

# The American GARDENER

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## NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

THERE IS SO MUCH excitement building at the AHS these days that I can't even begin to cover it in this space! Over the last several months the AHS Board of Directors and staff have been working closely to evaluate the many programs and activities of the AHS while moving forward with the creation of an exciting new Master Plan for our headquarters at George Washington's River Farm.

The conceptual Master Plan for River Farm, recently approved by the AHS Board (see article on page 6), includes an ambitious plan for restoring many of our existing buildings while creating gardens that will celebrate the past, present, and future for American Horticulture.

As you will read in the AHS news section on page 8, we have already made great strides with the restoration of our meadow, thanks to our former Board Chair Kurt Bluemel and a small army of helpers from his nursery and from neighboring Mount Vernon. We have also added "sparkle" to some of our historic buildings with new paint, wallpaper, and decorative fixtures. As we go about this important work, we are ever conscious that everything we do must be relevant and exciting to our AHS members in each and every state. If you would like to get involved in this process, please contact me directly. I would love to know what you think.

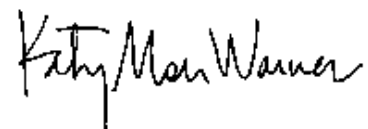
Educational programs have been and continue to be a major focus for AHS, especially those that bring together leaders in our field to discuss important issues with a goal of establishing direction and taking action. Many of these programs are now being done in cooperation with partners who share our hopes and concerns. This spring, I co-facilitated the "Magic of Landscaping" conference in Orlando, Florida, an annual program that brings together landscape architects and developers to explore the commercial value of plants and landscapes.

Also this spring, our colleagues from the U. S. Botanic Garden, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the National Gardening Association, and the National Wildlife Federation convened at AHS's River Farm headquarters for a special "congress" to discuss the important issue of plant-based education. AHS has been a leader in this field for more than a decade now, but we still have more to do to bring plants and gardens back into the mainstream of education in America.

Other important leadership forums are in the wings. The AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium will be held July 29 to 31 in Ithaca, New York. With the help of our partners at Cornell University, this program is the finest opportunity for garden designers, educators, and passionate believers to learn of new youth garden programs, visit successful gardens, and explore new ideas.

At the AHS, we are determined to provide leadership for the all-important issues facing horticulture today. If there are issues of particular concern to you, please let us know. Together we may be able to make a difference by focusing attention and mapping out a plan for change.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and... happy gardening,



—Katy Moss Warner, AHS President