

## New Edition of AHS *A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*

FOR THOSE OF YOU who have called, written, and e-mailed to say that you have worn out your copy of the *American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, we have good news: A revised and updated edition of this essential plant encyclopedia for serious gardeners will be available in mid-October from DK Publishing. The first edition of the encyclopedia, published in 1997, sold nearly 200,000 copies.

AHS President Emeritus **Dr. H. Marc Cathey** served as American editor for the 2004 edition, which contains 15,000 entries—including some 500 plants new to this edition. More than 6,000 full-color photographs illustrate the plants, which are listed alphabetically by genus. Overviews of each genus include basics such as geographic origin, cultural requirements, propagation, and pest or disease susceptibility. Each plant listing includes a complete description of size, flowers, foliage, fruit, origin, and hardiness and heat zone ranges.

One of the major improvements in the revised edition is the inclusion of AHS Plant Heat zones and updated USDA Plant Hardiness zones for all plants. “This is the most current and comprehensive plant guide on the market,” says Dr. Cathey. “No other encyclopedia contains this level of information about so many important garden plants, from the time-tested classics to the most popular cultivars introduced in the last few years.”

Also hot off the press from DK Publishing is the AHS *Southwest SMARTGARDEN™ Regional Guide*, co-authored by **Pat**



**Welsh and Rita Pelczar.** This is the final book in the four-volume *AHS SMARTGARDEN™ Regional Guide* series—earlier volumes covered the Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest. This groundbreaking series of regional books, based on using earth-friendly gardening practices and selecting regionally appropriate plants, serves as a textbook for the new online garden course, “The Art and Science of the SMARTGARDEN™,” being offered through a partnership between AHS and the Horticultural Gardening Institute of Michigan State University.

The book features more than 3,000 plants adapted to a variety of garden settings in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, and Hawaii. Plants are grouped in more than 150 categories by garden habitat—native shrubs for desert gardens, for instance—or special ornamental features, such as fragrant climbers. A special coding system identifies landscape uses, hardiness and heat zones, as well as cultural requirements for each of the plants covered. “This is destined to become the gardening guide of choice for southwestern gardeners,” says Dr. Cathey.

The *AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* will not be available until mid-October, but you can pre-order a copy by visiting the AHS Web site ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)) and clicking on the book icon on the home page. To order any of the books in the *AHS SMARTGARDEN™ Regional Guide* series, visit [www.ahs.org/books/books.htm](http://www.ahs.org/books/books.htm).



## Warner To Speak at America in Bloom Symposium

AHS PRESIDENT **Katy Moss Warner** will be delivering the keynote address during the America in Bloom's third annual Awards Ceremony and Educational Symposium, which will be held October 7 through 9 in Indianapolis, Indiana. An AHS Horticultural Partner, **America in Bloom (AIB)** is a non-profit organization that promotes and rewards community beautification programs nationwide.

Katy's speech will come during the educational session on the morning of Friday, October 8. The awards ceremony and reception will be held on the evening of Saturday, October 9.

In addition to the awards ceremony, at which the winners of AIB's 2004 awards for community beautification will be presented, this year's AIB symposium includes many workshops and tours to highlight the gardens and beautification efforts

that earned Indianapolis the top AIB award last year.

On the agenda are tours of the city's oldest neighborhood, which contains the home of the Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley and many of the city's finest parks and gardens. Workshops will focus on special projects such as converting parking lots to public gardens and replacing turf with diversified native plantings that attract and support beneficial wildlife.

“By placing a premium on beautiful gardens and green spaces, Indianapolis is providing inspiration for all American cities to get involved in similar beautification programs,” says Katy.

For more information on the AIB awards ceremony and symposium, call (614) 487-1117 ext. 23 or visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org). A complete list of award-winning cities for 2004 will be published in the next issue of *The American Gardener*.



AHS NATIONAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## 2004–2005 CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming AHS national events and programs! More details about all these events will be available soon in *The American Gardener* and on the AHS Web site ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)).

- DEC. 2. **Friends of River Farm (FORF) Volunteer Reception**, George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.

### IN 2005

- MAR. 4 & 5. **AHS President's Council Event at the Philadelphia Flower Show**, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- MAR. 31–APR. 1. **AHS Garden School: The Art and Science of Color in the Garden**. George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 1–30. **Washington Blooms!** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 3–5. **Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium**. Williamsburg, Virginia.
- APR. 13–15. **AHS Great American Gardeners Conference and Awards Presentation**. Orlando, Florida.
- APR. 22 & 23. **Friends of River Farm Spring Plant Sale**. George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. *Members-only preview sale on the evening of April 21.*
- MAY 6. **Magic of Landscaping Conference**. Orlando, Florida.
- MAY 27. **AHS Member Day at Cleveland Botanical Garden Flower Show**. Cleveland, Ohio.
- JUNE 2. **Taste of River Farm**. Alexandria, Virginia.
- JULY 28–30. **AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium**. Atlanta, Georgia. Hosted by the Atlanta Botanical Garden and Wonderland Gardens.

## Online Gardening Course Goes on Trial



In August, attendees at the Northeast Master Gardener Day open house at Pleasant View Gardens in Loudon, New Hampshire, signed up to test an online gardening course, "The Art and Science of Container Gardening." This course, developed by the Horticultural Gardening Institute (HGI) of Michigan State University, is offered through a partnership between HGI and AHS. Carole Huntington of Pleasant View Gardens (back left) and HGI's Mary Ann Patterson (back right), Mary McLellan (front left) and Kate Koltvedt (front right) were on hand to support the pilot program. For more information about HGI and AHS online courses, visit the AHS Web site at [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org).

## Help Decorate Our Holiday Trees!

LAST YEAR, the holiday trees at River Farm's estate house were festooned with cheerful and creative themed ornaments made by school and youth groups from across the country. The program debut was so successful that AHS Youth Programs Coordinator **Nancy Busick** is planning to enlarge the scope of the project this year. "We hope even more individuals, families, classes, and clubs will furnish our ever-expanding holiday tree display with their own handmade ornaments and garlands," says Nancy. "This is a creative project that both children and adults can have fun with."

This year there will be six trees to decorate, each with a separate theme: Americana (red, white, and blue); Lewis and Clark (silver and gold); George Washington (blue and white); Plants and Flowers (multicolored); Solar System (multicolored); and Bountiful Harvest (red and gold).

According to Nancy, she is looking for at least 32 groups willing to create a minimum of 25 ornaments each; it will take approximately 200 ornaments to decorate each of the six trees. To learn how to get your school or youth group involved with the holiday decoration project, contact Nancy Busick by phone at (703) 768-5700 ext. 132, or via e-mail at [nbusick@ahs.org](mailto:nbusick@ahs.org).

## Seed Exchange Success Story

OVER THE YEARS we have heard a lot of inspiring stories from AHS members about the success they had with seeds from the AHS Free Seed Exchange, but recently we learned that a plant grown from seeds offered in an AHS seed exchange has been introduced in the nursery trade.

According to AHS member **Edward Hasselkus**, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, a Lavalle corktree (*Phellodendron lavallei*) selection named ‘Longenecker’ (Eye Stopper™) was originally derived from seeds distributed in the 1973 AHS seed exchange.

Edward, who is also the longtime curator of the university’s Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, ordered the seeds and planted one of the resulting seedlings in the Longenecker collection in April 1976. As the plant matured, it caught the eye of one of Edward’s former students, **Michael Yanny**, who was then a propagator at **Johnson’s Nursery, Inc.** in Menomonee Falls,



*Phellodendron lavallei* Eye Stopper™ was developed from seed obtained from the 1973 AHS Seed Exchange.

Wisconsin. “Michael was so impressed with the plant that he propagated it vegetatively and named it Eye Stopper™,” says Edward, noting that the name is a play on words relating to the tree’s common name, cork tree.

Edward says Eye Stopper™ is distinctive because of its beautiful clear yellow autumn foliage and exceptionally corky bark. It is also staminate, or male-flowering only, a quality that is particularly important because cork tree’s seedlings can be invasive under the right growing conditions. The species is native to central Japan and grows 40 to 50 feet tall at maturity.

Johnson’s Nursery is now working with the **J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.**, a wholesale nursery in Boring, Oregon, to expand production and marketing of Eye Stopper™, which is suited to USDA hardiness zones 5 to 7 and AHS heat zones 8 to 5. The plant is not yet available in the retail trade, but you can request that your local nursery order one from Schmidt ([www.jfschmidt.com](http://www.jfschmidt.com)).

We can only hope that future AHS seed exchanges will, uh...

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Cherry Lake Tree Farm is pleased to announce its corporate partnership with the American Horticultural Society and is committed to helping fulfill the AHS mission by promoting the importance of large trees in the landscape.



uncork more outstanding garden plant selections for gardeners. To learn more about the AHS seed exchange, turn to the form between pages 8 and 9.

## Cherry Lake Tree Farm Is New AHS Partner

THE AHS is pleased to welcome **Cherry Lake Tree Farm** as our newest Corporate Partner. Based in Groveland, Florida, Cherry Lake is a wholesale supplier of large containerized ornamental trees to the landscaping industry in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic.

In partnership with the AHS, the **Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association**, and the **Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival**, Cherry Lake sponsors the annual "Magic of Landscaping" program, which explores the value and importance of high quality landscaping in corporate development.

To learn more about Cherry Lake and the "Magic of Landscaping" program, visit [www.cherrylake.com](http://www.cherrylake.com).

## Girl Scout Spells Relief for Alphabet Garden

A RENOVATION OF the Alphabet Garden, one of the children's gardens at AHS's River Farm headquarters, is underway as part of a Girl Scout project. Neighborhood resident and Girl Scout **Brittany Amerau** is renovating the garden to fulfill the requirements for the Gold Award, the Girl Scouts' highest honor.



Brittany Amerau in the Alphabet Garden at River Farm

This past summer, Brittany planned and carried out improvements to the Alphabet Garden, which displays plants and garden objects corresponding to each of the letters of the alphabet. Installed in 1993 as one of 12 gardens in the AHS Children's Garden, the garden has been in need of a face-lift for some time. Much of the work involves shifting existing plants, so AHS Horticulturist **Peggy Bowers** is overseeing Brittany's transplanting efforts. Brittany has also secured funding from the **Yacht Haven Garden Club** in Alexandria for new plants and garden ornaments.

Now 16, Brittany first visited River Farm as a second grader, when her mother, **Karla Amerau**, began volunteering here. Later visits were on school and Girl Scout field trips. "The Children's Garden was always the highlight of our trips," says Brittany, explaining why she chose this site for her Gold Award project.

AHS Youth Programs Coordinator **Nancy Busick**, who is guiding Brittany through the Gold Award process, can identify with Brittany's project: She's been involved with the Girl Scouts since she was in the second grade. "I consider myself a lifetime Girl Scout," she says.

News written by Editorial Interns Jessie Keith and Katie Palanjan

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# As New AHS Board Chair, Arabella Dane Brings High Energy, Accomplishment

BY CAROLE OTTESEN

**A**RABELLA DANE comes to the office of AHS Board Chair with the enthusiastic recommendations and warm regard of friends and associates in the gardening world. “Arabella has a super vision. She’ll make the ideal chairman of the board for the AHS,” says **Corliss Engle**, a fellow Garden Club of America (GCA) horticulture judge and friend. But, Engle warns, “There might be some kicking and screaming at first. She’s innovative. She snookers you into things you don’t want to do—and then you learn all of these wonderful new skills you didn’t know you had!”



Those who have worked with Dane come away in awe of the prodigious energy and dedication she puts into every project in which she is involved. Dane has expended this great energy generously in a variety of not-for-profit organizations over the years, including the AHS, the Garden Club of America, The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard

University, and the Harvard Art Museums.

Currently she serves on the board of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and has recently been elected to the board of the National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden. Along the way, she has garnered numerous awards for her work in education, conservation, and flower arranging. Among these are the AHS Frances Jones Poetker Medal for floral artistry in 1996 and the GCA Zone I Creative Leadership Award in 2004.

**David DeKing**, executive director of the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS), worked with Dane to establish Project Native, an award-winning collaboration between the Garden Clubs of Massachusetts and NEWFS in which thousands of native trees were planted in coordination with development of symposia and an educational curriculum. He credits Dane with a “can do attitude for getting people involved in horticulture.”

“What excites me is the challenge of working with people to make their dreams come true,” says Dane, who has been a member of the AHS board for nine years. Dane and her husband, **Edward (Nat) Dane**—a former AHS president—recently “retired” from their Boston home to live full-time in Center Harbor, New Hampshire. At Hillcrest Farm, they restored an old farmhouse and created garden spaces in the abandoned fields. Their gardens, both formal and informal, feature native plants and decorative edibles.

“Arabella is an excellent horticulturist who has used her talents in a broad perspective,” says **Deen Day Smith Sanders**, former president of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. When

Smith Sanders was president elect of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. she selected Dane to develop a butterfly program to serve the 9,000 member clubs and 300 international affiliate clubs in Central and South America.

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**“What excites me is the challenge of working with people to make their dreams come true.”**  
—*Arabella Dane*

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As is her practice in all she does, Dane threw herself into the study of butterflies. Ultimately, she co-authored, with Jackie Stone, *Through the Eyes of a Butterfly*, published by National Garden Clubs, Inc. And, at Smith Sander’s request, she also organized ecotourism trips, including one to a monarch overwintering site in Mexico. One visit there provided her with vivid memories. “I



An avid fishing fan, Arabella is shown with one that *didn’t* get away.

was surrounded by fir trees weighted down by clusters of swarming monarchs,” recalls Arabella. “As the sun warmed the butterflies, they would leave the swarm and flutter like snowflakes in an early winter storm. In the silence of the sanctuary, they flew so densely you could hear the music of their wings.”

More recently, Arabella created Showtime®, a comprehensive database of approximately 94,000 plants used by American gardeners. Originally developed as an educational tool for garden clubs and flower shows, Showtime® is also serving both as a resource for the USDA hardiness and AHS heat zone codes and for botanical nomenclature clarification in AHS horticultural reference books and in *The American Gardener*.

“This is a pivotal time for the American Horticultural Society,” says Dane. “Our extraordinary Board and talented staff, working under the inspired leadership of **Katy Moss Warner**, have committed to an exciting Master Plan for River Farm, in keeping with our shared vision for the Society. We are listening and responding to the needs of our members, our staff, and our public, as we connect people to plants and promote the art and science of horticulture through our educational programs and publications.” And, she adds with her signature optimism, “The seed is planted; we all have to work together to make the magic happen.”

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*Carole Ottesen is associate editor of The American Gardener.*