



NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

The American GARDENER

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AFTER A warm welcome to River Farm from staff and Board members, my first few weeks as the new President & CEO of the American Horticultural Society (AHS) have been filled with the “getting-to-know-you” process. In that spirit, one important thing I want to share with you is that I am a lifelong gardener, like so many of you, and I’m thrilled to now have a job that allows me to express this passion every day!

Much of my professional expertise is in nonprofit management and audience engagement for cultural institutions, so I’m well prepared to tackle the organizational and business aspects of the AHS. But I’m also an experienced Master Gardener, who has provided years of horticultural advice and counsel, as part of the county Extension agency, on topics ranging from perennials for shade gardening to urban agriculture and the importance of composting. So I’m excited to dig into the Society’s work to advance the art and science of horticulture.

As the AHS approaches its centennial in just five years, it’s a great time to take stock of what this venerable organization has accomplished, how it is serving its members and mission today, and where it can make even more of a difference for the future.

The people who do, or support and benefit from, the Society’s work—our staff, Board, volunteers, visitors, and members—will provide the critical insights to guide our thinking about the issues that matter for horticulture and gardening, as well as the programs and resources we will offer to meet those needs. In the coming months, we will be reaching out in a variety of ways to solicit your thoughts. If you receive a survey from us, I hope you’ll take a few minutes to respond. And if, in the meantime, you’d like to share what you find most valuable about the AHS or any ideas you have for how we could do better, please e-mail me at ahs2022@ahsgardening.org.

I’d also like to invite you to get involved in the programs and events we have coming up in 2018. First up is our annual members-only Seed Exchange. Turn on page 57 to see a list of what’s available this year. A full catalog will be online later in January. And for those of you in the Mid-Atlantic region who are able to visit our River Farm headquarters in Virginia, our annual Spring Garden Market will be held in April. I look forward to meeting many of you there. For a complete list of AHS events, please see the calendar on page 10.

Also in this issue of *The American Gardener*, you’ll find plenty of gardening inspiration for the New Year. I don’t know about you, but I’m eager to get some seeds started for spring, so I’m going to try the paper-towel method garden writer Nancy Ondra explains in her article on page 36. When looking for seeds to sow, I’ll be turning to Charlotte Germane’s article on page 12, which describes some intriguing 2018 introductions as recommended by regional gardening experts. One of my resolutions is to grow something I haven’t tried before, and I hope you’ll join me in expanding your own horticultural horizons this year.

Happy gardening,

Beth Tuttle
President & CEO