

# The American GARDENER

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## NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

**Y**OU, OUR MEMBERS, the readers of this magazine, are our most important constituent group. Our goal is to bring you a broad range of gardening information that will be of value to you—and inspire you—in your personal and professional life. This issue features a special focus on evening gardens, and you will find numerous ideas and inspirations for creating a haven to be enjoyed after dark. Other articles include a profile of Harald Neubauer, a Tennessee nurseryman who propagates new trees and shrubs for many of the country's top wholesale and retail nurseries, and a feature on hardy plants for cool-climate gardens.

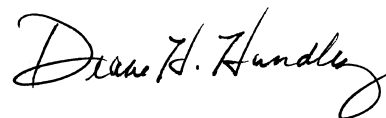
During a recent meeting of our Board of Directors, a great deal of discussion revolved around the American Horticultural Society's national mission and goals. Organizations such as ours frequently revisit the mission to ensure that the information and programs we are providing to our members remain timely and valuable in an ever-changing world. Over the next few months, we will be conducting a study and doing some surveying to help us refine our guiding principles and member services.

In June, we held our annual national awards ceremony here at River Farm to honor the winners of the Society's 2007 Great American Gardeners Awards and Book Awards (an article on the awards ceremony can be found on page 7). The recipients of these awards are people from all across this country who have made a difference in diverse sectors of the gardening world. From the perspective of someone who was attending the awards ceremony for the first time, it was truly a memorable experience. Several of the winners gave very emotional speeches. Nursery owner Paul Saunders, winner of the Paul Ecke Jr. Commercial Award, brought his wife, children, and grandchildren up to share the podium with him.

What rang through loud and clear, however, was just how touched each and every one of them was that the American Horticultural Society sponsors this national awards program. After the ceremony, one of them came up to me and said, "Thank you for honoring me for doing the work that I love." In the near future, we will be launching a campaign to permanently endow all of our awards to ensure that these dedicated people and companies will get the recognition and support they deserve for their life's work.

It's an exciting era at the American Horticultural Society. In the coming months we will be sharing with you details of some new initiatives we are getting ready to launch. I invite you to pass along any ideas you might have in this regard, as well as to add your input to the discussion we will be having during our "2010 Mission" planning process.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you at one of our upcoming national programs. These include the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on July 19-21; the Annual Gala with the theme "Music in the Garden" here at River Farm on September 29; and the Garden School hosted by Yew Dell Gardens in Crestwood, Kentucky, on October 4 and 5.



—Deane H. Hundley, *President & CEO*



KASSIE BAKER

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