

2004 AHS Gala a Resounding Success

UNLIKE LAST YEAR, no hurricane threatened this year's AHS Annual Gala, held on September 25. Instead, it was a beautifully clear evening with a bright moon presiding over the festivities. More than 360 guests made this year's gala the best attended yet.

The evening's theme, "Through the White House Gates to River Farm," centered on a set of wrought-iron gates that stood at the northeast entrance to the presidential White House in Washington, D.C., from 1820 to 1934. These historic gates, which until recently graced River Farm's entrance, were grandly displayed against a backdrop of white satin and flanked by plants and flowers. After professional restoration, they will make their next public appearance as the centerpiece of the entrance exhibit to the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show next March. After that, they will be installed in a new garden at River Farm for all to see.



This year's gala honorary co-chairs, Virginia Senator John Warner and his wife, Jeanne, share a moment at the podium.

Gala Honorary Patron **Laura Bush**, who was not able to attend the event, stated, "The American Horticultural Society is a shining example of a non-profit organization. President Bush and I wholeheartedly applaud your work to promote the best of American gardening."

Virginia Senator **John Warner** and his wife, **Jeanne Warner**, attended the event as this year's Honorary Chairs. In a brief speech, Senator Warner praised the Society's national educational programs and mission. An accomplished artist, the senator also donated one of his floral paintings, which was a hotly contested item in the silent auction.

More than 100 businesses, organizations, and individuals generously donated items for both the silent and live auctions held during the event. The money raised will support the AHS's national programs and maintenance of the historic River Farm headquarters.

Eastern Performance Trials Coming to River Farm

NEXT FALL, the annual AHS Gala, scheduled for September 24, will share the spotlight with an exciting new event at the AHS's River Farm headquarters—the debut of the Eastern Performance Trials sponsored by the Garden Centers of America (GCA).

River Farm is one of six host sites for the eastern trials of new plant introductions that will offer a sneak peek at the annuals, perennials, and woody plants developed for retail sale in spring 2006. Other host sites for the weeklong event from September 19 to 23 will be **Conard-Pyle** nursery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; **Homestead Growers** in Annapolis, Maryland; **Virginia Growers** in Richmond, Virginia; **White Greenhouse and Nursery** in Chesapeake, Virginia; and **McDonald Garden Center** in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The Eastern Trials are modeled on the California Pack Trials, which draw more than 1,000 growers and garden center retailers to the West Coast every spring to see the newest bedding plant introductions on display at some 25 locations. "We have seen how successful the springtime California trials have been," says GCA President **Jack Bigej**. "Now we see the possibility of bringing a similar experience to the East at a different time of the year."

Viette Radio Show at River Farm



Nurseryman and author **André Viette** broadcast his radio show, "In the Garden," from River Farm on September 25. Among the guests on the live call-in show that day were AHS Board Chair Arabella Dane, shown here with André, and AHS Horticulturist Peggy Bowers. André's show is carried by more than 60 stations in eight states. For a list of stations, visit www.inthegardenradio.com.



AHS NATIONAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

2004–2005 CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming national AHS 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).

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

IN 2005

- FEB. 19. **AHS SMARTGARDEN™ event** in Burlington, Vermont. (Co-sponsored by the Horticultural Gardening Institute and Gardener's Supply Company.)
- 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 and Flower Show**. George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. NOTE: *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.
- SEPT. 19–23. **Eastern Performance Trials** at George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- SEPT. 24. **AHS Annual Gala**, George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.

A complete list of the major plant and seed companies that will provide the plants for the Eastern Performance Trials is still being developed, but it is expected that **Proven Winners** of West Chicago, Illinois, and **Centerton Nursery** in Bridgeton, New Jersey, will be among those supplying the plants for display at River Farm.

"This is a very exciting development for the AHS," says **Tom Underwood**, AHS director of horticultural programs. "The trials will not only make River Farm a gathering place for industry leaders, but will also give AHS members and local garden clubs a wonderful opportunity to preview the latest plant introductions."

River Farm Named Horticultural Landmark

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE (ASHS) has recognized the AHS headquarters at George Washington's River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia as an ASHS Horticultural Landmark Site. The ASHS, also headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, bestows this honor based on a site's "historical, scientific, environmental, and aesthetic value."

"River Farm, the home of the American Horticultural Society, was selected for this prestigious recognition because of its distinguished history and leadership role for American gardeners," says **Donald Maynard**, ASHS Board member and historian. The official presentation ceremony will be held at River Farm on December 3, 2004.

"We are so thrilled that River Farm's enduring horticultural legacy has been recognized by one of the nation's most respected horticultural organizations," says AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**. "This designation is particularly appropriate at a time when we are moving ahead with a new Master Plan to make River Farm a national showcase for American horticulture."

Previous sites designated as Horticultural Landmarks include the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens in Burbank, California.

Winter Lecture Series

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **Cleveland Botanical Garden** (CBG), AHS is sponsoring three exciting lectures by nationally recognized gardening experts this winter.

Tres Fromme, planning and design leader at Longwood Gardens—and author of the "Gardening By Design" column in *The American Gardener*—will give the first lecture, "Salvation by Design," on January 13. **Allan Armitage** will talk about "Annuals and Perennials for the Northern Garden" on January 26. Allan is a professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia in Athens and author of several books on annuals and perennials. On February 26, **Holly Shimizu**, the executive director of the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., will talk about attracting pollinators to the garden in her lecture, "Pollinating Partnership."

All lectures will take place in CBG's Clark Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per lecture; current CBG and AHS members pay only \$20. AHS and CBG members can sign up for the entire series at a discounted rate of \$55; the non-member rate is \$70. Tickets are limited, so call (216) 721-1600 soon to reserve a seat.

New Demonstration Garden for *The Growing Connection*

THE AHS PROGRAM, *The Growing Connection (TGC)*, recently gained a new demonstration garden in Scranton, Pennsylvania. AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** visited the site and met some of its young caretakers in July. “The children who work in the garden just loved her bubbling energy,” says **Molly Philbin**, Scranton school district project director for the federally funded BEST (Building Educational Success Together) program, which organizes a variety of after-school activities.

The Growing Connection is an innovative program created through a collaboration between the AHS, the **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations, and several other partnering organizations and businesses. Its purpose is to connect children around the world as they learn about the science behind growing food plants.



Students in Scranton tend tomatoes growing in a row of EarthBoxes™, part of *The Growing Connection* Demonstration Garden.

In Scranton, local middle-school chil-

dren tend 150 EarthBoxes™ they planted at the Nay Aug Park Greenhouse. **Mickey Lynch**, a Scranton native, co-invented these specially designed containers, which provide a portable and standardized planting medium for *TGC* participants around the world as they experiment with growing vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers in them.

“The children are learning how to garden and how to love gardening, something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives,” says Molly. “They will become better stewards of their Mother Earth as a result of *The Growing Connection*.”

Warner to Speak at Tree Conference

AHS PRESIDENT **Katy Moss Warner** will be among the expert speakers at the Fourth Annual Great Southern Tree Conference (GSTC) to be held in Gainesville, Florida, on December 2 and 3. The Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association and the University of Florida jointly developed this premier event to keep attendees abreast of new industry developments, products, and management issues in the southern United States.

Katy is scheduled to speak on “Trees: The Backbone of America’s Landscapes” on December 2.

For more information about the GSTC, call (407) 295-7994 or visit www.greatsoutherntreeconference.org. Registration is required to attend the conference.

Editorial Intern Viveka Neveln wrote the articles in this section.

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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.



AHS NEWS SPECIAL: America In Bloom's 2004 Award Winners

by Viveka Neveln

INDIANAPOLIS hosted the third annual **America in Bloom** (AIB) Awards Ceremony and Educational Symposium, held October 7 to 9. Last year, Indianapolis won the AIB award in the 500,001 to 1 million population category. More than 30 communities from all regions of the United States celebrated their beautification efforts at this year's AIB event.

America in Bloom, a partner of the AHS, is a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is "planting pride in our communities." Each year, AIB organizes a friendly competition between communities working to improve their parks, streets, and other green spaces. Judges evaluate the communities in eight specific categories: floral, urban forestry, landscape, environment, tidiness, turf and ground covers, heritage, and community involvement.

AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** was the keynote speaker at this year's symposium, which also featured the debut of the AHS sponsored "Community Involvement Award." The city of Vernal, Utah, earned the inaugural award based on the strong volunteering tradition in the community. A complete list of the 2004 award winners for both population levels and special categories is shown at right.

"This was the best educational symposium and awards ceremony yet," says AIB Administrator **Laura Kunkle**. "During the three-day event, AIB participants from all over the United States had a chance to network with other communities and share similar challenges, opportunities, and solutions. Even though it's great for the individual cities that won their population categories, everyone wins by planting pride in their communities."

To find out how you can get your community involved with next year's AIB competition, contact Laura Kunkle at (614) 487-1117 or visit www.america.inbloom.org.

Viveka Neveln is editorial intern for The American Gardener.



Sandusky, Ohio



Rancho Santa Fe, California



Naperville, Illinois

2004 AIB AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITIES

- 5,000 or less Rancho Santa Fe, California
- 5,001–10,000 Goshen, New York
- 10,001–15,000 Greenfield, Indiana
- 15,001–25,000 Hershey-Derry Township, Pennsylvania
- 25,001–50,000 Sandusky, Ohio
- 50,001–100,000 Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 100,001–300,000 Naperville, Illinois
- University Campus Utah State University, Logan, Utah

2004 CRITERIA AWARD WINNERS

- Gardens Alive! Environmental Effort Award *Kalamazoo County, Michigan*
- Proven Winners Landscaped Areas Award *Rancho Santa Fe, California*
- Ball Horticultural Company Floral Displays Award *Newburyport, Massachusetts*
- American Horticultural Society Community Involvement Award *Vernal, Utah*
- Scotts Company Turf & Groundcover Award *Hershey-Derry Township, Pennsylvania*
- Hiron & Company Heritage Conservation Award *Goshen, New York*