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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

AS I WRITE THIS in April, *Washington Blooms!* is in full swing at River Farm, with hundreds of tulips, daffodils, and remarkable specialty bulbs blooming throughout the gardens along with cherries, magnolias, and winter hazel. Looking out my window early this morning, I saw a fox and her kits romping in the meadow, which is starting to emerge from its winter rest. Our River Farm is alive with color and activity this spring.

There is much going on with the AHS right now. After all, it is spring! In late March, AHS partnered with the National Gardening Association and several other gardening organizations at the kickoff celebration for National Garden Month. On March 30 and April 1, we hosted a sell-out crowd here at River Farm for our AHS Garden School on the Art and Science of Color in the Garden. At the same time, River Farm was serving as the "set" for an upcoming episode of *Garden Smart*, a PBS gardening program.

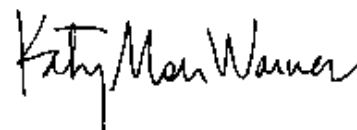
In mid-April, we were in Orlando, Florida, to meet the many AHS friends who joined us for our Great American Gardeners Conference and Awards Banquet. What a celebration it was with gorgeous weather, visits to fascinating places that showcased the wide range of horticulture in America (from industry to public gardens to community projects to festivals to home gardens large and small), and the event of the year, when we honored our very own American horticultural heroes. One of the many highlights of that evening was when our Board Chair, Arabella Dane, offered a special toast to Dr. Marc Cathey in honor of his six decades of service to the AHS!

The pace doesn't slow this summer, either. On May 6, I will be co-hosting the Magic of Landscaping Seminar in Orlando for landscape architects, developers, and municipal leaders. Next up is the AHS Member Weekend at the Cleveland Flower Show May 27 to May 30. At the same time our staff is busy refining plans for the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, scheduled for July 28 to 30 in Atlanta, and expanding *The Growing Connection* garden at River Farm.

A very exciting new program is in the design phase. River Farm has been selected as one of six host sites for the first ever Eastern Performance Trials, a nationally important industry event that will be held the week of September 19 to 24 (for more on this, see the article on page 8). Landscape designer Tres Fromme of Longwood Gardens and his colleague Gayle Shelden were here in April creating the preliminary design for River Farm, where industry leaders will showcase exciting new plants that will be introduced to gardeners the following spring. We are grateful to AHS Board members Don Riddle, Susie Usrey, Joel Goldsmith, and Allan Armitage for facilitating AHS's involvement in this groundbreaking event. The 2005 Annual Gala at River Farm on the evening of September 24 will serve as a fitting exclamation point to the weeklong plant trials.

I hope all this news motivates you to make plans to join us for one of these upcoming educational and inspirational programs. In the meantime, enjoy the unfolding drama as spring turns to summer in your garden.

Happy Gardening!



—Katy Moss Warner, *AHS President*

