

The American GARDENER

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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.

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

NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY headquarters at George Washington's River Farm is being transformed. Now that the Master Plan is complete, our attention is focused on the most exciting project to date—the AHS Center for American Horticulture. The dream that began in 1973, when garden philanthropist Enid Haupt generously gave 25 of the most beautiful and historic acres in America to the AHS, is on the way to becoming reality.

The excitement this process has generated was palpable during the annual AHS Gala this past September (see page 9 for more on the gala), where a set of former White House gates provided a symbolic link between the past, present, and future of the AHS. Guests marveled at these stately wrought-iron gates, which had stood at the White House from 1820 to 1934 before ending up at River Farm. With Virginia Senator John Warner and his wife, Jeanne, in attendance as Honorary Gala Chairs, we celebrated the importance of protecting all our national treasures—from historic artifacts like the White House gates to the beauty of the natural landscape.

Even though the main focus of our energy is directed at River Farm, we have been busy setting up a number of outstanding programs for AHS members around the country. As you start thinking about travel plans for spring, consider joining us at one of these events—you'll find a complete list on page 10. Each is designed to introduce you to great American gardeners, inspire you with new information, take you to unforgettable American garden destinations, and ensure you enjoy some relaxation and fun at the same time!

In early March, join the AHS President's Council for specially arranged tours of public and private gardens of the Brandywine Valley as well as a preview of the Philadelphia Flower Show—where the restored White House gates will debut in the show's entrance exhibit.

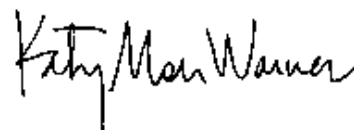
From March 31 to April 1, please come to River Farm to meet Dr. H. Marc Cathey and other garden experts, who will be presenting a new AHS Garden School, "The Art and Science of Color in the Garden."

In mid-April, join us in Orlando, Florida, for the AHS Great American Gardeners Conference in partnership with the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival. This program includes attendance at the grand opening of the Epcot Festival, tours of nearby public and private gardens, and being part of the AHS Great American Gardeners Award Ceremony, where each year we honor an inspirational group of men, women, and organizations who have made valuable contributions to American horticulture.

We have a special treat in store on May 27, which is AHS Member Day at the Cleveland Flower Show. I will be there with Brian Holley, who is First Vice Chair of our Board and executive director of the Cleveland Botanical Garden. In addition to enjoying the flower show, you can tour the garden's amazing new glasshouse and acclaimed Hershey Children's Garden.

Experience the diversity of American horticulture by treating yourself to a garden adventure next year with the AHS.

Happy Gardening!



—Katy Moss Warner, *AHS President*

