

NEWS EDITION

American Horticulturist

September 1995

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OUR ANNUAL "THANKS!"
FALL SEED GIVEAWAY
REPORT FROM PASADENA



MARGARET SCOTT

M. SCOTT

American Horticultural Society

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ARTICLES

Thanks!

In this issue we thank members who have gone the extra mile to support activities of the American Horticultural Society—through monetary contributions, and also through special gifts and by volunteering their time. In doing so, AHS President H. Marc Cathey highlights some of the activities that you have made possible during the last fiscal year.

Among our most successful activities for the past three years have been our symposia on gardening programs for children and youth. The most recent was in Pasadena, California, giving parents, educators, and others on the West Coast an infusion of enthusiasm for “Planting the Future.” We report some highlights beginning on page 9.

You can plant for the future by taking advantage of our second annual fall seed giveaway. Many seeds left over from our spring catalog, listed on pages 12 and 13, are perfect for overwintering.

A year ago, we went to our members with a survey about our publications, and in the next News Edition, we’re going to ask for your input again. To celebrate AHS’s 75th anniversary in 1997, we want you to help us choose 75 best plants and 75 best books for American gardeners. Start making your lists now!

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MEMBERS' FORUM

In our July issue, we ran a letter from a New Mexico member taking issue with our March articles on invasive exotic plants. The writer grows two plants—Japanese honeysuckle and English ivy—that have escaped from gardens in the East, because they are tough and tolerate desert conditions. We invited other Western gardeners to share their experiences. Here are two responses:

The Right Place

It is very important to know ahead of time if a plant is invasive and under what circumstances. I have a good example.

Mexican primrose, *Oenothera berlandieri*, is a beautiful ground cover with pastel pink flowers that bloom profusely all summer here in Southern California. My first try with it was in my back yard in a hot, dry area. It did beautifully and thrived where other plants failed.

But when I planted some in my front yard where I have irrigation for my daylilies, it became an invasive mess with too many vines and not enough flowers. It grew up and over my established daylilies, and when I quit irrigating to curb its growth my daylilies suffered. I removed all visible signs of it, but it came back up in the daylily clumps.

So I learned the hard way. I've seen Mexican primrose used beautifully on a hot, dry slope, and other places with little or no irrigation, and it could be a good addition to a garden in New Mexico.

The point is not to ban these plants, unless absolutely necessary to protect the natural environment, but to educate gardeners as to their best use. Understanding the growth habits of plants in your garden is important to their success and to your enjoyment. Articles describing the invasive nature of some plants are important. I would be much happier if my neighbor didn't plant that silver maple

(*Acer saccharinum*) so close to our fence line, and if tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) was never introduced to California.

Ann Hopkinson
La Crescenta, California

This is a good place to point out that, while our March articles dealt with plants introduced to the United States, native plants can also be pests when planted in inappropriate locations. California's mild climate has made it a hotbed (excuse the pun) of runaway plants. The silver maple, whose vigorous roots have spoiled many relationships between neighbors, is from the eastern half of the United States. The tree-of-heaven is from Asia.

And in case the taxonomists are watching, *Oenothera berlandieri* has been reclassified as *O. speciosa*.

An Admitted Snob

A July letter refers to the "current snob fad in gardening...xeriscaping with natives." It describes plantings in New Mexico as "a refreshing escape from the brown desiccation of the surrounding desert." Unfortunately, for many reasons, lots of people have settled in desert areas who have no love for the desert as it exists, and they quite frequently attempt to modify their gardens to resemble the landscapes of the areas they have come from or have affection for. If the plants they choose do not use significantly higher amounts of water, and if they won't create nuisance weed problems, I wish them well. But they should hope that the snobs do a good job of xeriscaping that will extend the water available to everyone in these water-scarce environs.

We are building a home and I am looking forward to landscaping with natives here on the very eastern edge of the Mojave



Desert. I have been searching for more resources on plants that will do well in the high desert and would like to recommend some publications that I think would be of interest to members in the arid Southwest.

This year the Museum of New Mexico Press has brought out two wonderful paperback volumes by Judith Phillips: *Natural by Design*, devoted to the philosophy and practicalities of designing high desert
continued on page 24

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GARDENERS' INFORMATION SERVICE

Q: How do I control the green patches that grow on the limbs and trunks of several of my garden trees? What damage does this growth do? I even see it on my wooden fence.

—D.P.R., Bellevue, Washington

A: The growths you describe are lichens, which are formed by a symbiotic pairing of green or blue-green algae and fungi. They are gray-green to brown and may look crusty or somewhat leaflike. Lichens, as do algae and mosses, grow on trees where moisture is most abundant, usually down low and on the shady side of the trunk. They may also grow on fences, cedar siding, and shingles. Unlike algae and mosses, however, lichens tolerate both heat and drought. They are sometimes mistaken for disease, especially if they are growing on trees that are unhealthy due to other causes.

Lichens do not harm trees, so no controls are necessary. Attempts to destroy lichens with chemicals might also harm your trees. And you might take some comfort from knowing that lichens are sensitive to air pollution, so they are found only in areas where the air is relatively clean.

Q: A friend gave me a curry plant. I know that the flavoring is a blend of several spices, and my gift plant reminds me of several different herbs. Its leaves smell like curry, but they look like those of tarragon, and the yellow flowers remind me of dill. Can you identify this plant?

—M.B., Clinton, Maryland

A: The botanical name of the curry plant is *Helichrysum italicum* (formerly *H. angustifolium*). It is a member of the composite family and is related to the strawflower and everlasting. Native to the Mediterranean region, it is an evergreen subshrub with silvery leaves and golden flowers. It attains a height of two feet, likes a dry location, and can be grown to USDA Zone 4. Although the leaves have a currylike scent, the plant is not recommended as a substitute for curry flavoring



because it loses its aroma and becomes bitter when heated. *Park's Success With Herbs* suggests that its flowering stems can be used for dried arrangements or in potpourri.

Culinary curry is made with different blends of spices, most commonly a mixture including coriander, turmeric, ginger, cumin, and chile pepper. It can be either a paste or a powder.

Q: I have a plumeria that I bought in Hawaii. Other plumerias that I have tried to grow developed stem rot right after the plant bloomed. How can I keep this one healthy? It's indoors in an east window.

—L.N., Vancouver, British Columbia
(via the Internet)

A: Stem and root rots are caused by a variety of fungi that thrive in wet soils. Although plumerias (frangipanis) need to be grown in moist organic soil, you may lessen the frequency or severity of the disease by making sure that the soil is well-drained and that the plant gets good air circulation.

Q: Many of the leaves of my oak trees have small growths that my neighbor says are galls. What causes them? Are they harmful?

—M.P., Brookline, Massachusetts

A: Galls are fairly common on the leaves and stems of garden and wild plants. They are caused by the larvae of wasps, flies, or mites that burrow into plant tissue. In the process of penetrating the tissue, these insects secrete a substance that stimulates the tissues to swell and surround the invader in a distorted growth. On stems, galls are often a rounded or elongate overgrowth; leaf galls vary greatly in size, shape, and color depending on the species of the gall-forming insect. Stem galls occur commonly on willows, while leaf galls are more commonly seen on oaks, elms, and ashes. Oaks are reportedly susceptible to attack from hundreds of kinds of gall-forming insects, principally

cynipid wasps. More irregularly shaped swellings on leaves are knots, which are caused by fungi.

Although you may find them unsightly, galls are rarely numerous enough to cause much damage. By the time galls are visible they have already formed a shield that will protect the insects inside them from an insecticide. If you feel a need to take some action, however, a dormant oil spray in early spring will control some species of the adults that emerge from the galls.

Q: Can you suggest plants that would be especially suited to nighttime enjoyment of a garden? —P.S., Chicago, Illinois

A: Evening gardens have become popular because many households now have no one at home during the day. People have also found that the garden can take on a whole new aura at night, with different smells and sounds and with dark colors receding and light colors more visible. For this reason, you will want to choose plants with pale blooms—pink, yellow, and white—as well as some with silver or gray foliage, such as lamb's ears and *Artemisia*, or variegated foliage. Some plants even provide action by unfurling their blossoms as night falls—you'll certainly want to include evening primrose and the moonflower vine (*Ipomoea* spp.), a must for its scent as well. The scents of many other flowers—stock (*Matthiola* spp.), flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana* spp.), and tuberose (*Polianthes tuberosa*)—become more pronounced at night.

An inspiring, informative, and entertaining book on the subject is *The Evening Garden* by Peter Loewer (available for \$22.50 through the AHS Horticultural Book Service). Loewer writes not only about perennials but about annuals, night-fragrant orchids, night-blooming cacti, water lilies for evening enjoyment, and daylilies that stay open into the night, some of which were described in an article he wrote for the June 1992 *American Horticulturist*.

—Neil Pelletier, Director
Gardeners' Information Service



CONSERVATIONIST'S NOTEBOOK

Lousewort, Cursed but Undammed

When amateur botanist Kate Furbish set out in the summer of 1880 to explore Maine's northern Aroostook County, she had no way of knowing that she would discover an idiosyncratic plant that would bear her name—and stall plans for a multimillion-dollar dam a century later.

In their 1995 book *Kate Furbish and the Flora of Maine*, Ada Graham and Frank Graham Jr. describe Furbish as a pioneer of natural history, working without pay and striving for scientific accuracy in her plant drawings at a time when there was little recognition of the importance of botany.

The plant she discovered was named *Pedicularis furbishiae*—Furbish's lousewort—in her honor. It is a member of the snapdragon family, with fern-shaped leaves alternately arranged on green to dark red stems. Both stems and leaves are often lightly hairy and silvery, and plants may have one to eight stems with more than one inflorescence per stem. The flowers are dense racemes with dull yellow corollas.

Furbish's lousewort grows only on the banks of the St. John River in northern Maine and adjacent New Brunswick, Canada—usually on north-facing slopes. Its stubborn attachment to one landscape may yet prove to be its undoing, but 20 years ago, it helped save the plant from extinction.

In the 1970s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigated the feasibility of building a dam on the St. John River as part of a \$670 million Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric power plant. The dam would have submerged approximately 88,000 acres of riverbank and forest and 267 miles of streams, including 55 miles of the St. John.

The St. John River has the longest free-flowing stretch of water in the northeastern United States—200 miles from the headwaters to the first dam at Grand Falls. The river runs north, which creates an unusual situation in the spring. As the more southerly headwaters thaw, they exert pressure against the still-frozen



KATE FURBISH COLLECTION, BOWDOIN COLLEGE LIBRARY

northern waters downstream. The southern portion of the river floods, while the northern portion often scours the banks with chunks of ice. These ice scours trim back the alders growing along the banks, keeping them from shading out lower vegetation such as Furbish's lousewort. So while entire populations of Furbish's lousewort can be wiped out by such an event, the plant depends on these natural disturbances to open up new areas for colonization.

Furbish's lousewort has other idiosyncracies that make its survival precarious in the wild—and difficult to ensure artificially. Furbish's lousewort only grows on the riverbank between riverbed and forest edge—rarely among dense vegetation or in very open habitats. Since lousewort species

are hemiparasitic, meaning they derive some of their nutrients from nearby plants, Furbish's lousewort depends on root connections to other plants to survive. Furthermore, Furbish's lousewort reproduces solely by seeds, and plants take several years to reach sexual maturity.

In the course of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, the Army Corps of Engineers hired Charles D. Richards, a botany professor at the University of

Maine, to conduct a study of plants that might be affected by the project. No Furbish's lousewort plants had been collected since 1946, and it had been declared “probably extinct” in a 1975 Smithsonian publication. But Richards quickly discovered populations of Furbish's lousewort growing along the river, and this quirky plant became the focus of a public outcry against the project.

The proposed dam would have submerged some populations of Furbish's lousewort and would have stopped the cycle of intermittent flooding and ice scours crucial to the establishment of new populations. Under the then-new Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Office of Rare and Endangered Species petitioned to have Furbish's lousewort listed as endangered, so environmental groups could sue the Army Corps of Engineers if construction began on the dam. In the meantime, federal agencies and the paper companies involved conducted more in-depth environmental and cost-benefit analyses and found that the dam was not financially viable.

But threats to Furbish's lousewort—and the St. John River—are far from gone. “Cumulative degradation of habitat may be the real threat,” says Sue Gawler, a plant ecologist with the Maine Natural Areas Program. In the downstream half of its range, residential and commercial development along the river and the use of recreational vehicles along the banks are changing a unique ecosystem. No habitat is permanently protected in the United States. Collecting or destroying the plant in the wild would be illegal if it grew on federal lands, but it does not, and Maine has no state law protecting endangered plant species.

To make matters worse, ice scours during the harsh winter of 1991 wiped out nearly 60 percent of the Furbish's lousewort plants. A 1993 census showed the population was not recovering. According to Gawler a census this summer should indicate whether a more interventionist approach is needed to ensure the survival of this unusual plant.

—Terri J. Huck
Assistant Editor





MAIL-ORDER EXPLORER

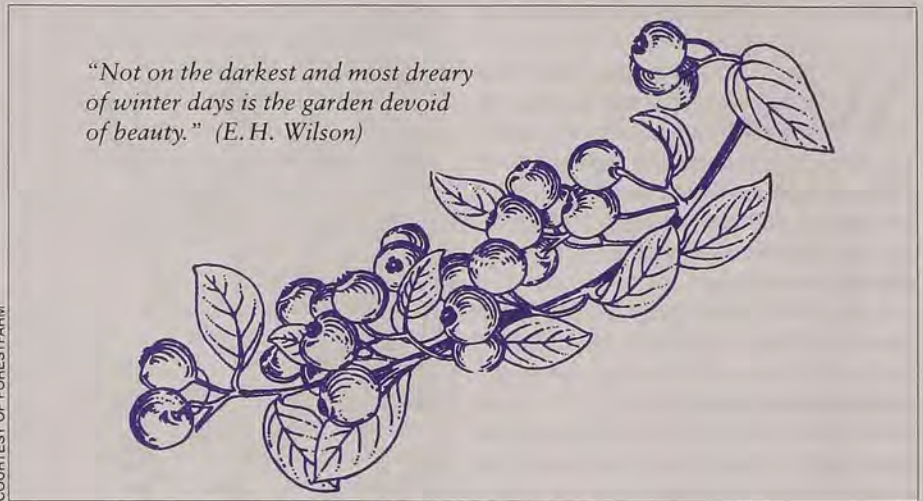
Northwestern Nirvana

Those gardeners who have not yet discovered the amazing selection of choice plants among the 2,500-plus listings in Forestfarm's gargantuan 350-page catalog have much to look forward to. The Williams, Oregon, nursery's catalog "is like the ultimate Christmas shopping list—they have anything and everything," says Robert Halpern, curator of horticulture for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which oversees programs at the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park in New York. "For those of us reading the gardening magazines and drooling over the description of some wonderful plant that we can't find at local nurseries, Forestfarm is likely to have it."

Zoo horticulturists are always looking for new plants to replicate or simulate animal habitats, so it's hardly surprising that Forestfarm's customers also include Merle Moore, horticulturist at the Denver Zoological Gardens. "It's not your run-of-the-mill nursery," says Moore, who lists unusual ornamental grasses, dwarf buddleia cultivars such as *Buddleia davidii* var. *nanhoensis* 'Indigo' and 'Plum', and Eurasian maples such as Turkestan shrub maple (*Acer semenovii*, also listed as *A. tataricum* subsp. *semenovii*) and snake-bark maple (*A. capillipes*) among his purchases.

Moore and Halpern, as do many other customers, value the wealth of horticultural information—and whimsical quotations from a variety of sources—contained in the voluminous catalog. "The catalog itself is great reading, and they manage to pack in a lot of extra information, such as the nativity of the plants and the sources of the plant descriptions," says Halpern.

The driving inspiration behind Forestfarm is the vision of owners Ray and Peg Prag, who met at the University of California at Davis when Ray was working on his master's degree in horticulture. According to Peg, the decision to start a nursery was made in 1972, while the couple communed next to a granite-



"Not on the darkest and most dreary of winter days is the garden devoid of beauty." (E. H. Wilson)

Line art and quotations are found throughout the Forestfarm catalog.

rimmed lake high in the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area of Northern California. "We decided that rather than pursuing any of the job avenues we were considering, we wanted to do something together, something away from the city, something constructive," she says.

Their dream came to fruition in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon, where the nursery and the Prags' home coexist on about 30 acres in the tiny community of Williams. At first the Prags raised only native plants. For pots they used metal cans salvaged from school cafeterias. As the variety of plants expanded, however, so did the Prags' customers. Now a staff of 18 people is needed to fill 5,000 orders a year. Despite the growth, Peg says, "making a wide variety of quality plants available at a reasonable price is still our stated goal, and we are continually working to find ways to improve on all three parts of that goal."

George Ayers, a professor in the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University in East Lansing, says Forestfarm "has the best selection of plants I've been able to find. For example, their clematis selections alone go on for four pages." Ayers, whose research includes identifying hardwood plants that provide forage for bees, says he

has bought hundreds of different species from Forestfarm, including many types of basswood (*Tilia* spp.).

For some gardeners, the Forestfarm catalog renders other sources of plants unnecessary. "Their book is so extensive and they have such a big variety of plants that I really don't look at many other catalogs anymore," says Anne-Charlotte Bailleux, who lives in Weston, Connecticut. Bailleux's favorites from Forestfarm include *Ceanothus* × *delilianus* 'Gloire de Versailles', a five- to eight-foot shrub with fragrant clusters of powder-blue flowers, and fragrant viburnums such as *Viburnum* × *burkwoodii* 'Mohawk' and *V. carlesii* 'Aurora'. Bailleux's first impression of Forestfarm set the tone for her subsequent experiences with the nursery. "I called to inquire about the color of the flowers on *Prunus persica*, so they mailed me some flowers from the tree. I thought that was very cooperative since I hadn't bought anything from them at the time," she says.

Says Charles Keith, a psychiatrist with the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina: "When I first saw their catalog, I knew they were different from any other mail-order nursery." He has now been purchasing from Forestfarm for nearly 15 years. "They essentially have been the foundation of my hobby," says



Keith, who has amassed a collection of some 5,000 species on a 70-acre private arboretum. Keith praises the Prags for their willingness "to try anything they can get their hands on and keep a wide variety of rare plants in their catalog." Although the majority of Keith's specimens were chosen for their tolerance to conditions in USDA Zone 7 in the Mid-Atlantic region, he has had success with a few Western species, including water birch (*Betula occidentalis*) and desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*).

Gilbert Daniels, a former president of the American Horticultural Society now retired to eight acres in Indianapolis, comments: "One of the things I like about them is you can get various sizes of plants, from tube plants to one-gallon and even five-gallon containers." He says that although shipping gallon containers by air can be expensive, "it's worthwhile because it's still comparable to the cost of buying plants in a local nursery but with much greater quality and selection."

Forestfarm customers invariably praise the nursery's reasonable prices, plant-packaging practices, and service. Jon Duyava, who recently launched a landscaping business in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, purchases plants from Forestfarm for both his home and business. "A lot of plants I've installed in clients' gardens I can't find here," he says, "and everything I've received from Forestfarm has been true to type, well packaged, and reasonably priced."

Perhaps what is most impressive about Forestfarm is that the Prags have been able to transform a small nursery into a complex organization without losing their altruism or compromising the personal service they offer, even at the cost of late nights and non-existent weekends. "Now, as we frantically try to keep computers happy and records straight, we often think wistfully of planting seeds and peacefully sticking cuttings," says Peg. "That's one down side to somehow having grown to be this size, but, on the other hand, there's never a day that isn't a challenge,"

With a touch of awe in his voice, the Bronx Zoo's Halpern says, "When I think back to the catalog of some years ago, which was somewhat smaller, I actually think the quality of the plants has improved over the years. Somehow they are good enough nursery managers to enable the whole operation to grow at the same pace."

—David J. Ellis
Assistant Editor

To receive a catalog, send a check for \$3 to Forestfarm, 990 Tetherow Road, Williams, OR 97544-9599.

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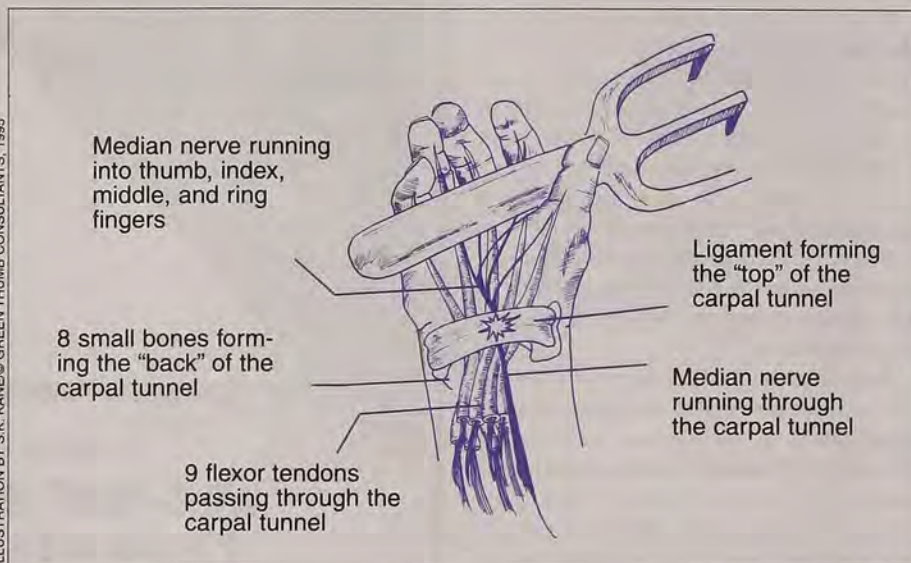
When Bonnie Appleton began her career in horticulture, she was supplementing her teaching salary from a community college by doing yard work during the summers. "I love to prune," says Appleton, now an Extension specialist and associate professor of horticulture for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, "so I happily waded into the worst of the worst overgrown shrubs, reveling in the opportunity to renovate them."

Then she began to notice that her hands were going numb at night. When she returned to her teaching job, she had trouble hanging on to test tubes in her lab classes because the numbness would come on unexpectedly.

A return to graduate school and work at a nursery research center made the pain worse; her problem was diagnosed as a pinched nerve. It wasn't until about two years ago, when her symptoms became severe while she was painting a new condominium, that she made her own diagnosis: a repetitive motion injury. "I also get the pain when I fish or kayak or bike—any time I bend my wrists into strained positions or perform the same task for long periods," she says.

Specifically, a physician told her, she had carpal tunnel syndrome, the injury so often associated with extended use of a computer keyboard, but also suffered by meat cutters, beauticians, assembly line workers, carpenters, and others. Although weekend gardeners may be less likely to develop carpal tunnel syndrome than someone who gardens professionally, they may be adding to their risk if they use a computer all week and wield garden tools Saturday and Sunday.

The carpal tunnel is an area of small bones and an encircling ligament at the heel of the hand. (*Carpus* means "wrist.") Repetitive motions—those Appleton calls "wrist wiggling activities"—cause the flexor tendons, which generate finger move-



ment, and the synovial membrane that lines the carpal tunnel to become swollen and inflamed. As they swell, they may press against the median nerve, which passes through the carpal tunnel, causing numbness and tingling. The swelling can also reduce blood flow, which in Appleton's case caused her to have extremely cold fingers.

Appleton has experimented with different types of wrist supports—splints, braces, and gloves—from various manufacturers, and uses them both for gardening and sports. On days when her wrists still bother her, she wears braces to bed. She also uses heat on her wrists at night to reduce inflammation and increase blood circulation, and uses ergonomically designed hand tools. Learning how to manage her symptoms, and searching for the right tools, inspired her to develop a mail-order company, Green Thumb Consultants, offering ergonomically designed tools, wrist wraps, "cool clothes," and other items intended to keep gardeners comfortable in the garden.

"The damage from repetitive motion injuries can become severe enough to require surgery," she says. "I underwent electromyography last year and found that I had only moderate nerve damage in my

wrists, but my condition is chronic and isn't going to go away."

Appleton offers some tips for preventing carpal tunnel syndrome:

- ♦ Vary your activities and the motions used to perform those activities.
- ♦ Take frequent rests from repetitive motions.
- ♦ When kneeling on the ground to plant or weed, don't support your weight by flattening one hand out against the ground. That hyperextends your wrist in a strained position.
- ♦ Don't push with your thumb. If you must do so, keep it in its "neutral" position—the position it's in when you aren't using your hand.
- ♦ Don't position your thumb lengthwise along tool handles. Wrap it around the handle.
- ♦ Take frequent rests from "gripping" tasks, such as pruning.
- ♦ Stop at the first sign of pain and consider ways that you might perform the task differently.

—Kathleen Fisher
Editor

To obtain a free copy of Appleton's catalog, write Green Thumb Consultants at P.O. Box 5980, Virginia Beach, VA 23455-5980, or fax them at (804) 496-9061.

An Escape from Despair

More than 300 people attended the third American Horticultural Society symposium on youth and gardening, June 27 to 30 in Pasadena, California. Reporting on that meeting is Lucy Warren, a free-lance garden writer based in San Diego.

The Garden Project in San Francisco isn't just for youth, but it touches children in many ways: by giving troubled mothers a chance to change their lives; by creating gardens in once-depressing school yards; and by giving juvenile offenders a chance to earn a paycheck.

Seventeen years ago Catherine Sneed took a job in the legal services department of the San Francisco City Jail. Her first assignment was to connect women prisoners with community resources on their release, but it didn't take her long to see that the resources were almost nonexistent. The typical client was 18 to 30 years old, had several small children, had been charged several times for drug possession, theft, or prostitution, and had little formal education. Often the women came to prison as malnourished substance abusers, and would gain weight and detoxify during their six-month to one-year sentences. Yet when it was over, they would be set free with nothing but 85 cents bus fare.

Sneed knew these women needed something more than jobs. They needed to learn self-confidence and how to take responsibility for their own lives. She discovered a portion of the jail grounds that had once been farmed, though long left untended and trash laden. Not then a gardener, she joked that she always "got a lot of satisfaction from cleaning" and decided that tidying up the site would at least make it look a little better and give the women some sunshine and exercise.

Then, at 28, she was diagnosed with a kidney disease expected to be fatal. After her surgery, a friend gave her a copy of *The Grapes of Wrath*. "What it seemed to be



Catherine Sneed, founder of The Garden Project, was a keynoter.

saying to me—friends said later it was the morphine—was that in order to survive, these people needed to connect with the land," Sneed recalled. A clear mission began to form in her imagination, and she was determined to recover and make it a reality.

For the next year she was so ill that the women prisoners had to carry her to the farm site. A reluctance on their part to become too close gave way to a caring spirit and hope. "We didn't have tools or a sense of what we were going to do with the land when it was clean," said Sneed, "but there was enthusiasm, and we began to bring the men out as well. I really believe it helped me get well, because I went into remission."

Because a city contract already provided high-quality, low-cost produce to the jail, the vegetables the inmates eventually raised were donated to local soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Now they were giving something back to their community, and their self-perception was dramatically altered. They were no longer losers—they were capable of making a contribution. In five years, nearly 5,000 people participated in the program. It was working almost too well. Some inmates returned to prison quickly for minor offenses, clearly relieved to be back in a place where they felt safe and productive.

Sneed then sought an opportunity outside the jail that could complete the transi-

tion process begun in its garden. She found a vacant lot—"a garbage pit"—owned by Southern Pacific Railroad, and in 1991, with the help of the sheriff and local businesses, established The Garden Project to give former prisoners a safe haven and jobs. "The main focus is employment, to teach people what it means to work, and to get to work on time," Sneed said. "And to compete with drug dealers, I had to provide a salary." The program's 40 participants earn \$5.60 per hour, four hours per day. There is a waiting list of 80.

To eliminate any obstacle to success, The Garden Project makes other demands. Participants must study for their high school general equivalency degree, attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and pay child support and debts. "Most people comply, and their probation and parole officers are amazed."

In 1992 Sneed negotiated a contract with Friends of the Urban Forest to plant trees in high-crime neighborhoods. Previously, trees planted by the Department of Public Works had been destroyed, sometimes overnight, by neighborhood gangs. But when workers originally from those neighborhoods planted and cared for new trees, vandals left them alone. Former gang leaders, making eight dollars an hour at respectable jobs, became role models for others seeking alternatives to selling drugs.

In 1993 The Garden Project took on the drab school yards in those same neighborhoods. "We went to a school near Candlestick Park, and there was nothing growing on half an acre. Inside, the school looked very much like a prison. I believe there's a connection." Grants allowed Sneed's workers to put in a children's garden there and at nine other schools. Whenever possible, Sneed arranges for women offenders to work in a garden at their children's school. When students see someone they know employed as a gardener, Sneed said, they can believe there is a way out.

"There is a whole population of people who have no hope and no sense of opportunity. That's just a fact. The question is, what are we going to do about it?" —L.W.

Isolated Youth, Complex Issues

More children are isolated from daily contact with plants and animals than at any point in human history, says Gary Paul Nabhan. More than a third of the world's population lives in cities of a million or more, exposed only to "cockroaches, starlings, flies, and Norway rats."

Nabhan, co-author of *The Geography of Childhood* and winner of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant for his leadership of the Native Seeds/SEARCH program, said in his keynote address at the AHS youth symposium that the result is "a vicious cycle of disaffection, apathy, irresponsibility, and in some cases, outright contempt" for the natural world.

At the heart of the Native Seeds/SEARCH program is biodiversity—specifically, finding and preserving germplasm of plants that served as food and medicine for peoples of the Southwest, so that the plants' genetic properties will be available to strengthen modern-day crops or to be used in pharmaceuticals. Nabhan defines biodiversity as "the entire range of expressions of life on this planet, their interactions, and the cohesiveness of that living fabric." Yet surveys have found that only about 20 percent of the population have heard the term, that there is little agreement on its meaning, and that there is no understanding of why biodiversity is eroding. Even those who are members of conservation organizations fail to rank it among the five environmental issues of most concern.

Not only is the message failing to get through to the masses, but it is not getting through to policy makers, Nabhan indicated. Ecology organizations have failed to ensure legislation to promote biodiversity or win even symbolic gestures, such as U.S. participation in the 1992 Earth Summit. Some lobbyists, he said, consider biodiversity too difficult a concept for the public because it cannot be fully explained in a few words. "They suggest we drop the term and talk about plants that will cure cancer or AIDS, because that's all anybody wants,"

he said. "Or because children are concerned about the extinction of tigers, help them save tigers, because we know habitat will be saved at the same time."

Nabhan contends that this attention to the "cuddly megafauna...will not save many plants, beneficial insects, agricultural landscapes, wild habitats, or one-quarter of the orchids that existed when you and I were born, which will be extinct by the year 2000—12,000 species in the largest plant family on earth will be gone by the end of this decade."

Much of this growing public apathy, Nabhan said, stems from what naturalist/author Robert Michael Pyle calls "the extinction of back-yard experience." In a 1992 survey of fifth and sixth graders, 53 percent said that the media was their primary information source about plants and animals, 31 percent said it was school, and only 9 percent said they learned such in-

formation from direct experience or family sources. When Nabhan asked a group of eight- to-14-year-olds how many had ever spent a half hour alone in a wild space, fewer than half could remember doing so. "Fifty-five percent of the Mexican children didn't know that a prickly pear is edible—a plant their ancestors ate for 8,500 years." Only 40 percent had ever collected butterflies, rocks, fruits, or seeds, and many said they had learned more about nature in school than their grandparents had learned in their entire lives. "This meant no disrespect to their elders," Nabhan said, "but it did indicate a feeling that this kind of knowledge doesn't count any more."

Obesity among American children is at an all-time high, and Nabhan argued that the answer is not more video time with Jane Fonda. He advocated what he called soil aerobics. "Give them a hoe, a shovel, and some seeds, and let them give the soil an aerobic workout at the same time. Then they will make a connection between our health and the health of the world around us."

Nabhan believes that leaders of children's gardening programs are on the right track to reversing these trends. "But only if, once children have experienced the safety of the garden, we lead them out into the larger, more diverse natural world, away from the manicured lawns and neatly rowed gardens into the wonderfully chaotic ecosystems around us."

He urged his listeners to teach children gardening in a manner that makes them aware of human dependence on plant genes and pollinators in the wild. "Our food production system will eventually collapse if we don't preserve the surrounding natural world," he said. He related that one-third of all our crops benefit from wild pollinators (since 1990, the U.S. has lost one-fifth of its honey bee colonies to disease) and that the value of pest and disease resistance conferred by crosses with wild relatives of domesticated crops is estimated at \$9 billion per year. "But we shouldn't have to use economic arguments," he added, "to substantiate something that should be common sense." —L.W.



LUCY WARREN

Grace Allen, a volunteer at the Earthside Nature Center in Pasadena, demonstrates Native American uses of plants during one of the symposium field trips. The center is built on a two-acre former dump site.

An Experiment in Sweden

In the 1950s, Swedish schoolgrounds went from ambitious and distinctly regional in style to unimaginative and predictable. *Skolans Uterum*—Schoolgrounds Unlimited—is a program aimed at reversing that trend.

Gareth Lewis, a landscape designer who is one of the program's directors, said that until the 1930s and '40s, gardening was part of the Swedish school curriculum. Vegetables and fruits grown by students supplemented school lunches and the headmaster's wages. Then schools became purely functional inside and out, with uniform classrooms and aprons of asphalt.

A few years ago, school officials in Stockholm hired landscape architects to make schoolgrounds more attractive. But with 150 schools in the city, available funds were soon depleted.

The Swedish government decided to try an experiment. Through a networking system, school children, parents, and teachers would be encouraged to take their environment into their own hands.

Approximately \$500,000 was made available to be split among a dozen pilot projects—to be chosen through a competition—and the country was divided into 12 regions so that every area would have at least one pilot project nearby.

Applications poured in from 400 schools; the recipients were chosen to represent not only regional diversity, but also a mix of urban and rural settings. In the two years since the money was awarded, the network of schools sharing ideas through conferences and newsletters has grown to 600, and the original 12 schools have expanded their landscapes to embrace activities that range from hedgehog breeding to rifle practice. "It's not always possible to have a garden," said Lewis. "We can talk about the environment in many ways."

A good example is the most northerly school, which sits atop a mountain in the Arctic Circle, where winters are long and little vegetation can be grown. But parents were inspired by a nearby rocket range to develop an astronomy theme. Families gathered scrap from the range to build a huge



LUCY WARREN

Larry Johnson demonstrates how to make music from noncompostable materials during a tour of The Huntington botanical gardens.

space ship, painted bright blue with yellow stars, for the children to play on. Next to the rocket is an observatory with a telescope so children can see and track the stars and meteorological events during the days when there is as little as an hour of sunlight.

At a town near the Norway-Sweden border, children built a pond, designing it and choosing their own materials. "Many of our projects don't look beautiful," Lewis said, "but now I have accepted that." The children are also designing a pergola as a place where they can eat outside the cafeteria.

When these students proposed building a shooting range where they could train to get their hunting licenses, officials opposed the idea. But hunting is a tradition in the area, said Lewis, and the benefits of offering young people formal training in rifle skills finally outweighed concerns.

In an inner-city school where potential gardening space was greatly limited, students removed asphalt and brought in topsoil to create long strips of raised planting beds. Although the beds are adjacent to a football field, players seem to respect the

gardeners and there have been no conflicts between sports and horticulture.

In Gottland in southern Sweden, the community has re-created an early viking settlement using stones, reeds, and other natural materials from the local countryside. A traditional-style fence was built from juniper stakes. Volunteerism is so strong that the school has found it hard to use up its funding. On ground-breaking day, seven tractors were lined up ready to help.

Students are grinding their own flour from grains grown on the site and are raising sheep. A brick-and-wood sheep house was designed in cooperation with a local museum and served as a practical application for math skills. As a side benefit, the school is saving about \$3,000 per year in grass-cutting expenses.

In Lund, a very flat, largely treeless agricultural area across the Oresund strait from Denmark, children at an inner-city school held a competition for artwork that would bring color to their asphalted grounds. They also created a "little oasis" with a shallow pond and stones from a nearby cathedral quarry.

Schools are given only a few hundred dollars in seed money, but projects are inexpensive, often using recycled material and volunteer help. *Skolans Uterum* is expanding beyond Sweden, working closely with Poland, cooperating with Learning Through Landscapes in England, and seeking similar links with other countries, including the United States. —L. W.

AUDIO CASSETTES AVAILABLE

For the convenience of members who were not able to attend the youth gardening symposium, audiotapes of the presentations, workshops, and "new idea" forums are available.

Tapes are \$7.50 each, plus \$1 shipping. For more information or to order, contact EGAMI A/V, 6052 Hillglen Drive, Watauga, TX 76148, (817) 577-2564 or (800) 735-1446.

September Seed Giveaway

Last year at this time we offered members a chance to send for seeds left over from our January catalog. The idea was so well received we decided to make it an annual event.

To obtain seeds, simply complete the order form and mail it to us with a self-addressed legal-size envelope, marked HAND CANCEL, affixed with two 32-cent stamps. All orders must be received by November 1.

Unless otherwise indicated, all seeds need full sun and well-drained soil and should be covered with soil when sown. If you have questions about these seeds, call the Gardeners' Information Service at (800) 777-7931 Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Eastern Time.

Keep this list! You will need it to identify the seeds you receive. Seed packets are identified only by the number that appears in the list.

Annuals

79. *Tagetes minuta*. Muster-John-Henry. Height: 3 feet. Late-blooming marigold that bears small, fragrant yellow flower heads 6 months after sowing. Said to deter nematodes and attract beneficial insects. Self-sows. Start indoors in late winter for late summer bloom.

Perennials

107. *Aquilegia canadensis*. Canadian columbine. Height: 3-3½ feet. Five-petaled flower with spurs of vivid scarlet and yellow. Blooms in late spring to early summer. Airy, blue-green foliage and a very graceful and elegant habit. Prefers part shade and rich, well-aerated soil. Sow outdoors in fall or early spring without covering seeds. Extended dry storage may improve germination. Zone 3-8.

108. *A. flabellata*. Fan columbine. Height: 1 foot. Stout-stemmed, Japanese species with bushy habit. Blue-green leaves have a purple tinge. Bears up to three nodding blue-to-purple flowers on hairy stalks. For culture, see *A. canadensis*. Zone 3-9.

110. *A. flabellata* var. *pumila*. Fan columbine variety. Height: 6 inches. A compact plant with blue-gray leaves and nodding, deep blue flowers with conspicu-

ous hooked spurs. For culture, see *A. canadensis*. Zone 3-6.

111. *A. formosa*. Western columbine. Height: 2-3 feet. Red and yellow spurred flowers borne on wiry stems above clumps of deeply lobed blue-green foliage. For culture, see *A. canadensis*. Indoor germination may be improved by refrigerating seeds for at least 3 weeks after sowing. Zone 3-9.

113. *Aquilegia* spp. Mixed columbine species. Height: 1-3 feet. Mixed red, white, purple, blue, and yellow flowers blooming late spring to early summer. Airy blue-green to gray-green foliage and a very graceful and elegant habit.

114. *Arisaema triphyllum*. Jack-in-the-pulpit. Height: 16-20 inches. Named for green or purple hoodlike bracts (spathes), which are followed in autumn by bright red berries. Needs full or part sun and rich soil. Sow in fall. Zone 4-9.

118. *Baptisia australis*. False indigo. Height: 2-6 feet. Forms large clumps of cloverlike blue-green leaves. In summer, long racemes of blue flowers emerge. Requires full or part sun in moist, well-aerated soil. Sow in late fall or in early spring. Spring-sown seeds should be scarified. Zone 4-9.

132. *Digitalis lutea*. Straw foxglove. Height: 2-3 feet. Abundant racemes of small, light yellow to white tubular flowers. Prefers part sun and rich, well-aerated soil. Seeds sown outdoors in early fall or started in a greenhouse during winter should flower the following summer. Germination is rapid in warm soil. Zone 3-8.

133. *D. purpurea*. Common foxglove. Height: 2-4 feet. Extremely showy, tube-shaped, terminal flowers are purple-pink with brown-spotted throats. Blooms early June to mid-July. Self-sows. For culture, see *D. lutea*. Zone 4-9.

142. *Eryngium tripartitum*. Eryngium. Height: 2 feet. Origin unknown, probably a hybrid. Bears small, dark blue flowers from August to October. Foliage is dark green with white veins. Can be used in dried arrangements. Does not like root disturbance. Difficult to germinate. Cold treat or sow outdoors in fall or early spring. Zone 5-9.

145. *Eupatorium fistulosum*. Joe-pye

weed. Height: 6-10 feet. Sometimes confused with *E. purpureum* and *E. maculatum*. Forms clumps up to 3-4 feet wide. Domed heads of pale pink to red or lavender flowers bloom in clusters up to 18 inches across. Blooms in late summer or fall on hollow stems spotted with purple. Long, lance-shaped leaves are arranged in whorls around the stem. Prefers full sun and abundant moisture. Good for naturalizing. Can be pruned to stimulate lateral development or reduce height. May not bloom until second year. Sow outdoors in fall or cold treat and start indoors in early spring. Zone 4-9.

158. *Hibiscus moscheutos* mix. Common rose mallow. Height: 3-8 feet. Impressive 6- to 12-inch flowers are red, white, pink, or bicolor. Blooms from mid-summer to frost. Its many stems and 8-inch leaves give the plant a shrubby form. Full or part sun and moist, rich soil. Sow seeds outdoors in fall, uncovered. Zone 5-9.

159. *H. moscheutos*. Common rose mallow. Height: 3-8 feet. Hot-pink flowers are up to 7 inches in diameter. Prefers full or part sun and moist soil. Sow in fall. Do not cover seeds. Zone 5-9.

160. *H. moscheutos* 'Southern Belle'. Rose mallow cultivar. Height: 3-6 feet. Large red, pink, or white flowers have a dark pink center. Prefers full sun and moist soil. Does well on banks next to water. Seeds should be sown, uncovered, in fall. Zone 5-9.

169. *Iris pseudacorus*. Yellow iris hybrid. Height: 5 feet. Donor crossed yellow-flowered iris with three white-flowered varieties, so seeds may produce flowers in various combinations of white and yellow. Plant in moist areas. Blooms in late spring. Sow in fall. Do not cover seeds. Zone 5-9.

170. *I. pseudacorus*. Yellow iris hybrid. Height: 5 feet. Seeds produced from another round of crosses between yellow-flowered iris and three white-flowered varieties. Seeds may produce flowers with various combinations of white and yellow. Sow in fall. Do not cover seeds. Zone 5-9.

180. *Lobelia cardinalis*. Cardinal flower. Height: 3-4 feet. Bright scarlet, occasionally pink or white, lobed flowers are 1½-inches long. Blooms in summer. Prefers moist soil and light shade. In cooler cli-

mates, will tolerate full sun. Sow in fall. Do not cover seeds. Zone 3-9.

191. *Oenothera biennis*. Evening primrose. Height: 1-5 feet. Native of eastern North America. Fast-spreading, with yellow, cup-shaped flowers that spring from a rosette of long, flat basal leaves. Blooms open in late afternoon or evening beginning in early to midsummer. Tolerates full sun or part shade and likes dry, well-aerated soil. Cold treat or sow outdoors in fall. Do not cover to germinate. Zone 3-10.

202. *Rudbeckia triloba*. Thin-leaved coneflower. Height: 4½ feet. Distinguished from *R. hirta* by its smaller, more numerous flowers with shorter rays. Somewhat invasive. Sow in fall. Zone 3-10.

206. *Saponaria officinalis*. Bouncing Bet. Height: 3 feet. Native of Europe and Asia naturalized in North America. Rough green leaves are borne on erect stems. Pale pink or white flowers appear June to September on short stalks. Sow in fall. Zone 4-8.

Trees and Shrubs

266. *Cornus mas*. Cornelian cherry, dogwood. Height: 20-25 feet. A small, multi-stemmed tree with a rounded form. Yellow flowers bloom for 3 weeks in March before foliage emerges. Dark green leaves surmount trunk with exfoliating bark. Bears edible red fruit in July. Slow to germinate. Sow outdoors in fall, or alternate cold and warm treatments. Zone 4-8.

267. *Corylus colurna*. Turkish hazel or filbert. Height: 80 feet. A good street tree with symmetrical pyramidal form. Bark distinguished by corky corrugations. Gray-green catkins appear in early spring. After 15-20 years, produces hazel nuts at 2-3 year intervals. Edible nut meat is encased in hard brown husk. Prefers full sun and well-aerated, loamy soil. Can be difficult to germinate. Plant seeds outdoors in fall, or cold treat and plant indoors in early spring. Difficult to transplant. Supplemental watering beneficial for first few seasons, but drought tolerant once established. Zone 4-7.

271. *Halesia monticola*. Mountain silverbell. Height: 60-80 feet. Native to southern Appalachians. Clusters of white to pale pink bell-shaped flowers are borne on pendulous stalks in April and May. Tolerates part shade, but prefers slightly acid soil. Seeds may take 2-4 years to germinate. Plant outdoors in fall, or alternate cold and warm treatments indoors. Zone 5-8.

277. *Magnolia macrophylla* var. *ashei*. Ashe magnolia. Height: 25 feet. Good small specimen tree, similar to species but with smaller leaves and shrublike habit. Leaves are bright green above and silvery beneath. A precocious bloomer known to

flower when less than a foot tall, its creamy-white fragrant flowers open in June. Native from Florida west to Texas, but now rare in the wild. Prefers partly shaded site and moist, loamy soil. Before germination, seeds should be soaked for three days and outer seed coat removed. Cold treat seeds for indoor germination, or plant outdoors in fall. Use soilless potting mix that drains well to avoid seed rot. Zone 6-9.

293. *Stewartia koreana*. Korean stewartia. Height: 20-30 feet. A dense, upright tree with generally pyramidal form. Ideal as a small ornamental. Large flattened white flowers with yellow stamens in the center open in July. Dark green leaves turn red and purple in the fall. Flaking, gray to orange-brown bark provides winter appeal. Germination is difficult and may be best left to natural outdoor temperature cycles. Zone 5-9.

Herbs

305. *Angelica* sp. Angelica. Donor unsure of species. Height: 3½ feet. Long stalks bear compound leaves and clusters of small white flowers on umbels. This biennial usually dies after producing a crop of seeds, but its life may be extended by harvesting flower stalks before seeds are produced. Stems are candied and the leaves used as greens. Prefers moist soil and cool temperatures. Will tolerate some shade. Sow outdoors in late fall or indoors after refrigerating seed for 6-8 weeks. Zone 4-10.

314. *Lavandula angustifolia*. English lavender. Height: 2 feet. Shrubby perennial herb with narrow, gray, fragrant leaves and scented lavender flower spikes that bloom in early summer. Deadhead after flowering ends. Sow outdoors in late fall or early spring. Zone 5-9.

315. *Levisticum officinale*. Lovage. Height: 2-6 feet. A perennial herb reminiscent of celery but with a stronger flavor. Fibrous fleshy stalks are topped with serrated gray-green foliage. Small creamy flowers yield seed that can be used like celery seed. Stalks and foliage are used in soups, stews, and raw in salads. Needs moist, well-aerated soil. Can be sown outdoors in the fall. Zone 4-8.

Vegetables

335. *Brassica juncea*. Red India mustard. A native of India with deep purplish leaves that have a white midrib. A fast grower with a pungent flavor that adds spice to salads. Will produce greens throughout the growing season, but needs part shade in midsummer. Can be started indoors or planted outdoors in late winter.



HOW TO ORDER

- ◆ List up to three selections by number only.
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- ◆ All orders must be received by November 1, 1995.
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Send your completed order form and a self-addressed legal-size (#10) envelope marked HAND CANCEL and affixed with two 32-cent stamps to: AHS Seed Giveaway, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308-1300.

1994-1995 President's Report

To our members and contributors: THANK YOU! Thanks to the generous contributions of our members and friends, the American Horticultural Society is in its strongest position ever to make real our vision of the United States as a nation of gardeners—individuals, old and young, who appreciate and understand the science, beauty, and environmental contributions of plants and gardens. Your gifts support AHS's national leadership in:

- ◆ Providing information and services for our members and for horticulture-related industries and organizations.
- ◆ Advancing a green future through educational programs.
- ◆ Creating a living example of AHS's principles through our stewardship of George Washington's River Farm.

The last 12 months have been filled with accomplishments. Let me highlight just a few.

AHS Horticultural Intern Program at River Farm

Our intern program—entirely underwritten by your contributions—is the embodiment of the AHS mission to promote and improve the art, science, practice, and enjoyment of horticulture in the United States. For aspiring professional horticulturists who wish to devote their careers to the gardens and grounds of historic sites, there are relatively few places to gain practical experience. Our interns learn how to balance the requirements of individual plants with the unique demands of River Farm.

Children's and Youth Gardening Symposia

This fiscal year saw two symposia on children's gardening, the first in August 1994 in an important collaboration with the Montessori Foundation, and the second organized by AHS and the California Arboretum Foundation in June 1995. These two conferences, as well as their prototype held in 1993, affirmed a simple, vital truth: Gardening programs offer positive intellectual, emotional, and physical benefits to young people, enhancing their science and environmental education, fostering self-esteem, establishing good nutritional habits, and building a sense of community. This investment in our green future would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our members and friends.

AHS's Stewardship of George Washington's River Farm

AHS is committed to the preservation of George Washington's River Farm—but not as a museum. It is the living demonstration of AHS principles locally and nationally. The task is challenging: We must respect the history and prestigious appearance of our property while making the necessary changes and improvements to meet our needs for visitor facilities, garden interpretation, safety, and accessibility. Toward this end, AHS Board member Geoffrey L. Rausch of the landscape architecture firm Environmental Planning & Design in Pittsburgh is completing a new master plan for the property. Implementation of the plan will be undertaken in orderly phases within AHS's financial resources.

National Forum II

National Forum II was held April 23-24, 1995, at Longwood Gardens—the conference and the publication of its proceedings supported by a grant from the Longwood Foundation. We succeeded in bringing together representatives of all segments of gardening to draft a blueprint for making the United States a nation of *well-informed* gardeners. It addresses issues ranging from new breeding technologies, to the use of the “information superhighway,” to how to encourage individual environmental responsibility.

Publications

Your response to our survey in the September 1994 *American Horticulturist* was remarkable. We responded immediately by running more articles about gardens in the West and Florida, and articles on garden design. Next year you will see even bigger changes.

The AHS Gardeners' Information Service, well known to AHS members as the “hotline” for gardening questions, has published a number of informational pamphlets over the years on a wide variety of gardening topics. We are now updating and adding to this invaluable inventory to create a standardized series of “AHS Resource Bulletins.” The series will provide solid horticultural information at a nominal fee in a readily accessible format.

AHS Around the Country

Our 50th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in June incorporated presentations by great gardeners and visits to great gardens, some private and some public, all with expert guides. We will continue to center our meetings around “Glorious Gardens”—a great way for members to gather together from all over country to experience some of our most outstanding gardens.

In the past year I had the pleasure of meeting many AHS members at some of the nearly 30 flower shows at which the Society presents its awards. From you I have gathered useful suggestions for topics the Society should address and recommendations of gardens we should visit. I share the commitment that so many of you voiced: the role of horticulture and gardening in improving the quality of our lives, food, and environment.

Galas to Celebrate and Benefit River Farm

Our first Gala last October was an outstanding success—a clear indication of community and national resolution to help AHS preserve George Washington's River Farm. We welcomed more than 400 guests to River Farm that flower-filled evening for a lavish cocktail buffet and silent and live auctions. In the course of the festivities, I presented the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award to Enid A. Haupt, the Gala's honorary chair, who visited River Farm for the first time since her generous gift enabled AHS to purchase the property in 1973. The Gala netted more than \$65,000, which covers some of River Farm's most pressing restoration needs. Our second Gala, “A Gala in the Garden,” is set for Saturday, September 30. We hope that AHS's friends will again turn out in force.

—H. Marc Cathey
AHS President

1994-1995 Contributors

The American Horticultural Society's Board of Directors and staff gratefully acknowledge the many generous gifts that support the Society's mission to create a nation of gardeners—individuals, old and young, who appreciate and understand the science, beauty, and environmental contributions of plants and gardens.

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Spring Hill Nursery, Peoria, Illinois
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AHS extends special thanks to the Springfield District Office of the Virginia Power Company for donating a used pick-up truck for grounds work at River Farm. Repainted "AHS green," it bears the Society's logo and the license plate RIV FARM.

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The following individuals generously supported the October 14, 1994, Gala, the proceeds of which are being used to preserve George Washington's River Farm for generations to come.

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(800) 777-7931

Mark Your Calendar!

American Horticultural Society's

51st Annual Meeting

May 30 - June 1, 1996

St. Louis, Missouri

Next year AHS will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, which means members will have the opportunity to attend lectures on an even broader range of topics with access to a wide spectrum of experts. We will also offer "insider" tours of the Missouri Botanical Garden and Shaw Arboretum, as well as the annual Awards Banquet.

1996 Seed Exchange Program

We hope that all of our members have been saving seeds for the 1996 Seed Exchange Program. Here at our River Farm headquarters, our horticultural interns have been busy gathering seeds, cutting back foliage, and mulching the flower beds for fall so they will have time to fill the September 1995 Seed Giveaway orders when they start coming in (see page 12). To help our busy interns, we are asking you to do the following when donating seeds to be offered in our January catalog:

- ◆ Clean and dry seeds as thoroughly as possible before packaging. See "Tips for Collecting Seeds" on this page.
- ◆ We will accept any amount of seed; however, try to collect enough seeds to fill 150 orders. For very small seeds, one order

would be enough to fill the tip of a teaspoon; for large seeds, it would be three to five seeds. When several members donate the same type of seeds, we are sometimes able to combine them. If we receive only a small amount of any seeds, we may germinate them for planting at River Farm so that we can collect the seeds to offer the following year. We also donate seeds to nonprofit organizations and schools upon request. So if your donated seeds don't appear in the catalog, don't worry—they will be used in other ways.

- ◆ Please complete a Donor Information Sheet for *each* type of seed donated. We like to include donors' comments on appearance, maintenance, or germination when describing the seeds in the catalog.
- ◆ Sometimes, given the huge amount of seeds we receive in a short time, we are un-

able to keep the seeds and the Donor Information Sheet together. To help us with cross-referencing, we ask that you label each package of seeds with 1) the common and/or botanical name of the plant and 2) your full name, city, and state.

- ◆ Mail seeds in a box or padded envelope marked **HAND CANCEL to: 1996 AHS Seed Exchange Program, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308-1300.**

- ◆ Last but not least, **seed donations must be received by November 1, 1995.**

Tips for Collecting Seeds

Depending on the seed type, there are several methods you can use to separate the seeds from the plant. Most garden seeds fall into one of the three following categories:

- ◆ Many seeds, such as those that form in pods, are retained on the plant for a long time after maturity. Try to harvest them after they have dried on the plant. If that is difficult, cut off stalks or stems and bring them in to dry before removing the seeds.

- ◆ Seeds of many ornamental annuals, herbaceous perennials, and herbs scatter easily when they mature. They should be watched closely for maturity and picked on a dry day. Separate the seeds from the plant by running them through a screen or shaking them in a paper bag. Another method is to tie a ventilated paper bag around the flower heads to catch seeds as they scatter.

- ◆ Seeds encased in a fleshy fruit, like tomatoes or berries, need to be separated from the pulp. Let the fruit turn a bit over-ripe. In the case of fruit containing a single seed, the pulp can often simply be pulled off. In the case of a fruit containing many seeds, such as a tomato, you may need to scrape out the fruit's seedy section, add some water, and let the mix sit for a day or two. If the seeds still do not separate from the pulp, try putting the mix in a strainer and running water through it until the seeds are clean. Then spread the seeds out on a glass or metal dish (they may stick to paper) and put them in an airy room to dry. Large seeds need about a week to dry; smaller seeds are usually dry after four days. Then store the seeds in a well-ventilated, cool, dry place.

1996 AHS SEED EXCHANGE PROGRAM DONOR INFORMATION SHEET

Complete a sheet for each type of seed donated.

Seed is:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Herb | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree/Shrub | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vine | <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable | |

Common name: _____

Botanical name: _____

Mature height: _____ Flower color(s): _____

Growth habit: _____

Comments on germination, maintenance, appearance, and/or use:

Submitted by: _____

Street address: _____

City/State/Zip code: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Seed donations must be received by **November 1, 1995**. Place the following information on each package of seeds:

1. Common and/or botanical name of plant.
2. Your name, city, and state.

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Books are chosen for the AHS book service based on perceived reader interest, unusual subject matter, or substantive content. The following are not intended to be critical reviews, but are based on publishers' descriptions. If you'd like to order a book that is not listed here, call the AHS Horticultural Book Service at (800) 777-7931.

NEW TITLES

Field and Garden Vegetables of America

Fearing Burr Jr.

Hardcover. Retail price: \$35. AHS price: \$32.50.

Book code: ABB 995

Originally published in 1863, Burr's comprehensive description of nearly 1,100 species and varieties of vegetables grown in 19th-century America is available once again in a facsimile reprint. Amateur and professional garden restorers, plant historians, and anyone interested in heirloom vegetables will find Burr's classic, illustrated with woodcuts by botanical artist Isaac Sprague, fascinating and entertaining. One reviewer said reading the book "is the closest one can come to a conversation over the garden fence with a gardener of the 19th century." 1994. 664 pages.

A Gardener Obsessed

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Hardcover. Retail price: \$24.95. AHS price: \$22.45.

Book code: DRG 995

With this new collection of essays, Charlesworth, garden writer and rock gardener extraordinaire, replicates the witty, informative, and insightful prose that characterized his previous book, *The Opinionated Gardener*. While the focus of the essays is on rock gardening, Charlesworth touches on a wide variety of personal and philosophical observations stemming from his obsession with gardening, highlighted by color photographs and black-and-white illustrations. 1994. 244 pages.

Gardens of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley

William M. Klein Jr.

Hardcover. Retail price: \$29.95. AHS price: \$26.95.

Book code: TEM 995

Lavishly illustrated with photographs by Derek Fell, this book details the historic and contemporary importance of 43 individual gardens clus-

tered in and around Philadelphia and the nearby Delaware Valley. Featured gardens range from du Pont family legacies such as Longwood Gardens and Mount Cuba, to colonial farms such as Pennsbury Manor, botanical collections at Swarthmore College's Scott Arboretum and the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, and private gardens such as Sir John Thouron's Doe Run Farm. 1995. 327 pages.



Flowering, Fruiting and Foliage Vines

Chuck Crandall and Barbara Crandall

Hardcover. Retail price: \$27.95. AHS price: \$25.15

Book code: STE 995

Everything a gardener needs to know to grow and care for vines and climbers—from building and installing supports to training, pruning, and propagating the plants—is discussed in this illustrated guide. Detailed directories list hardy vines, annual climbers, vines with edible fruit, vining ground covers, climbing roses, and vines for frost-free regions. Also included is information on caring for and maintaining your vines and climbers throughout the year, and organic pest and disease control. 1995. 192 pages.

Step by Step Organic Flower Gardening

Shepherd Ogden

Hardcover. Retail price: \$25. AHS price: \$22.50.

Book code: HAR 995

Ogden, owner of The Cook's Garden, a mail-order seed company in Vermont, and author of *Step by Step Organic Vegetable Gardening*, shares his expertise on growing healthy flowers without using pesticides or chemical fertilizers. Step-by-step descriptions,

accompanied by photographs and illustrations, guide gardeners through the process of selecting appropriate flowers, determining where in the garden they will perform best, improving soil quality, and adopting effective planting and cultivation techniques. 1995. 301 pages.

What Plant Where

Roy Lancaster

Hardcover. Retail price: \$24.95. AHS price: \$22.45.

Book code: DOR 995

This guide is a valuable practical planner for all gardeners. It offers clear and detailed information about which plants will grow well in a particular garden area or give a desired decorative effect, such as fragrance, fall color, or berries. Chapters on perennials and annuals, climbers, shrubs, conifers, and deciduous trees provide lists of plants for every conceivable site. Recommended plants are illustrated with more than 1,300 color photographs. 1995. 256 pages.

Malcolm Hillier's Color Garden

Malcolm Hillier

Hardcover. Retail price: \$29.95. AHS price: \$26.95.

Book code: DOK 995

Hillier, an expert in many aspects of design, shares his personal approach to combining colors in the garden to create spectacular effects. Innovative studio photography is used to illustrate the accepted principles of color theory, followed by photographs of garden designs that show how to translate each concept into reality. A seasonal planting directory gives essential growing information for all plants listed in the guide. 1995. 160 pages.

Wisterias: A Comprehensive Guide

Peter Valder

Hardcover. Retail price: \$32.95. AHS price: \$29.65.

Book code: TIM 995

Among the most decorative of garden plants, wisterias are currently enjoying widespread popularity. This book, the first English-language publication devoted entirely to the genus, will only add to the fervor. An authoritative guide, illustrated with more than 100 color photographs, it details the history of wisterias, describes the more than 60 different types available—including Chinese, Japanese, and American species—and provides information about nomenclature, cultivation, pruning, propagation, and diseases and pests. 1995. 160 pages.

The Rose Bible

Rayford Clayton Reddell

Hardcover. Retail price: \$50. AHS price: \$45.

Book code: CRO 995

A rose grower and breeder from Petaluma, California, Reddell brings an American perspective to bear on rose growing. Roses are separated into their various groups so they can be more easily compared, and color photographs are used throughout for identification. For both casual gardeners and serious professionals, Reddell's book is a valuable reference and an inspiring guide to growing roses. 1994. 252 pages.

Gardening for Wildlife

Craig Tufts and Peter Loewer

Hardcover. Retail price: \$29.95. AHS price: \$26.95.

Book code: ROD 995

Subtitled *How to Create a Beautiful Backyard Habitat for Birds, Butterflies and Other Wildlife*, this book combines the expertise of wildlife expert Tufts and award-winning garden writer and illustrator Loewer, who offer readers easy techniques for customizing their landscapes to attract their favorite kinds of wildlife. Descriptions of wonderful woodland, meadow, prairie, and water gardens are accompanied by 150 color photographs. 1995. 192 pages.

Olmsted's America

Lee Hall

Hardcover. Publisher's price: \$40. AHS price: \$36.

Book code: LIT 995

Known as "the father of American landscape architecture," Frederick

Law Olmsted designed some of the greatest parks and public places in America, including Central Park in Manhattan and the grounds at the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. In this fascinating biography, Hall examines Olmsted's achievements in the context of his Victorian times and draws a connection between Olmsted's vision of preserving natural beauty and the contemporary struggle to balance ecological concerns with urban planning. 1995. 270 pages.

REFERENCE

The World of Magnolias

Dorothy J. Callaway

Hardcover. Retail price: \$44.95. AHS price: \$40.45.

Book code: TIM 594

Magnolias have a well-deserved reputation as aristocrats among landscape plants. Callaway provides an up-to-date, encyclopedic reference to all known species and the most complete listing of cultivars yet published. With more than 140 color photographs, she documents magnolia history, culture, biology, taxonomy, propagation, breeding, and hybridizers. A valuable reference for both professionals and laypeople. 1994. 260 pages.

Growing Bougainvilleas

Ian Iredell

Softcover. Retail price: \$13.95. AHS price: \$12.55.

Book code: STR 995

Grown indoors and outdoors in both tropical and temperate areas of the

world, bougainvilleas are popular climbers renowned for their brilliant colors, ranging from pale yellows to vivid reds and purples. This simple, practical guide covers the history of the species, describes some of the many hybrids and cultivars, and provides advice on how to grow, care for, and propagate these much-loved plants. 1995. 96 pages.

Hortus Third

Staff of L.H. Bailey Hortorium,

Cornell University

Hardcover. Retail price: \$150. AHS price \$135.

Book code: MAC 393

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Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs: An Integrated Pest Management Guide

Stephen H. Dreistadt

Softcover. Retail price: \$32. AHS price: \$28.50.

Book code: UCA 746

Compiled by scientists at the University of California's Statewide IPM Project, this comprehensive, authoritative book is indispensable for landscape managers and home gardeners alike. The emphasis is on using less toxic, IPM methods to design and implement your own pest management program. 1994. 325 pages.

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REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Mid-Atlantic

♦ **Sept. 9. Azalea Society Plant Auction.** Administrative Building Auditorium, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. Information: (202) 245-2726.

♦ **Oct. 4-5. Garden Club of Virginia Annual Rose Show.** Clarke County Parks and Recreation Building, Berryville, Virginia. Information: (703) 667-8677.

♦ **Oct. 7-9. 1995 Annual Orchid Show and Sale.** Sponsored by the National Capital Orchid Society. U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. Information: (703) 779-4912 or (301) 229-8515.

♦ **Oct. 21-22. In the Public Eye: Transforming the Urban Landscape.** Garden symposium. Blandy Experimental Farm, Orland E. White Arboretum, Boyce, Virginia. Information: (540) 837-1458.

♦ **Oct. 25-27. Fine Arts and Flowers.** Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia. Information: (804) 367-8148.

North Central

♦ **Sept. 9. '95 Festival of Color.** Lawn and Garden Open House. John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass and Ornamental Research Facility, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. Information: (402) 472-2854.

♦ **Sept. 21-22. Therapeutic Landscapes: Designing Gardens for Health and Healing.** Symposium. Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland, Ohio. Information: (216) 721-1600.

♦ **Sept. 26. Holiday Floral Centerpiece Class.** Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, Wisconsin. Information: (608) 246-4550.

♦ **Oct. 7-8. 33rd Annual Ohio Gourd Show.** Morrow County Fairgrounds, Mount Gilead, Ohio. Information: (419) 362-6446.



Northeast

♦ **Sept. 9. Bring on the Bulbs.** Gardening program. Wave Hill House, Bronx, New York. Information: (718) 549-3200.

♦ **Sept. 15-16. Scott Arboretum Plant Sale.** DuPont Playing Field, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Infor-

SMALL-SPACE GARDENING IN THE MIDWEST

The American Horticultural Society is teaming up with the Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum this month to sponsor a gardening symposium, "When Space is Limited." The symposium will be held at the Auditorium of Agricultural Administration at the Ohio State University on September 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Speakers will offer creative approaches to designing a small garden, focusing on the challenges of the Midwest climate. Sarah S. Boasberg, chairman of the AHS Board of Directors, will make design suggestions using both plants and architectural elements. Fred Hower, from the Ohio Nursery Stock Marketing Program, will reveal the latest tree introductions that can lend distinction to a small garden. Kathryn Pufahl, from Beds and Borders, Inc., of New York, will show how she uses annuals and container plantings to design intimate gardens. Phil Normandy, curator of Brookside Gardens in Maryland, will explore often-overlooked shrubs that can add year-round interest with minimal maintenance.

The fee for AHS members is \$45 (\$60 for nonmembers), which includes lunch. To register for the symposium or for more information, call (614) 292-4678.

mation: (610) 328-8025.

♦ **Sept. 19. Perspectives on the Landscape: Trees.** Symposium. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, New York. Information: (516) 366-0048.

♦ **Sept. 26. Senior Citizen Day.** Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Information: (610) 388-1000 or (800) 737-5500.

♦ **Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Apple Daze.** Festival and taste-testing of the Davenport Collection's antique apple varieties. Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, Massachusetts. Information: (508) 869-6111.

♦ **Oct. 20-22. Herbs for the Holidays.** A weekend of herbal crafts, lore, and flavors. Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen, Vermont. Information: (800) 448-0707.

Northwest

♦ **Sept. 29-30. Northwest Horticultural Society Fall Plant Sale.** Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington East

Campus, Seattle, Washington. Information: (206) 527-1794.

♦ **Oct. 21. Women in Horticulture Conference 1995.** Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington. Information: (206) 547-7619.

South Central

♦ **Sept. 2. Plantfest! Previews.** Seminar. Hilltop Arboretum, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Information: (504) 767-6916.

♦ **Sept. 21-23. 53rd Annual Bulb and Plant Mart.** Sponsored by the Garden Club of Houston. Westminster United Methodist Church, Bering, Texas. Information: (713) 871-8887 or (713) 621-2395.

♦ **Oct. 7-8. Plantfest! Plant sale.** Hilltop Arboretum, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Information: (504) 767-6916.

♦ **Oct. 7-Nov. 5. Autumn at the Arboretum: The Colors of Texas.** The Dallas Arboretum, Dallas, Texas. Information: (214) 327-8263.

♦ **Oct. 25-28. 1995 Natural Areas Conference: Exploring the Power of Collaboration.** University of Arkansas Center for Continuing Education and the Fayetteville Hilton, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Information: (501) 575-3604.

Southeast

♦ **Sept. 9-10. 54th Annual Gourd Festival.** Cary Community Center, Cary, North Carolina. Information: (919) 362-4357.

♦ **Sept. 16-17. Refining the Garden: The Trowels and Pleasures of Gardening.** Symposium. Atlanta History Center, Atlanta,

Georgia. Information: (404) 814-4000.

♦ Sept. 27-28. **The Southern Garden, A Retrospective.** Symposium. Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary and the Nature Museum. Charlotte, North Carolina. Information: (704) 331-0969.

♦ Sept. 30-Oct. 1. **Native Plant Sale.** Reflection Riding Botanical Garden, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Information: (615) 821-9582.

♦ Oct. 5-7. **The 10th Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes.** Salem Academy and College, Old Salem (Winston-Salem), North Carolina. Information: (910) 721-7313.

♦ Oct. 6-8. **Charleston Garden Festival: The City Garden.** Gaillard Auditorium, Charleston, South Carolina. Information: (803) 722-7527.

♦ Oct. 13-15. **1995 New Bern Chrysanthemum Festival.** Tryon Palace, New Bern, North Carolina. Information: (919) 514-4900 or (800) 767-1560.

♦ Oct. 14. **Fall Plant Sale.** State Botanical Garden of Georgia, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Information: (706) 542-1244.

♦ Oct. 20-21. **Central South Native Plant Conference: Return of the Natives.** Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, Alabama. Information: (205) 879-1227.

♦ Oct. 20-22. **American Bamboo Society National Meeting.** The Coastal Area Extension Center, Savannah, Georgia. Information: (704) 545-0588.

♦ Oct. 21. **Perennials Conference.** Speakers include J.C. Raulston and John Greenlee. Cheekwood, Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Museum of Art, Nashville, Tennessee. Information: (615) 353-2146.

♦ Oct. 21-22. **Mobile Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale.** Mobile Botanical Gardens, Mobile, Alabama. Information: (334) 342-0555.

♦ Oct. 28. **Fall "Behind-the-Scenes" Tour.** Selby Gardens, Sarasota, Florida. Information: (813) 366-5731 ext. 10.

♦ Nov. 4. **Our Gardening Heritage: A Symposium on Heirloom Plants.** Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, Georgia. Information: (404) 876-5859.

Southwest

♦ Sept. 11-14. **Second Annual Rare and Endangered Plant Conference.** The Arboretum at Flagstaff, Flagstaff, Arizona. Information: (520) 774-1441.

♦ Oct. 14. **African Violet Sale and Demonstration.** Albuquerque Garden Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Information: (505) 296-6020.

West Coast

♦ Sept. 8-Oct. 1. **Los Angeles County Fair.** Fairplex, Pomona, California. Information: (909) 623-3111.

♦ Sept. 9. **12th Annual Succulent Plants Symposium.** The Huntington, San Marino, California. Information: (818) 405-2160.

♦ Oct. 18-22. **The Los Angeles Garden**

Show. The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, Arcadia, California. Information: (714) 650-4846.

♦ Oct. 20-22. **Ninth Annual East-West Orchid Show.** Little Tokyo at the New Otani Hotel and Garden and the Weller Court Shopping Center, Los Angeles, California. Information: (213) 485-1177.

STATE RECOGNIZES WASHINGTON ARBORETUM

The 1995 Washington State Legislature has designated the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle the first "official arboretum of the state of Washington." The bill, initiated by the Ecology and Parks Committee, recognizes the arboretum as a living museum "devoted to the display and conservation of woody plant species from around the world that can grow in the Pacific Northwest."

Although the designation does not involve any state funding, John A. Wott, the arboretum's director, says the bill is important for the increased awareness it should confer. "This bill is an important recognition of the arboretum's mission of education, research, display, conservation, and public pleasure," Wott says.

The arboretum intends to adopt a new master plan to guide its management. This long-term plan is expected to help the arboretum revitalize its plant collections, boost education and community programs, and obtain long-range funding. The initial phase of the plan will take one to two years to complete and cost an estimated \$250,000, while full implementation of the plan could take up to 20 years and cost \$20 million.

FROGS IN ATLANTA

Beginning this month the Atlanta Botanical Garden will be home to jewel-colored poison arrow frogs native to the rainforests of Central and South America. These tiny ground-dwellers, famous for their Day-Glo colors and vivid patterns, secrete toxins that protect them from predators and that have been used by native peoples to coat the tips of their hunting arrows. Twelve of the more than 100 known species will be exhibited in three large glass terrariums in the Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory.

"Plants don't exist in a vacuum," says Ron Determann, conservatory superintendent. "They co-exist with animals in very complicated relationships. We've always tried to show that here with fish, birds, and lizards in the conservatory."

To launch the new display, poison arrow frog expert Jack Cover will present a slide-illustrated talk on September 14. Cover is senior curator of reptiles and amphibians at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

For more information about the garden or displays, call (404) 876-5859.

NEW PARKS IN NEW YORK

Putting an ad on a park bench is taking on new meaning in New York City with a program designed to turn some of the city's 20,000 vacant lots into temporary parks. The program, City Spaces, will allow private companies to lease these lots and use them for advertising if they agree to cover the expense of maintaining them.

The new parks will be created through a partnership between the city, which foresees spending \$10,000 to \$20,000 per project; the communities, which City Spaces officials hope will help with design ideas; and the corporate sponsor, who will lease the land for at least five years and be responsible for maintenance. City Spaces' first goal is to supervise the creation of 59 parks, one in each community district.

While some of these parks may eventually be sold for development, the founders of City Spaces hope that many of them will become permanent features. But they point out that even if a park exists for only five years, that is still enough time to have a positive effect on the lives of neighborhood children.



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad Rates: All classified advertising must be prepaid. \$2 per word; minimum \$50 per insertion. Copy and prepayment must be received on the 20th of the month three months prior to publication date. Send orders to: AHS Advertising Department, 506 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301, or call (703) 549-2112.

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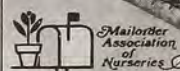
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KILLER SNAILS: A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION

California gardeners are struggling to find a safe organic control for brown garden snails (*Helix aspersa*). Unfortunately, the cure is sometimes worse than the problem.

Brown garden snails were introduced into California in the 1850s as a culinary delicacy. Though they are still eaten in Europe, they are viewed by most Americans as noxious pests. Also found in Arizona and most of the deep South (although they were eradicated from Florida in the 1960s), they feed on boxwoods, roses, hibiscus, magnolias, and peaches. Snails may lay eggs up to six times a year, and in areas like Southern California, where winters are mild, young snails may be active throughout the year.

Snail bait is often a less-than-desirable control. The highly toxic baits cannot be used around food crops or bodies of water and are deadly to fish and wildlife, including birds. Some are especially attractive to dogs.

In desperation, many gardeners have turned to another imported snail—*Rumina decollata*, or decollate snail. This mollusk, native to North Africa and southern Europe, was introduced into California in the 1970s and has been effective in controlling snails in citrus orchards. Decollate snails eat young to half-grown brown garden snails and—as many gardeners have discovered—occasionally dine on succulent young plants.

And because decollate snails pose an even greater threat to native snail and slug populations of ecological importance in natural areas, their release has been restricted to certain counties in Southern California.

Gardeners everywhere are urged to check with their local wildlife protection agency before releasing any species of these so-called cannibal snails. Some snail genera have proven to be agents of extinction for snails other than the intended victims. In Hawaii, for instance, cannibal snails introduced to control the imported giant African snail have exterminated native snail

species while leaving their target pests largely unscathed.

Before using any snail bait, always check the label for warnings. You may minimize the dangers by using the bait in traps instead of spreading it over the yard. An alternative to either bait or cannibal snails is the use of copper barriers, which deter both snails and slugs by giving them a shock when the mollusks crawl over them. Barriers are effective for several years and are available from Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, P.O. Box 2209, Grass Valley, CA 95945, (916) 272-4769.

PLUMLEAF AZALEA WINS GCA MEDAL

The plumleaf azalea, *Rhododendron prunifolium*, is the winner of the first Montine McDaniel Freeman Horticulture Medal from the Garden Club of America. The medal recognizes an underused North American native plant or its cultivar.

The plumleaf azalea is native to Georgia and Alabama but is hardy in USDA Zones 6 to 9. Its orange to deep red flowers appear in July and early August. The plant was nominated by Callaway Gardens of Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Honorable mentions for 1995 are *Ceanothus* 'Blue Cascade', developed from a 1979 chance seedling at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California, which nominated the plant; and *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snowflake', an oakleaf hydrangea cultivar propagated by Eddie Aldridge of Bessemer, Alabama, and nominated by Louise Wrinkle of Birmingham, Alabama.

Deadline for nominations for the 1996 Freeman Medal is December 1, 1995. The nominated plant should enhance the landscape, attract wildlife, and/or be effective for environmental uses, such as erosion control. If no outstanding native plant is nominated, a non-native will be considered.

For information and nomination forms, write the Freeman Medal Coordinator, Garden Club of America, 598 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

MEMBER'S FORUM, *continued from page 3*

gardens, and *Plants for Natural Gardens*, a companion encyclopedia of plants with descriptions of those that can be used in such designs. She writes clearly, with humor, and points out characteristics that may be problematic or advantageous.

Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes by Judy Mielke was published by the University of Texas Press in 1993. This is an encyclopedic treatment of plants for landscape use in areas including the Mojave, Chihuahuan, and Sonoran deserts. The photographs are wonderful and the organization of the material is excellent—giving native distributions and the temperature ranges the plants can tolerate, and suggesting culture and landscape uses.

For members lucky enough to live within reach of the Antelope Valley north of Los Angeles, there is a wonderful wildflower guide available. A *Flower-Watcher's Guide*

by Milt Stark is a privately published book with good photographs, excellent descriptions, and best of all, suggestions for when and where the flowers may be seen. The book is available for \$11.95 plus \$2 shipping from Milt Stark, 45026 11th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534.

The American Horticultural Society serves a hugely disparate population of gardeners, so it is little wonder that the articles may strike the occasional discordant note with one reader or another. Thanks for the wonderful services you provide to all your members.

Diane E. Druian
Kingman, Arizona

And thank you for sharing information about books you found useful. We rely on our members, especially those on the other side of the country, to let us know what they have found valuable to their gardening.

New Address

In your fine May article, "Landscapes With Byte," we were happy to see our Flower, Bulb, and Plant Finder program listed with the data bases in the sidebar. Would you please tell your readers of two changes in that listing: Infopoint Software has moved to 754 South Meadow Street, Moscow, ID 83843; and we have lowered the price of our combination program to \$69.95 because we have recovered our research and development costs. In addition, we'll give a \$5 discount to members of the American Horticultural Society.

Dorothy M. Nichols
Moscow, Idaho

We were unable to review this program for our readers because we have not seen it, but we are happy to correct your address for the record.