

## AHS Receives Grant for Master Plan

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY recently received an \$18,000 grant from the **Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust** to fund the schematic design of the **Liberty Hyde Bailey Walk**, which is part of the new Master Plan for the AHS's River Farm headquarters.



Liberty Hyde Bailey, known as the father of American horticulture, will be honored in a walk that is a central part of River Farm's Master Plan.

"This grant will help us move forward with a crucial component of our Master Plan," says AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**. "The design will bring us closer to our goal of transforming River Farm into a true celebration of American horticulture."

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Walk, named in honor of the botanist whose interest in cultivated plants brought a new scientific rigor to the practice of horticulture in America, is one of the central elements of River Farm's Master Plan, adopted in 2004 by the AHS's Board of Directors. When the plan is completed, River Farm will truly be able to serve as the "nation's capital" of American horticulture, showcasing sustainable horticulture practices and providing a place for leaders in the field to convene.

**Melody Gray**, a former AHS horticulture intern, has been researching Bailey's contributions to American horticulture as part of her Master's thesis at the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture. Melody's research will be incorporated into the schematic design for the walk.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust supports horticultural education and research in North and South America. Its mission includes the creation, development, and maintenance of botanical gardens; the promotion of the cultivation and wide dissemination of new plants and those with value to mankind; and assistance with the publication of books and other works devoted to the science of horticulture.

## AHS Partners with Green Roof Group

**GREEN ROOFS FOR HEALTHY CITIES (GRHC)**, an association working to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental benefits of green roof infrastructure across North America, has become a new AHS Horticultural Partner. GRHC comprises a diverse array of public, private, corporate, and individual members. **Steven Peck**, its founder and president, feels the partnership "will be a great opportunity to spread the word about green roof technology."

The annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards, and Trade Show is one of the most effective means GRHC uses to share information with com-

munities around the country. This year's event, with over 50 sessions on the latest developments in green roof research, design, and policy, will be held May 11 and 12 in Boston. The conference also will offer tours,

training sessions, and social functions. To bring recognition to outstanding and innovative commercial, residential, and institutional green roof projects, awards will be presented—including a new Green Roof Research Award of Excellence. For more information on GRHC and the conference, call (416) 971-4494 or visit [www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org).

Tours will include a green roof at the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital.



## Washington Blooms! and Historic Garden Week in Virginia

APRIL, always a special month at River Farm, promises to be exceptional this year. More than 17,000 bulbs, have been planted in anticipation of our annual *Washington Blooms!* celebration, thanks



Spring in full bloom at River Farm.

to generous donations by **Colorblends** of Greenwich, Connecticut; the **Royal Dutch Wholesalers Association for Flowerbulbs and Nurserystock** of the Netherlands; and **K. van Bourgondien and Sons** of Babylon, New York.

On April 22, River Farm in all its spring finery will welcome visitors touring Alexandria as part of the 73rd annual Historic Garden Week. The event, sponsored by the **Garden Club of Virginia**, features tours of more than 250 public and private houses and gardens. Proceeds will help support the restoration of important historic grounds and gardens throughout the state. For additional information on Historic Garden Week tours, visit [www.VAGardenweek.org](http://www.VAGardenweek.org).

## Friends of River Farm Plant Sale

AN UNUSUALLY MILD winter in the mid-Atlantic region has gardeners here impatiently awaiting the planting season. To the rescue comes the annual Friends of River Farm Plant Sale on April 21 and 22, with an AHS member preview night on April 20. Nearly 30 vendors will be offering a vast array of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vines, and hanging baskets, according to AHS Horticulturist **Peggy Bowers**.

Peggy says that the best introductions from recent years, including 'Endless Summer' hydrangeas and Knock Out roses, will be available, along with new selections such as the disease-resistant 'Lady Elsie May' rose and the scented hosta 'Fragrant Dream.' Garden tools, books, and ornaments will be available in the AHS Garden Shop, and the Green Garage® exhibit will provide inspiration to gardeners seeking to be kinder to themselves and the environment.



'Blush' Knock Out rose

The AHS members-only preview sale will be held on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members must present a valid AHS membership card for admission. The sale is open to the public on Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the gardens and grounds of River Farm.

LEFT: MARY YEE. RIGHT: COURTESY OF CONARD PYLE.

American Horticultural Society

# Washington Blooms!

April 1–29, 2006

Join us this April for *Washington Blooms!* at River Farm. Nothing compares with the beauty of the early spring blooms in the National Capital area. Cherry blossoms, daffodils, and tulips herald the coming of spring in an explosion of color. Mark your calendar and plan to visit River Farm and the National Capital area this April—you'll find a variety of spring delights with something for every gardener and garden enthusiast, no matter what your passion!

Visit [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) or call (703) 768-5700 for more information.

### 2006 Washington Blooms! Events at River Farm

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| April 1       | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour                                      |
| April 8       | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour                                      |
| April 15      | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour                                      |
| April 20      | • Members-Only Preview Night<br>Friends of River Farm Plant Sale |
| April 21 & 22 | • Friends of River Farm Plant Sale                               |
| April 29      | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour<br>• Family Day at River Farm        |

### Ongoing for the month of April at River Farm

- Thousands of spring blooms!
- AHS Garden Shop
- Botanical and garden art exhibit

### More reasons to visit the National Capital Area in April

- National Cherry Blossom Festival (March 25 – April 9)
- Historic Garden Week in Virginia (April 22 – 29)



## AHS NATIONAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS 2006 CALENDAR

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

- APR. 1–29. **Washington Blooms!** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 6 & 7. **AHS Garden School: Gardening with Native Plants.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 21 & 22. **Friends of River Farm Plant Sale.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. (Note: Members-only preview sale is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 20).
- APR. 21–JUNE 11. **Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival.** Orlando, Florida.
- APR. 30–MAY 3. **Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium.** Williamsburg, Virginia.
- MAY 5. **Magic of Landscaping Conference.** Orlando, Florida.
- MAY 11 & 12. **AHS Garden School: The Art & Science of Color in the Garden.** Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio.
- MAY 21. **Friends of River Farm Family Picnic.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- JUNE 1. **Taste of River Farm.** George Washington's River Farm. Alexandria, Virginia.
- JUNE 2. **Great American Gardeners Award Ceremony and Banquet.** George Washington's River Farm. Alexandria, Virginia.
- JULY 27–29. **National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.** St. Louis, Missouri. Hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden.
- SEPT. 20–23. **Fashion in Bloom** (formerly the Eastern Performance Trials). George Washington's River Farm. Alexandria, Virginia.
- SEPT. 23. **AHS Annual Gala.** George Washington's River Farm. Alexandria, Virginia.
- OCT. 26 & 27. **AHS Garden School: The Art & Science of Garden Photography.** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas.

For more information about these events, call (800) 777-7931 or visit the AHS website ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)).

## Chapel Valley Partners with AHS

FOUNDED by AHS Board Member **J. Landon Reeve** in 1968, **Chapel Valley Landscape Company** recently became a new AHS Corporate Partner. Chapel Valley provides landscape design, installation, and maintenance services to homeowners and businesses in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The company's green trucks are a familiar sight in the National Capital region and their work is on view throughout the area—the company has been involved in high-profile projects including the Inner Harbor complex in Baltimore and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. In addition, Chapel Valley has provided landscaping services to River Farm, helping the AHS to redesign the area in front of the estate house last summer to incorporate new plantings for the first **Eastern Performance Trials**, held in September.



J. Landon Reeve, landscape architect Ann English, left, and AHS President Katy Moss Warner, right, review construction plans for the Eastern Performance Trials.

“Becoming an AHS Corporate Partner is a natural step for us,” says Landon. He and his company have strong ties to the AHS. He has been a member since the mid-1960s, and as a student he worked with now retired AHS President Emeritus **Dr. H. Marc Cathey** and Board member **Kurt Bluemel**.

Through mentoring and scholarship programs, comprehensive training for its workers, and a dedication to the highest quality work, Chapel Valley Landscaping has not just risen to the challenges presented by a rapidly changing industry, says Landon, “we’ve enjoyed being an active part of it.”

## TGOA/MGCA National Convention in South Carolina

THE GARDENERS of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA), an AHS Horticultural Partner, will hold its national convention from April 20 to 22 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

According to **Henry Pittman**, a TGOA/MGCA national director and member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, which is hosting the convention, Spartanburg is an especially appropriate venue. “It’s a tremendous example of public and private initiative,” says Henry. Public gardens abound, including the Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve, the 600-acre Milliken Arboretum at the textile company's headquarters, and arboreta at Wofford College, Spartanburg Technical College, and the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

Beyond its formal program, the Spartanburg convention will showcase how much influence local garden clubs and other vol-

unteer groups can have. Spots of Pride, a well-established community beautification project, has improved more than 70 previously run-down sites with daylilies, junipers, crape myrtles, and other beautiful but tough plants. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the largest TGOA/MGCA affiliate, is active in the Spots of Pride program and has planted over 2,200 trees along the city's streets and highways. For more information on the convention, and to register, visit [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org).

## AHS Co-Sponsors Colonial Williamsburg Symposium

ALONG WITH *Fine Gardening* magazine, the AHS will co-sponsor the 60th Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, "Celebrating the American Garden: Spaces for Relaxing and Entertaining" held April 30 to May 3 in Williamsburg, Virginia. AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** will be making opening remarks at the event, which will feature speakers such as garden writer **Pamela Harper**, bulb guru **Brent Heath**, garden designer and author **Julie Moir Messervy**, and **Laura Reilly**, floricultural manager for the Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Symposium participants also may take part in optional activities such as walking tours, garden clinics, and a trip to Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, Virginia. A discounted registration fee is available for AHS members. To learn more, call (800) 603-0948 or visit [www.ColonialWilliamsburg.org/conted](http://www.ColonialWilliamsburg.org/conted).

## New Youth Programs Internship

THE AHS has been selected as one of 60 nonprofits in the Washington, D.C. area to participate in the **2006 ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP)**. ExxonMobil will provide a grant for a Youth Programs intern to work with the Education Programs staff at AHS's River Farm headquarters.

The intern will assist with the planning and coordination of the 14th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 28 to 30. Other activities will include assisting with River Farm's children's garden and *The Growing Connection* demonstration garden—a pilot program for middle school students on food plant science, nutrition, and sustainability that the AHS administers with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

For more information about the internship, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 121 or e-mail [education@ahs.org](mailto:education@ahs.org).

*News written by Editorial Intern Linda McIntyre.*



*The Growing Connection demonstration garden at River Farm*

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