at www.ahs.org or call AHS at (800) 777-7931.