

White House Gates Make Grand Entrance at Philadelphia Flower Show

THE DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show will all reflect this year's theme, "America the Beautiful," but none more so than the entrance display. In tune with the theme, this year's entrance exhibit is designed around a set of former White House gates, on loan to the show from the American Horticultural Society. The show, produced by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), will be held March 6 to 13, 2005.

"Installed at the White House in 1819, these gates witnessed the passage of presidents from Monroe to FDR, and will now greet visitors to the nation's first and longest running flower show," says **Sam Lemheney**, designer of the Philadelphia Flower Show.

After their removal from the White House during a renovation in the 1930s, the gates ended up at River Farm, where for more than 30 years they hung anonymously at the property's former entrance. In 2002, **William Seale**, a historian and AHS Board member, uncovered the origins of the gates, and they were taken down for protection and restoration.

Burke Brothers Landscape Contractors, Inc., of Glenside, Pennsylvania, is designing and creating the dramatic entrance display. Burke Brothers has won numerous awards for

its past displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show, including the AHS Environmental Award for its exhibit last year. Roses, many donated by **Conard-Pyle** nursery of Philadelphia, will be heavily featured in the exhibit.

Representing the AHS on the Show's opening day will be AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** and **Dean Norton**, director of horticulture at Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, located just down the road from River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia. In line with the Show's theme, Katy will give a speech titled "America, A Land of Gardens," and Dean will speak on "Saving America's Horticultural Treasures."

Before making their national debut at the flower show, the gates have been undergoing restoration to repair decades of exposure to the elements. **Flaherty Iron Works** of Alexandria, Virginia, has been returning them to their original splendor under the direction of the metal conservation specialists at **Conservation Solutions, Inc. (CSI)** based in Washington, D.C. The restoration work was made possible by generous donations from AHS supporters.

For information about the Philadelphia Flower Show or to order tickets, visit www.philadelphiaflowershow.com.



An artist's rendering of the gates in the show's entrance

United Nations Event Supports *The Growing Connection*



THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION of the United Nations (FAO) designated October 16 as World Food Day, the same day it was founded in 1945. In 2004, the day was observed on October 18 with the annual celebration at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Participants included children from schools in Pocantico Hills, New York, and Scranton, Pennsylvania who are part of the AHS/FAO program, *The Growing Connection* (TGC).

AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** also attended the celebration. "This is a program we started two years ago with the FAO and other partners, and now here it is as part of the World Food Day events at the UN," says Katy. "There's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm for this program as it continues to grow."

TGC participants attend World Food Day celebration at the UN.

River Farm Receives Landmark Award

At an outdoor dedication ceremony held at River Farm in December, top officials of the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) designated AHS's River Farm headquarters as an American Horticultural Landmark site. At right, AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc Cathey accepts the commemorative plaque from ASHS President Frederick S. Davies.



Through a videoconference, the school children at the UN headquarters communicated with other TGC participants in Guadalajara, Mexico. They discussed their projects and experiments with growing vegetables. The live videoconference could be viewed around the world on TGC's Web site, www.thegrowingconnection.org.

In addition, on October 21, students from Seaton Elementary School in Washington, D.C., celebrated United Nations

Week by participating in a TGC workshop given by **Mickey Lynch**, president of EarthBox™; **Charlotte Albers**, AHS coordinator of TGC; and several representatives from the FAO. The children planted nine EarthBoxes™ with various herbs and also held a live Webcast with their partner school in Cape Coast, Ghana. "Seaton's principal, **Willy Lamb**, has endorsed the project and will help students and staff in their efforts to learn about and grow healthy food," says Charlotte.

Vernal, Utah Wins First AHS Award for Community Involvement

THE CITY OF Vernal, Utah, became the first recipient of the AHS-sponsored Community Involvement Award at the 2004 America In Bloom Awards Ceremony held in Indianapolis, Indiana, last October. When **Rance Searle**, Vernal resident and president of **Bloom Master Planter Corporation**, learned of the competition late in 2003, he immediately planned to enter the town the following year. "I'd heard of Villages in Bloom in England and Communities in Bloom in Canada," says Rance, "so I was thrilled to see the idea taking

To get your community involved in the 2005 America In Bloom contest, call (614) 487-1117 or visit www.americainbloom.org for more information. The deadline to enter is February 28, 2005.

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AHS NATIONAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS **2005 CALENDAR**

Mark your calendar for these upcoming national events and programs that are sponsored or cosponsored by the American Horticultural Society.

- 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 starts 5 p.m. 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**. George Washington's 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**. George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- SEPT. 24. **AHS Annual Gala**. George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.

For more information about these events, call (800) 777-7931 or visit the AHS Web site (www.ahs.org).

hold in America because it's such a wonderful thing for communities to participate in."

Situated in a high desert valley in the Rocky Mountains, this aptly named town is located in "probably the only green spot in 100 square miles," says Rance. Brigham Young, the Mormon pioneer, founded the town in

1870 and Rance credits this rich Mormon heritage for Vernal's commendable community involvement. "That's how Mormons are, they always stick together and are supportive of other people, it's part of their nature," he explains. Indeed, Vernal often has so many volunteers that occasionally they have to turn people away!

"Never has there been an award more richly deserved," says Rance. "It belongs to all those who labored quietly in the background," including everyone who planted flowers, cleaned up their yards, picked up litter, and even a group of miners who held a flower-growing contest among themselves.

Rance's company, Bloom Master (www.bloommaster.com) is very involved with urban beautification, so it was only natural that it became a permanent steward of America In Bloom. As Rance explains, "We continually spread the word and encourage other communities to participate in the program." As for Vernal's future plans, Rance says, "America In Bloom is a permanent fixture in our community and it will continue to grow over the years."

Photo Contest for AHS Members

DO YOU LIKE photographing flowers and gardens? **The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA)**, an AHS Horticultural Partner, offers an annual horticultural photography contest to its members. Through a special arrangement with this organization, AHS members are eligible to enter the 2005 competition. The \$20 entry fee for the contest also includes membership in TGOA/MGCA. Photography subjects are set up into sections and classes, much like a flower show. Categories include roses, annual flowers, wildflowers, vegetables, landscapes, and much more. Selected photographs from each year's contest are published in a calendar that the organization sells annually as a fundraiser.

The deadline for contest submissions is February 2, 2005. Visit www.tgoa-mgca.org/PhotoCompet.htm for official rules, entry forms, and judging criteria. Contact **Judy Schuck** at jsschuck@sbcglobal.net with questions or for more information.

2005 Youth Garden Symposium

PLAN TO ATTEND AHS's 2005 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium from July 28 to 30 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's event, which will be cohosted by the **Atlanta Botanical Gar-**



Flower displays like these literally stopped traffic in Vernal, Utah.



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.



Gift of Irises Planted at River Farm



AHS staff members came together in the garden at River Farm last November to plant Louisiana irises (*Iris giganteaerulea*) donated to River Farm by AHS Advisory Council member Josephine Shanks. The planting crew included AHS President Katy Moss Warner, right, and, above, AHS Horticulturist Peggy Bowers, foreground, AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc, center, and Director of Horticulture Programs Tom Underwood, background right.

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den and **Wonderland Gardens**, will feature the theme “Making Connections.” In addition to field trips and exhibits, the symposium will feature a lineup of exceptional speakers. Check the AHS Web site (www.ahs.org) for updates. For more information, please e-mail **Nancy Busick** at youthprograms@ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.

Great Southern Tree Conference Becomes New AHS Partner

THE AHS welcomes the Great Southern Tree Conference (GSTC) as a new Horticultural Partner. The **Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association** developed this cutting edge event in collaboration with the University of Florida in Gainesville to benefit all segments of the nursery and landscape industry.

At the fourth annual GSTC conference—held in Gainesville this past December—AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** made a presentation titled “Trees: The Backbone of American Landscapes,” and listened to other experts address wide-ranging tree care and management issues. “Arborists, growers, landscape architects, scientists, city planners—they all come together and share ideas at this amazing conference,” says Katy.

To learn more about the GSTC, call (407) 295-7994 or visit www.greatsoutherntreeconference.org.

News written by Assistant Editor Viveka Neveln.