

## A Colorful AHS Garden School Kicks Off Spring

AN IMPRESSIVE lineup of garden experts and an exciting agenda caused seats for the 2005 AHS Garden School, "The Art and Science of Color in the Garden," to sell out weeks before the registration deadline. More than 60 people attended the two-day intensive program, held at River Farm on March 31 and April 1, to learn invaluable techniques and practical advice for effectively using color in the garden.

AHS President Emeritus **Dr. H. Marc Cathey** and AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** as well as horticulturist **Heather Will-Browne** of Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, garden writer **Pamela Harper**, Longwood Gardens landscape designer **Tres Fromme**, educator and author **Allan Armitage**, and artist **Sara Poly** shared their expertise. In addition, participants visited the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden for a field study.



"This event was an immersion in a very specific area of horticulture," says AHS President Katy Moss Warner. "Color is important in announcing the garden, and when used effectively, it exerts a tremendous influence over us."

Building on the success of this recent Garden School event, the AHS plans to expand the program. "Eventually we would



Above: Artist Sara Poly leads a workshop in which participants experiment with watercolors. Left: AHS President Emeritus Dr. H. Marc Cathey and garden writer Pamela Harper both shared intriguing perspectives on color during the AHS Garden School.

like to offer more than one Garden School a year, and in order to reach a larger audience, we'd like to have them in different regions of the country," says AHS Education Programs Manager **Stephanie Jutila**. For the time being, the AHS will continue to offer a springtime Garden School event at River Farm. If you would like to receive information about future programs, send an e-mail to [education@ahs.org](mailto:education@ahs.org).

## Eastern Performance Trials at River Farm

MANY IN THE horticultural world are familiar with the **California Pack Trials**, an annual spring ritual for the green industry where plant producers showcase new plant varieties coming onto the market for retail growers and the gardening media. Now the East Coast has an answer: the **Eastern Performance Trials**, which will be held September 19 to 24 at six locations (see box, page 9) in the Mid-Atlantic.

More than 20 international and national plant producers will be unveiling their most exciting new introductions for 2006—including bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, vines, shrubs, and trees—during the trials. "All of the plants will be exhibited in two formats," says **Don Riddle**, owner of Homestead Gardens in David-



sonville, Maryland, and chair of the trials committee. Don says each host location will feature the plants in inspirational gardens and in a more traditional merchandising format.

"Plant retailers will see not only how the plants can be merchandised in their store, but also how they will be incorporated into their customers' landscapes," he notes.

AHS's River Farm headquarters is one of the host sites for this groundbreaking event, which is being coordinated by the **Garden Centers of America (GCA)**. While this event is primarily produced for green industry professionals, who must pre-register to attend, River Farm will have a special open day on Thursday, September 22 for AHS members and the public to view the plants.

## Eastern Performance Trials Host Sites

- Conard-Pyle, West Grove, Pennsylvania
- Homestead Growers, Davidsonville, Maryland
- River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia
- Virginia Growers, Richmond, Virginia
- White's Greenhouse & Nursery, Chesapeake, Virginia
- McDonald Garden Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia

The companies that will be based at the River Farm site are **Athens Select, Centerton Nursery, Cherry Lake Tree Farm, Goldsmith Seed, Proven Winners,** and **Saunders Brothers.** Each company's plants will be showcased in creative and colorful displays on the grounds.

**Tres Fromme,** landscape designer at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and **Gayle Shelden** of Earth Design Associates in Casa-

nova, Virginia, are collaborating to produce the overall garden design for the trials at River Farm.

"The Eastern Performance Trials will give the American Horticultural Society an unprecedented opportunity to be a showplace for the green industry," says AHS Director of Horticultural Programs **Tom Underwood.** "River Farm offers a unique setting for displaying the new plant introductions to best advantage."

For more information about the upcoming trials, visit [www.easternperformancetrials.org](http://www.easternperformancetrials.org)

## River Farm Stars in PBS Program

THE AHS'S River Farm headquarters became a stage set in April, providing spectacular spring scenery for the television crew that visited to film an episode of *Garden Smart*, a PBS gardening program hosted by **Charlie Nardozzi.** AHS Horticulturist **Peggy Bowers** gave Charlie a tour of River Farm while they discussed many of the spring-blooming bulbs and shrubs around the grounds. Peggy also explained how to care for older trees like River Farm's venerable Osage orange and demonstrated how to mulch and formatively prune young trees with the off-camera assistance of Arborist **Richard Eaton** from The Care of Trees, an AHS corporate partner.



Charlie Nardozzi, host of the PBS program *Garden Smart*

"This program gave us a chance to educate gardeners on a national level," says Peggy, "as well as show off River Farm during one of its most beautiful seasons." The episode featuring River Farm is scheduled to air in the next few weeks. Check the listings for your local PBS station, or for more information, visit [www.gardensmart.tv](http://www.gardensmart.tv).

**Flower Power**

with **America in Bloom**<sup>®</sup>

Participating municipalities have:

- more innovative floral plantings
- different plant varieties and colors
- more planters, hanging baskets and gardens

 (614) 487-1117  
[www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org)

**Free Seed Catalog!**

Inspiration Required,  
Green Thumb  
Optional.

Reserve your copy  
of the 2005 seed  
catalog right now.

150 Years of  
British Tradition

  
**Thompson & Morgan**  
1855 - 2005

Phone Us  
Toll Free: **800.274.7333**

Offer  
#509

Log on to [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) and support the American Horticultural Society. Just click on the Thompson & Morgan link to place your order.



## 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.

- MAY 27–30. **AHS Member Weekend at Cleveland Botanical Garden Flower Show.** Cleveland Botanical Garden, 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. 19–24. **Eastern Performance Trials.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. (Thursday, Sept. 22 has been designated a special open day for AHS members and the public to view the trials.)
- SEPT. 24. **AHS Annual Gala.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- DEC. 8. **Friends of River Farm Holiday Reception,** 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](http://www.ahs.org)).**

## AHS and JMG Team Up for Kid's Book Award

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY and the **Junior Master Gardener (JMG)** program have teamed up to honor outstanding children's gardening and nature books through the new "Growing Good Kids—Excellence in Children's Literature Awards" program. Each year, this award will recognize a select group of children's books that are especially effective at promoting an understanding of, and appreciation for, gardening and the environment.

"Using quality children's literature to connect kids to gardening and the natural world is a compelling concept," says **Randy L. Seagraves**, curriculum coordinator for the Junior Master Gardener program. "We are very excited about this collaboration between AHS and JMG, which we believe could attract a whole new audience to the youth gardening culture. And bringing gardens and great books together may just be another way to grow good kids."

During this charter year of the awards program, children's

## Spring Blooms at River Farm



Thousands of bulbs planted last fall burst into bloom in the warm days of April, making for a very colorful month at River Farm.



books published before 2005 are being considered in a unique, one-time "Classics" category. The list of these Growing Good Kids "CLASSICS" is being compiled through recommendations of experts from the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium Advisory Panel, the JMG and AHS program offices, JMG State Coordinators and JMG Specialists, as well as teachers, youth leaders, and kids throughout the country.

Then, starting in 2006, the book awards will recognize selected children's gardening books published in the previous calendar year. The Growing Good Kids Book Awards Committee will review nominated books and select as winners those books that achieve the primary award criteria.

JMG is an international youth gardening program coordinated through the University Cooperative Extension network. JMG conducts teacher training and engages children in novel, hands-on group and individual learning experiences that foster a love of gardening and develop an appreciation for the environment. The national program office is at Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas. For more about JMG, visit [www.jmgkids.com](http://www.jmgkids.com).

American Horticultural Society

# 2005 NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Register online at [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org).

HOSTED BY ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN & WONDERLAND GARDENS

## Making Connections



ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
JULY 28-30, 2005

Explore the importance of connecting children and youth to plants as you join us for three days of inspirational keynotes, informative sessions, idea-filled garden explorations, friendship, networking, and much more...

*Gain perspective from three outstanding keynote presentations...*

- **Sharon Lovejoy**, nationally recognized author and illustrator, will offer us encouragement and inspiration as she shares her passion for all the exciting and wonderful things that can be found in “Mother Nature’s Classroom”
- **Tim O’Keefe**, an exemplary second-grade teacher from the Center for Inquiry in Columbia, South Carolina, will help us hone our skills with “Learning Science Through Inquiry: Doing What Scientists Do”
- **Marcia Eames-Sheavly**, winner of the AHS 2005 Jane L. Taylor Award for her work with youth and gardening, will give us reason to pause and think as she explores “What Children and Youth Really Need: How Gardening Can Provide It”

*Participate in garden explorations and informative sessions...*

- Experience the gardens and programs of **Wonderland Gardens**, a developing public garden in south Dekalb County that has become a national model for environmental education and a rallying point for garden-inspired community activism
- Enjoy an afternoon and evening at **Atlanta Botanical Garden**, featuring a two-acre children’s garden, the Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory and the Fuqua Orchid Center
- Learn from 20 information-packed sessions on gardening with children and youth
- Attend the debut of the “**Growing Good Kids Excellence in Children’s Literature Awards**” presented by the Junior Master Gardener Program and the American Horticultural Society. This new awards program honors engaging and inspiring works of garden- and ecology-themed children’s literature

The symposium will be headquartered on the beautiful campus of **Emory University** in suburban Atlanta. An optional excursion to **Callaway Gardens** and its famous Day Butterfly Center will be offered at the conclusion of the symposium on Saturday afternoon.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org), e-mail [youthprograms@ahs.org](mailto:youthprograms@ahs.org) or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132

## In The Garden with the Experts



August 26-28, 2005

Join us for a weekend filled with fascinating seminars and demonstrations given by famed speakers in the field of horticulture and landscape design, including Andre Viete, well-known horticulturist and author.

Starting at **\$409** <sup>per person\*</sup>

Two-Night Package Includes:

- Luxurious Accommodations
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Book Signing, Seminars and Demonstrations
- Garden Luncheon
- 10% Off Purchases in the Cottage Gardener Shop
- Nightly Movies, Use of Indoor & Outdoor Pools, Fitness Center, Hiking and Biking Trails



800.838.1766

www.thehomestead.com

\*Per person, with a 2 night minimum, based on double occupancy. Price does not include service fees and tax. Some restrictions apply. Subject to availability.

Ornamental grasses, perennials, bamboo, ferns. Liners available.

 **KURT BLUEMEL, INC.**  
wholesale



earthly pursuits  
sales to the public

earthly pursuits, inc.  
2901 Kuntz Road Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244  
Tel: 410-496-2523 Fax: 410-496-5894  
Email: mail@earthlypursuits.net  
www.earthlypursuits.net

Kurt Bluemel, Inc.  
2740 Greene Lane Baldwin, Maryland 21013  
Toll Free: 800-498-1560 Local: 410-557-7229 ext. 6  
Fax: 410-557-9785 Email: Sales@kurtbluemel.com  
www.kurtbluemel.com

shipping nationwide

## Art Shows at River Farm

Throughout the year, the rooms of River Farm's estate house are often graced with rotating art exhibits featuring plant- and landscape-related subjects. Most of the works are available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to support AHS.

An exhibit titled "**Light Work**" is currently on display through May 20. It includes the works of four local artists, some of which feature scenes of the buildings and gardens at River Farm.

From May 30 to July 1, "**Potpourri of Color**" will include the watercolors and pastels of garden artists Marni Maree and Karin Sebolka.

The exhibits are open to the public at no charge during River Farm's hours of operation (Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, April through September, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m). For more information, visit the AHS Web site ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)) or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 114.

## Awards Galore at the Philadelphia Flower Show

AFTER MANY MONTHS of painstaking restoration, the AHS's set of former **White House Gates** appeared at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March as part of the show's entrance display, "Gateway to America." The grand display, which won the show's Central Feature Award, showcased the fully restored 186-year-old historic gates and a red, white, and blue floral color scheme that reflected the show's theme, "America the Beautiful." AHS staff members, who were at the show to help answer questions from the thousands of visitors who viewed the gates, heard many enthusiastic comments about them.

Additionally, the AHS gave its Environmental Award to "An American Woodland Garden," a display created by **Stoney Bank Nurseries** in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. It featured a springhouse that connected a woodland garden to a native deciduous forest, demonstrating how "nature and design can embrace the beauty and chaos of the woodland." This exhibit also earned the Philadelphia Flower Show Silver Trophy and the Kate and Robert Bartlett Jr. Award for the Best Use of Trees.



The restored White House Gates at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show

*News written by Assistant Editor Viveka Neveln.*