

The American GARDENER

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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

IN OUR GARDENS, the onset of fall offers a wonderful time to take stock of our successes, to begin painting a picture in our minds of what we hope to accomplish next year, and to invest time and energy in endeavors that provide the greatest rewards in the months and years to come.

Just as individual gardeners pause to celebrate their achievements and reassess their direction, so do organizations like the American Horticultural Society. Looking back at the summer of 2008, we are greatly encouraged by the interest and participation we are seeing in the Society's national programs. As just one example, our 16th annual AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in July attracted record attendance. You'll find a retrospective on the symposium and all of its activities starting on page 14.

The energy we are seeing from programs like this is very encouraging, but we need your help to keep up the momentum. As we look to the future, we want to be sure we are addressing the interests and expectations of all our members throughout the United States. For that reason we will be conducting a major AHS member survey this fall. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete this survey and let us know how we are doing. To find out how you can participate in the survey, please turn to the news article on page 7.

We hear from many gardeners that fall is the time when they start thinking about new gardens, garden makeovers, and new plantings. Regardless of whether your dreams are big or small, we encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful time of year to demonstrate and share your passion for plants and gardening. If a new landscape project or a garden makeover is in your future, you will find inspiration in the movement that is afoot to place renewed emphasis on plants in garden design. In this issue of *The American Gardener*, we offer an introduction to plant driven design, with an excerpt from the newest book by acclaimed garden designers and writers Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden. If your interests run more towards fine tuning your garden and plant selection, feature articles on native magnolias, species tulips, and hardy terrestrial orchids will provide valuable information, ideas, and guidance.

In addition to spending quality time in your garden this fall, we hope you will take advantage of one of many opportunities to be involved with the AHS. No matter where you live, there are many ways to do this, including nominating one of your heroes for an AHS award in 2009 (the deadline is September 30), participating in our 50th anniversary Seed Exchange, registering for the next gardening webinar, or joining us at River Farm on September 20 for our annual fundraising gala with honorary chair Roger Swain. You'll find information on these programs and events in the "News from AHS" section starting on page 7 and on the AHS website.

Whatever your plans, we hope you enjoy the season. Happy gardening!

Susie Usrey, Chair, AHS Board of Directors

Tom Underwood, Executive Director

