

The American GARDENER

EDITOR

David J. Ellis

MANAGING EDITOR AND DESIGNER

Mary Yee

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Carole Ottesen

EDITORIAL INTERN

Jessie Keith

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

CHAIR John Alex Floyd Jr.

Birmingham, Alabama

Allan M. Armitage

Athens, Georgia

Nina L. Bassuk

Ithaca, New York

Richard E. Bir

Brevard, North Carolina

John E. Bryan

San Francisco, California

John L. Creech

Columbus, North Carolina

Keith Crotz

Chillicothe, Illinois

Panayoti Kelaidis

Denver, Colorado

Richard W. Lighty

Greenville, Delaware

Elvin McDonald

West Des Moines, Iowa

ADVERTISING *The American Gardener*
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22150
(703) 768-5700 ext. 120
E-MAIL: editor@ahs.org

NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

SO OFTEN I have been encouraged to stop and smell the roses. And, dutifully, I would slow down for a few minutes...sniff sniff...and then back to business! But over the past few months, while I have been on sabbatical, I have had many an opportunity to stop and smell the roses and enjoy the beauty of life around me.

Most of my time off was time spent with my family—lots of brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and, of course, my incredible parents. However, as I traveled around the country, I also enjoyed visiting many of you, our AHS members. It was so nice to be able to sit down and chat about AHS, and wherever I went, I would see a copy of *The American Gardener* sitting on the kitchen counter or coffee table. From Florida to New York, Colorado, and California, the beautiful columbines on the cover of the last issue greeted me—and, of course, I would hear how the articles in the magazine are inspiring people to search out good plants, look for new ways to combine them, be attentive to environmental practices, and then pick up a trowel and get gardening!

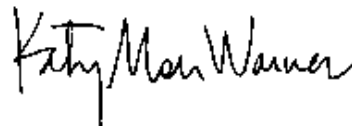
Last month, I was fortunate to visit New Zealand with 25 AHS members as host of an AHS Travel/Study Garden Tour. In 12 days, our adventurous group visited more than 20 incredible gardens and met the remarkable people who created them. In addition, we experienced the outstanding natural beauty of thermal geysers and hot bubbling mud pools on the north island, and snow-capped mountains—think Tolkien's Middle Earth!—and brilliant turquoise glacial lakes on the south island. In between, we marveled at the amazing flora and fauna endemic to that beautiful island nation.

These Travel/Study Garden Tours are truly one of AHS's hidden gems. Each year, 10 to 12 tours take gardeners to destinations ranging from New Zealand to Tuscany, California, and Maine. Each one offers once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to visit unique private and public gardens, and to comprehend the delicate balance between man and nature in these beautiful locations. These tours highlight gardens that are an intrinsic component of artistic expression in the cultures we visit. This is no small message. I cannot encourage you enough to treat yourself to one of these tours if you love travel and love gardens.

To celebrate 20 years of these outstanding programs, the AHS President's Council Dinner, being held on May 14 in St. Louis, Missouri, will honor Leonard Haertter, who has creatively packaged these tours for the AHS since 1984. In that time, Leonard has taken nearly 3,000 AHS members to 200 destinations and some 4,000 gardens worldwide, so you can understand why we celebrate.

And now I am back at River Farm with spring bursting out of the ground and *Washington Blooms!* in full swing. The River Farm meadow will have 40,000 new native plants in place by the end of April... The Master Plan for River Farm will be complete in June...the 2004 National Children and Youth Garden Symposium is on schedule for July 29 to 31 in Ithaca, New York. Your AHS is moving ahead, and we are so glad you are along for the ride!

Happy Gardening!



—Katy Moss Warner, AHS President



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.

Copyright © 2004 by the American Horticultural Society.

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