

# The American GARDENER

## EDITOR

David J. Ellis

## MANAGING EDITOR AND ART DIRECTOR

Mary Yee

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Viveka Neveln

## EDITORIAL INTERN

Linda McIntyre

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Rita Pelczar

Joanne Wolfe

## CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Carole Ottesen

## EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

**CHAIR** John Alex Floyd Jr.  
*Birmingham, Alabama*

Allan M. Armitage  
*Athens, Georgia*

Nina L. Bassuk  
*Ithaca, New York*

Richard E. Bir  
*Brevard, North Carolina*

John E. Bryan  
*San Francisco, California*

John L. Creech  
*Columbus, North Carolina*

Panayoti Kelaidis  
*Denver, Colorado*

Richard W. Lighty  
*Kennett Square, Pennsylvania*

Elvin McDonald  
*West Des Moines, Iowa*

Felder Rushing  
*Jackson, Mississippi*

**ADVERTISING AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS** *The American Gardener*  
7931 East Boulevard Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308  
(703) 768-5700  
E-MAIL: [advertising@ahs.org](mailto:advertising@ahs.org)

*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.

Copyright ©2006 by the American Horticultural Society.

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

## NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

**T**HANKS TO A mild winter and cool spring—not to mention 20,000 bulbs donated last fall—this has been the most beautiful spring I can remember here at George Washington's River Farm. The daffodils and hellebores opened early and then kept blooming for weeks, while the many different specialty bulbs have surprised us at every turn. Now, as I write this, we are surrounded by thousands of tulips as our *Washington Blooms!* celebration is in full swing.

It was a special treat this year to see hundreds of purple crocuses pop out of the ground in bold X's and O's, just as Dr. H. Marc Cathey predicted when we planted them with him to celebrate his birthday last October. It is his special loving way of reminding us to celebrate the beauty of the natural world and have fun doing it!

Spring always signals change—change from the somber landscapes of winter to bright joyful colors heightened by glorious blue skies and the apple-green foliage of the trees just coming into leaf. While nature is in transition at this time, so is our American Horticultural Society (AHS). On June 3 this year I am retiring as president of the AHS after four years. The position is now open for the next generation of horticultural leadership in America! (See news article on page 8.)

I have great confidence that the right people and programs are in place at the AHS to maintain the positive momentum that has been building over the past few years. The staff is exceptional, with dedicated and experienced leaders in each of our departments. We have a strong Board of Directors that includes prominent leaders in all fields of American horticulture.

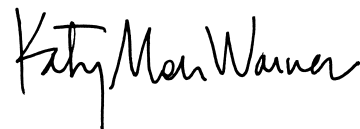
Our membership is growing steadily thanks to enthusiasm for the new educational programs and unique member benefits only the AHS can offer. Our partnerships with other gardening and conservation organizations in America are expanding our collective ability to provide gardeners with valuable information and inspiration. And we are building excitement around a Capital Campaign that will transform our headquarters at River Farm into a National Center for American Horticulture. From this innovative and forward-thinking platform, the AHS will deliver dynamic programs to gardeners, students, educators, horticultural professionals, and garden communicators throughout the country.

I have been asked by the AHS Board to maintain my involvement with the AHS in the capacity of president emeritus. I am truly honored to take on this new role and look forward to working closely with these extraordinary leaders of American horticulture as we move ahead with the Capital Campaign and fulfillment of our inspiring new Master Plan for River Farm.

To each of you, our AHS members, I thank you for your wonderful support, your active involvement, and for the stories, photos, and plants you have shared with me. I encourage you to continue your passionate engagement with the activities and mission of the AHS and help us grow in the exciting times ahead.

My very best wishes to all of you.

Happy Gardening!



—Katy Moss Warner, *AHS President*

