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*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.

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Printed in the U.S.A. on recycled paper.

## NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

I AM SITTING IN my office here at George Washington's River Farm surrounded by drawings and images representing our vision for the future AHS National Center for Home Horticulture in America. And then I look out my window across the meadow blooming with wildflowers to the spectacular view of the Potomac River.

It's exciting, having this opportunity to envision a place where natural lands are valued, the historic heritage of the site is treasured, cultivated gardens are a showcase of great horticultural practices, and functional areas like roadways and parking lots demonstrate environmentally responsible design.

From our perspective, this property is already a national treasure that belongs to all Americans. And, at a time when green space near cities is fast disappearing, we feel that protecting this naturally beautiful landscape—as we have for the last 30 years—is of value to all of us.

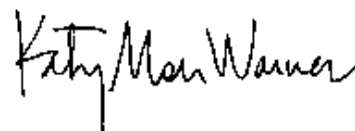
But as we move forward with our Master Plan, we want to do more than just preserve this property. We are carefully and boldly envisioning a new River Farm that will have national significance. With innovative design, we can create demonstration gardens and educational displays that will become living showcases for the many programs and philosophies of the AHS. Once these model gardens are in place, we can share what we know and learn in *The American Gardener*, on our Web site, through our AHS gardening books, and in educational programs we sponsor throughout the country.

Our children's garden—with the sunflower maze in full bloom right now—is a small and effective way to demonstrate our strong belief that we must connect children with plants and gardens. We have just completed installation of The Growing Connection Demonstration Garden, which contains EarthBoxes bursting with tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and squash. Our Green Garage exhibit is filled with environmentally friendly tools and garden supplies provided by companies that share our commitment to responsible stewardship of the earth.

These programs are just a few of the ambitious plans we have for River Farm. We are practical gardeners, anxious to share our enthusiasm and successes so that gardeners throughout America will catch the spirit and keep the momentum going.

I hope that you and other AHS members from all over America will soon find your way down the scenic George Washington Parkway (preferably by bicycle!) to discover first hand the magnificent home of your American Horticultural Society. In the meantime, we will keep you posted on our progress!

Happy Gardening!



—Katy Moss Warner, AHS President