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## ON THE ROAD WITH AHS

**H**APPY NEW YEAR to each and every one of our AHS members! And what an exciting year we have in front of us, full of much activity, important partnerships, further developments at River Farm, and brand new leadership. Get ready, because this will be a year to remember!

As this issue went to press, we received late-breaking news from our search committee that Deane H. Hundley has been named the next president of the AHS. Deane's appointment is the culmination of an intensive national search that was launched to find the right person for the position at this particular point in the AHS's history. It is encouraging to know that the AHS will benefit from Deane's talent, experience, vision, and enthusiasm, and I am eagerly looking forward to working with him as we continue to expand the relevance and mission of the AHS. You can read more about Deane on page 8.

Over the last couple of months, I have continued to travel the country making contact with our AHS members—renewing friendships as well as making new friends and forging new partnerships.

Recently I was in Columbus, Ohio, for a board meeting of America in Bloom, an important AHS partner. During the meeting, I saw just how deeply this program influences communities in America, giving them a sense of civic pride and accomplishment through a friendly competitive program that is based on beautification and environmental efforts. I was so motivated that I signed up to be a judge this year! If you would like to get your community involved with America in Bloom, I would be happy to help get you started. [See page 12 for more details.]

Then, on a visit to my old stomping grounds in Orlando, Florida, I met with Ray Miller, the founder of YourOutDoors, Inc., one of our newest AHS Corporate Partners. Ray is the inventor of a clever and useful new garden tool kit called the Perfect Garden Tool System. We discussed the possibility of encouraging children to garden through the use of these kits. Again, partnerships are helping us connect people in America with plants and gardens so that their lives will be forever enriched.

Back home in New York, I had the opportunity to meet with Robin Karson, who is founder and executive director of the Library of American Landscape History, as well as the author of *Fletcher Steele: Landscape Architect*, which was named one of 75 Great American Garden Books by the AHS in 1997. We visited two historic gardens and the home of Fred Rich, an AHS member who has created a wonderful natural garden along the banks of the Hudson River. It is people like Robin who are keeping the history of our great country's horticulture and landscape architecture alive and showing us how it influences and informs our practices today.

And so I look at this New Year in front of us with great anticipation, hope, and joy. Please make a special effort this year to help the AHS in its mission—by encouraging your friends to be members, by helping us forge new partnerships, by supporting us generously. I hope to see you in my travels.

Happy New Year!



—Katy Moss Warner, *AHS President Emeritus*

