

2004 Children and Youth Gardening Symposium at Cornell University

SINCE THE INCEPTION of the AHS National Children and Youth Garden Symposia 12 years ago, children's gardens and educational programs have become integral elements in schools and public gardens. Horticultural professionals, educators, and parents all recognize the magical effect gardens have on children, often because they can relate to their own childhood experiences harvesting garden vegetables with mom or dad, helping a grandmother tend her roses, or simply climbing trees. Because it is often informal learning experiences like these that influence us the most, this year's symposium, titled "Branching Out: Beyond Formal Garden-based Education," will focus on less structured approaches to children's garden education.

The symposium, to be held from July 29 to 31 on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York, will feature two prestigious keynote speakers who offer fresh perspectives on children's garden education. **Roger Hart** of the City University of New York's Children's Environments Research group will discuss the importance of "un-designing" children's horticultural programs, and **Frank Rossi**, an assistant professor of turfgrass science at Cornell, will share success stories about his amazing teaching tool—turf.

"We are so excited about this year's keynotes," says **Nancy Busick**, AHS youth programs coordinator. "Roger Hart was

a keynote speaker during the first AHS symposium in 1993, where he gave a memorable presentation on the message of earth-stewardship that gardens can instill in young people. And Frank Rossi is a real innovator who is well known for his enlightened and entertaining presentations." In addition to the keynote presentations, attending symposium participants will be able to sign up for 12 idea-filled sessions given by noted youth gardening experts.

Throughout the symposium, attendees will enjoy a variety of field trips and workshops that will highlight Cornell's wealth of garden-related opportunities for youth, including the Ithaca Children's Garden and Garden Mosaics. There will also be plenty of time for networking and informal exchanges of ideas. Cornell Plantations—the arboretum

established by the legendary Liberty Hyde Bailey—will be the site of the first symposium dinner, which will feature a performance by the Compost Theatre of Tompkins County. A second dinner, held at Baker's Acres herb and perennial farm, will feature a signature New-York-style summer barbecue.

Located in the scenic Finger Lakes region of Upstate New York, Ithaca offers visitors many things to do and places to see. Symposium attendees may want to plan for some extra time to explore the surrounding region.

To learn more about the 2004 symposium, contact Nancy Busick at (800) 777-7931 ext. 132; e-mail: nbusick@ahs.org, or visit www.ahs.org. A registration form is now available online.



The herb garden at Cornell Plantations in Ithaca.



André Viette, center, receives AHS's Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from AHS President Emeritus **H. Marc Cathey** and AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** at the Great American Gardeners Award Banquet April 2 at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City.

Indoor Plant Experts at *Washington Blooms!*

"IT WAS a treat to be involved with the AHS indoor plants garden course," says **Marianne Polito**, coordinator of *Washington Blooms!*, "because the speakers were all experts in the field." This new AHS Garden School program, held April 1 and 2, boasted an impressive line-up of indoor plant specialists that included **Holly Shimizu**, director of the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG); **Byron Martin** of Logees Greenhouses in Danielson, Connecticut; author, horticultural consultant, and educator **Steve Frowine**; garden writer and AHS Board member **Felder Rushing**; interior plantscaping expert **Linda Wiseman**; Smithsonian orchid specialist **Tom Mirenda**; AHS Horticulturist **Peggy Bowers**; and AHS President Emeritus **Dr. H. Marc Cathey**.

In addition to learning about indoor plants from the industry's finest, attendees also enjoyed behind-the-scenes guided tours of some of Washington, D.C.'s best interior plantscapes and the production greenhouses at the USBG. "The orchid greenhouses were particularly fascinating," says Marianne. "We learned so much

about correct techniques for orchid care." During the USBG tour, Holly Shimizu shared with the group her experiences during the renovation of the conservatory.

Participants in the garden school left not only with lasting memories, they took home an African violet, a topiary they created in one of the workshops, and a copy of *Passalong Plants*, co-authored by Felder Rushing and Steve Bender.

Spring Bulbs Light Up River Farm

PEAKING AT THE perfect time for the events and programs during *Washington Blooms!*, the spring bulb display at River Farm was really something special this year. More than 13,000 daffodils, tulips, crocuses, and other bulbs wowed visitors everywhere they looked. "This year, we also planted dozens of containers with tulips and daffodils and used them to decorate the entrances to buildings and in a few key locations on the grounds," says AHS Horticulturist **Peggy Bowers**. "Grouping several containers at each location really created a dramatic show of color."

Among the tulips, Peggy particularly likes early-flowering *Tulipa praestans* 'Van Tubergan's Variety', a low-growing scarlet species tulip that she massed in a perennial border, and 'Monte Carlo', a double-flowered yellow that she interplanted with purple and yellow pansies in several locations. Her favorite daffodils include 'Salome', which has white petals and a salmon-colored cup, and 'Accent', which has white petals backing a pink cup.



River Farm shines with spring color in April thanks to a variety of bulbs. Top: Yellow 'Monte Carlo' tulips. Above left: 'Washington' tulips and 'Salome' daffodils. Above right: 'Van Tubergan's Variety' species tulips.

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Mother Nature, with an assist from the AHS horticultural staff, gets credit for the glory of this year's show, but none of it would have been possible without the generous bulb donations from **K. Van Bourgondien and Sons, Old House Gardens,** and **C.J. Zonneveld and Sons** of the Royal Dutch Wholesaler's Association for Flowerbulbs and Nurserystock.

Spring Kid's Gardening Programs a Success!

FOR THE SECOND YEAR of *Washington Blooms!*, AHS boosted its spring celebration with four new programs designed specifically for our youngest visitors and budding future gardeners. Each Saturday throughout the month of April, children from across the Washington area joined AHS staff members and volunteers at River Farm for down-in-the-dirt garden fun.



Children making mud pies at River Farm.

AHS Youth Programs Coordinator **Nancy Busick** organized and facilitated the Saturday programs, which ranged from making flower arrangements in tuna cans to seed-picture painting and making mud pies. "We really had an impressive turnout and it was great to watch the children let loose and have fun in the garden," says Nancy, who admitted the grown-ups had fun, too.

The success of these programs would not have been possible without the dedication and resources of volunteers from Alexandria-area garden clubs. Special thanks go to **Mary Wright** of the Dominion Valley Garden Club, **Jo Sellers** of the Fort Belvoir Garden Club, and **Babs McClendon** of the Yacht Haven Garden Club.

If you're interested in getting involved with next year's children's programs, please contact Nancy Busick at (703) 768-5700 ext. 132 or by e-mail to nbusick@ahs.org.

Advancing the Cause of Youth Gardening in America

IN LATE APRIL, members of the **Partnership for Plant Based Learning (PPBL)**, a national initiative of five organizations with a vested interest in youth gardening in America, hosted a meeting at River Farm to discuss goals, identify needed resources, and establish a common vision. The meeting included some 60 stakeholders from across the nation. The PPBL hosts are the **AHS, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the United States Botanic Garden (USBG), the National Gardening Association,** and **the National Wildlife Federation.** The meeting was held April 29 and 30, after this issue of the magazine went to press. "This initiative is in its earliest stages," says **Christine Flanagan**, the USBG public programs manager. "It is our hope to generate ideas and cooperation that will advance plant-based education across the United States. All children should learn through first-hand experience that our well-being and survival are critically dependent on plants."

Articles in this section are by AHS Editorial Intern Jessie Keith.

American Horticultural Society's 2004 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium Ithaca, New York July 29-31, 2004



The AHS, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Horticulture Department of Cornell University invite you to join us for three days of inspirational keynotes, informative sessions, idea-filled field trips and workshops, friendship, networking, and much more...

- Hear from Dr. Roger Hart on "Un-Designing for Children and Youth: Rethinking Horticultural Programs for Young People in an Increasingly Programmed World"
- Discover "Two Keys to Success with Children's Gardens" and find out about "Plants that Dazzle and Delight Kids"
- Visit the nationally renowned Cornell Lab of Ornithology, climb a six-story treehouse, and see how community spirit is blooming at the Ithaca Children's Garden project
- Enjoy an evening at Cornell Plantations, explore the gardens, have dinner with new and old friends, and be treated to an entertaining and informative performance by the acclaimed Compost Theatre of Tompkins County
- *And much more!* Don't miss out on this opportunity to experience the natural beauty, wonder, and richness of the Finger Lakes Region!

For more information and to register for the symposium, visit www.ahs.org, e-mail youthprograms@ahs.org, or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.

