

# American Horticulturist

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A Publication of the American Horticultural Society

May 1990

## And the Winners Are...

**E**ach year the American Horticultural Society honors those individuals whose creativity and dedication have brought excellence to the gardening community. Those selected as horticulture's best and brightest for 1990 will receive their awards on June 22 at a banquet climaxing the Society's Annual Meeting in Seattle.

### The Liberty Hyde Bailey Award

**Dr. Marion T. Hall's** conviction that resources should be directed toward programs that benefit the public is just one reason he is receiving the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award this year at the American Horticultural Society's 45th Annual Meeting. The prestigious award—the highest honor the Society can bestow—recognizes someone who has achieved excellence in horticulture in at least three of the following areas: teaching, research, writing, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

For the past 24 years Hall has been director of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, where he has developed an outstanding plant collection. He has also strived to increase the knowledge of woody plants and environmental quality through research, and to interpret the research and the arboretum's collections through education. He was nominated by Everitt L. Miller, past president of AHS and former director of Longwood Gardens. "Dr. Hall's management skills and knowledge in organizing and developing sound research programs, along with the expansion of high quality adult education programs, has made the Morton Arboretum an outstanding institution," Miller said.

Hall's academic and botanical career began in 1942 with a stint as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service. After a two-year run as a pilot in the U.S. Navy Air Corps, Hall



Marion T. Hall at Morton Arboretum's Arborfest Memorial Tree Planting.

### In This Issue

AHS's 1990 Awards . . . . .	1	Board Members Nominated . . . . .	15
Making a Difference . . . . .	8	Gardener's Q&A . . . . .	16
Seattle's Chinese Garden . . . . .	10	Gardener's Bookshelf . . . . .	18
Regional Notes . . . . .	12	Gardener's Dateline . . . . .	20
A Peace Garden . . . . .	13	Classifieds . . . . .	22
AHS Bulletin Board . . . . .	14	A Mint's Self-Defense . . . . .	24



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returned to botany and the academic life, teaching in the botany departments of the University of Oklahoma, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Michigan, and Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. He spent six years as a botanist at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and four years as director at the Stovall Museum of Science and History in Norman, Oklahoma, where he continued research on junipers, pines, and trillium.

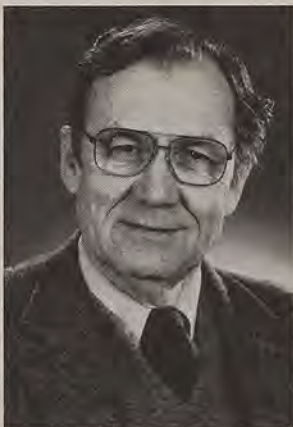
In 1966 Hall became the third director of the Morton Arboretum, 1,525 acres of forest, prairie, botanical, and horticultural collections that include nearly 50,000 types of plants. The arboretum is especially known for its lilacs, rhododendrons, crab apples, and magnolias.

In a retrospective article in the Winter 1986 issue of *The Morton Arboretum Quarterly*, arboretum historian Carol Doty credited Hall with creating a non-authoritarian atmosphere at the arboretum, granting his staff "extraordinary latitude to do their work and to pursue related projects of their own initiative. He shuns the limelight and at times has quietly sacrificed some of his own projects in order to support worthwhile programs proposed by his staff."

Hall has also continued his academic pursuits: he is an adjunct professor of biology at the University of Illinois' Chicago Circle campus and at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and a horticulture professor at the University of Illinois' Urbana campus.

## The G. B. Gunlogson Award

For 20 years **Harry Butler** was the voice of gardening on WHIO-TV in Dayton, Ohio. His weekly garden program, "Urban & Suburban," which he also produced, attempted to expand the horticultural horizons of gardeners on everything from trees to ferns.



**Harry Butler**

Butler received a bachelor's degree in botany from the University of Illinois in 1940 and is a Master Gardener. He has been a member of the American Rock Garden Society for 23 years, serving as its president for four years and receiving the organization's Award of Merit in 1987.

Additionally, Butler is a life member of the Bellbrook (Ohio) Garden Club, and has served on the boards of Dayton's Wegerzyn Garden Center and the Cox Arboretum Foundation, where he is an honorary horticulturist.

"Harry is endowed with the ability to be creative and accomplished as a gardener and the talent to relate his knowledge in talks, during walks in his garden, and to reach many people with his radio and TV shows through the years," Jean Verity Woodhull, an AHS Board Member and chairman of its awards committee, noted on her nomination form. His "fantastic ability to share his encyclopedic horticultural knowledge with others through the magical worlds of television and radio has made gardening more enjoyable and productive for generations of listeners."

## The Catherine H. Sweeney Award

Given each year to recognize extraordinary and dedicated efforts in the field of horticulture, this year's Catherine H. Sweeney Award goes to **Eulalie Wagner** for her superb gardens at "Lakewold" in Tacoma, Washington. Lakewold had been maintained as Wagner's private residence—though generously shared with interested gardeners—but Wagner recently opened the gardens to the public and has organized a foundation that will conserve the garden for future generations.

The garden boasts a magnificent rhododendron collection, a clematis-covered gazebo, a perennial garden, a luxuriant rock garden with a waterfall, and a charming herb garden. According to Betty Miller, a former AHS Board

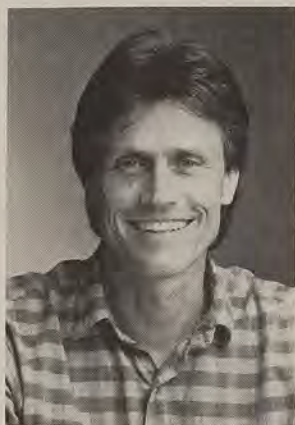


**Eulalie Wagner**



**Georgia Vance**





Paul G. Hawken



Laina and Egon Molbak



J. C. Raulston



Steven R. Lorton

Member and charter member of AHS's President's Council, Wagner's "vigor, imagination, and creativity seem unabated as she has added one feature after another (to the garden). Every feature is memorable, and the whole property reflects Mrs. Wagner's love of horticulture, artistic vision, keen sense of color values, and her dedication to the highest standards of horticultural excellence."

Wagner hasn't limited her talents to her own garden. She is a past president of the Tacoma Garden Club and past national vice president of the Garden Club of America. She has served on the national board of the Garden Club of America for nine years. Lakewold is among the gardens that will be toured at the AHS Annual Meeting.

### The Frances Jones Poetker Award

**Georgia Vance's** love of flowers began early, instilled by her mother and grandmother. For nearly 25 years her elegant dried flower arrangements have decorated the U.S. Department of State's magnificent Diplomatic Reception Rooms in Washington, D.C., and have graced historic homes in Virginia, embassies in Washington, and the Garden Club of America headquarters in New York. It is fitting that she should receive the Frances Jones Poetker Award, given for a significant contribution to the appreciation of creative floral designs.

Vance, a Hood College graduate who lived for a while in Europe, has taken her flower preservation and arrangement methods on the road, lecturing to garden clubs, symposia, and flower festivals. She also conducts workshops at Short Glade Farm, the property she purchased in 1973 in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Her workshops stress good craftsmanship and the mechanics of creating beautiful and long-lasting arrangements. She has written a book, *The Decorative Art of Dried Flower Arrangement*, which won the Helen S. Hull Award of the

National Council of State Garden Clubs, and she has contributed articles to two Brooklyn Botanic Garden handbooks: *Dried Flower Designs* and *Designing with Flowers*.

### Commercial Award (Individual)

"**Paul Hawken** has organized the finest mail-order and retail store for gardeners in our country—highest quality, best selection, most beautiful catalog, all guaranteed," according to the nominating committee.

With Dave Smith, Paul G. Hawken founded Smith & Hawken, Inc., a catalog and retail company that has specialized in garden and horticultural products since 1979. Now its chairman and CEO, he is awarded the Individual Commercial Award for a commitment to excellence in commercial horticulture that contributes to better gardening practices.

The idea for the popular garden catalog began in 1972 as Hawken was inspecting a Texas crop for a natural foods business that he then owned and noticed a pile of broken tools in the back of the farmer's pickup truck. A couple of years later while touring British gardens Hawken had a chance to try some finely made English tools and was convinced there was a market for such quality equipment in the United States.

Hawken's success hasn't been limited to his gardening business. He has written four books—*Growing a Business*, *The Next Economy*, *Seven Tomorrows: Toward a Voluntary History*, and *The Magic of Findhorn*—which have been published in 12 countries. He also created a 17-part PBS series based on *Growing a Business*, which featured 16 successful entrepreneurial businesses. He has written business articles for a wide range of publications.

Hawken's expertise is also lent to nonprofit organizations—he is currently on the board of directors of 10 organizations including Chalona Vineyard, Trust for Public Land, National Audubon Society,

Conservation International, and the Garden Conservancy.

### Commercial Award (Institution)

Born and raised in Denmark, where he received an education in floriculture, **Egon Molbak** became one of the first exchange interns of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Eight years later, in 1956, Molbak and his wife **Laina** began operating their own business with just 3½ acres and five small greenhouses in Woodinville, Washington. Today it occupies 50 acres and includes a production facility and two highly regarded garden centers.

Diversity is a key to the success of Molbak's Greenhouse and Nursery. The production greenhouses support over 1,000 varieties of indoor foliage plants, over 750 varieties of summer annuals, 75 varieties of herbs, and dozens of indoor flowering plants, along with perennials and vegetables.

Molbak's two 55,000-square-foot greenhouses are state-of-the-art: computers control the climate and water, venting, heating, and shading. For environmental control the greenhouses are divided into eight climatic zones. Indoor and outdoor sensors measure humidity, light, wind speed, wind direction, rain, and temperature. Areas are watered by a combination of drip irrigation and capillary mats; fertilizer is injected into the watering system as needed.

The Woodinville garden center boasts a tropical conservatory and year-round display gardens. The center holds free, public seminars once or twice a month and complimentary gardening and plant information sheets offer tips and practical growing advice. The Seattle garden center, located downtown in the Pike Place Market, caters to the urban dweller and downtown businesses and provides bulk supplies for the farmers who frequent the market.

The company is a generous supporter of nonprofit horticultural endeavors,





Elisabeth Carey Miller



J. Judson Brooks



John Nash Ott

donating plants and services or offering discounts to local garden clubs, schools, PTA groups, charitable organizations, government agencies, and senior citizen and youth groups.

### Horticultural Communication Award

**J. C. Raulston** has driven over 35,000 miles to bring horticulture courses to landscape and nursery industry professionals throughout North Carolina and has distributed more than 45,000 plants of over 250 taxa to growers in his classes over the last decade. In his current position as director of the North Carolina State University Arboretum and professor in its ornamental horticulture department, Raulston each year supplies over 200,000 cuttings from the arboretum to the nursery trade. Raulston's cuttings come with extensive background on their origins, culture, and commercial value in hopes of encouraging the use of different and exciting plants in the landscape. In addition, Raulston conducts an average of 50 public talks and presentations each year and over the past 30 years he has collected 65,000 horticulture slides and 2,000 horticultural books that he uses to illustrate and research his gardening messages.

Raulston grew up on a small grains and forage crops farm in Oklahoma and received a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Maryland. His training is diverse—floriculture, nursery, vegetable and fruit production, landscape design, post harvest physiology, and herbicides—and his career has been just as varied. He has worked in greenhouse production and as a retail florist, a landscape designer, and as a retail nursery salesman. He also spent two years with the U.S. Army Plant Sciences Laboratories. He has taught and researched in the fields of floriculture, ornamentals, and landscape design.

*Horticulture* magazine has called Raulston a "plant evangelist," a

sentiment echoed by this year's awards committee. "J. C. is the most enthusiastic plantsman; he grows thousands of plants and gives them away by the truckload! He wants everyone to know and grow new plants."

### Horticultural Writing Award

After completing a bachelor's degree in communication from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Oregon in Eugene, **Steven R. Lorton** began a career as a garden writer for *Sunset Magazine*. Twenty years later as *Sunset's* Northwest editor, he continues to inspire readers with "how-to-do-it" stories and articles that push gardeners into new and exciting areas.

"It's been a challenge to stay ahead of trends without being esoteric, always giving the readers ideas that they can take action on immediately. I've hoped to lead readers to new and unusual experiences: finding the roses in the Rose City (Portland, Oregon), the rediscovery of peonies, liriopes for Northwest gardens, and a behind-the-scenes look at the support systems that keep the gardens of Kyoto going."

Lorton's gardening involvement extends beyond *Sunset's* pages. He is active in the Town and Country 4-H Club in Shelby County, Ohio, and has been a member (now honorary) of Seattle's Madison Park Garden Club since 1957. He is also a member of the executive board of the Washington Park Arboretum, the editorial board of the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*, and the advisory board of Seattle Street Tree.

He has lent his writing talents to the organizations above and to the Junior League of Seattle, the Perennial Plant Association, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, and various educational institutions including both of his alma maters. He says, "I believe gardening is

an art for some people, a religion for some—for some it is both. It has been an enormous pleasure to spend nearly two decades knowing the personalities and reporting the work of people who create gardens with artistic passion and religious zeal."

### Local Horticulture Award (Individual)

From her own spectacular garden (featured in the April issue of *American Horticulturist*) to her extensive civic activities, **Elisabeth Carey Miller** is one of the Northwest's most prominent horticulturists. She has won 17 gardening awards including AHS's prestigious Liberty Hyde Bailey award in 1988.

Among her significant horticultural projects are: raising \$40,000 in private funds for the horticultural development of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, which connects Lake Washington with Puget Sound; serving as horticultural advisor for Operation Triangle, which involved the planting of traffic islands throughout Seattle; founding the Washington State Roadside Council, which created legislation to control the use of billboards; expanding and supporting the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library at the University of Washington; serving as horticultural consultant for Freeway Park and a proposed Chinese classical garden, both part of the Seattle Parks Department, and for Gerber Park, a project with the Seattle Engineering Department; and initiating a long-range national horticultural survey project on environmentally tolerant plants for the Garden Club of America.

Miller is or has been a member of over 25 horticultural organizations including the Botanical Society of South Africa, the New York Horticultural Society, the Garden Club of America Rare Plant Group, Garden Conservation, Inc., and the American Horticultural Society.

The form nominating Miller observed: "Betty is one of the finest plantswomen in the world and has spent her lifetime sharing this knowledge."

Miller's garden, which has been featured in three books—*America's Great Private Gardens* by Stanley Schulyer, *The Shade Garden* published by Time-Life Books, and *An American Woman's Garden* by Rosemary Verey—is part of the garden tour scheduled for this year's Annual Meeting.

### Meritorius Service Award

This award is given to a member or friend of the Society who has supported its goals, services, and activities.



**J. Judson Brooks**, a member of the Society's Board of Directors since 1975 "has certainly been a tower of strength and a valued counsel on the Board of AHS—and has stuck by us through thick and thin with generous contributions and wise judgment," said Nancy Bole, a fellow AHS Board Member.

Brooks received bachelor's and law degrees from Yale University and began his career at the A. M. Byers manufacturing company. He spent two years at the First National Bank of Pittsburgh and in 1943 became a lieutenant (jg) in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps stationed in the Solomon Islands. After earning the rank of lieutenant commander Brooks left the Navy and joined the trust department at Pittsburgh National Bank. He was a vice president of the bank when he retired in 1965.

Community service, conservation, and preservation are important to Brooks—he is currently a member of the boards of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Association, the YMCA of Sewickley Valley, Pennsylvania, and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He spends his free time hybridizing rhododendrons and has been a member of the American Rhododendron Society and its Great Lakes Council since 1961, serving as director and president of the Great Lakes Council for 10 years and as a member of the national board. Brooks is also a trustee of Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a member of both the Garden Club of Allegheny County and the Little Garden Club of Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

## Scientific Award

What began as a hobby in 1927 became a life's work for **John Nash Ott**, who has been awarded this year's Scientific Award recognizing an individual who has enriched horticulture through research. According to awards committee chairman Jean Verity Woodhull, Ott's "research into time-lapse photography has directly and immeasurably enhanced the quality of garden photography, and therefore, has improved horticultural research, education, and communication efforts."

Ott began his career as a banker but continued to pursue his high school hobby of time-lapse photography. When his efforts caught the attention of Walt Disney, he gave up his banker's hours for film making, which in turn led to his research with lights. Disney was looking for a time-lapse film of a pumpkin growing from seed to ripened fruit to use in the animated classic, "Cinderella." While filming the sequence Ott

# National Achievement Award

Recognizing extraordinary achievements in national horticulture and beautification of America, the 1990 National Achievement Award will be presented to the du Pont family.

For nearly 200 years the du Pont family has been involved in gardening. E. I. du Pont built Eleutherian Mills, the first du Pont home, in 1803. He created a French Renaissance-style garden and a classically inspired Italianate garden on the property and a gardening tradition was begun.

According to Philip G. Correll, landscape curator at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware, "It is very fitting that the du Pont family should be considered for an award recognizing its contributions to the field of horticulture. Few American families have similar histories of involvement. E. I. du Pont, who began this tradition and passed the love of horticulture to subsequent generations, was himself involved in horticultural exchanges and gardening activities. He worked to save gardens established by the French government in Europe and distributed plants from Europe to America."

Generations of du Pont family members have created spectacular gardens, many of which (including Eleutherian Mills) are open to the public. Winterthur Gardens, home of Henry Francis du Pont, is nestled among mature woodlands and the rolling hills of Winterthur, Delaware, in the Brandywine Valley. The garden covers 200 acres of woods and meadows featuring native and exotic plants. Three hundred acres of gardens and natural woodlands surround Nemours, the former home of Alfred I. du Pont in Wilmington,

Delaware. The French gardens are among the finest in the country.

Perhaps the most famous du Pont horticultural creation is Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, begun by Pierre du Pont in 1906. Longwood has been described as the "ultimate garden treasure," and features over 350 acres and 20 indoor gardens. The floral procession includes magnolias, wisterias, azaleas, roses, water lilies, orchids, and chrysanthemums.

Beyond these striking gardening achievements du Pont family members have been actively involved with the Wilmington Garden Center, the Garden Club of America, and local conservation and preservation efforts.

The award will be accepted by three family members. Pamela Cunningham Copeland is owner and designer of the Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora, which features wildflowers, native trees, and shrubs, and is a winner of the Garden Club of America's Achievement Award Medal and the Henry Francis du Pont Award from Winterthur Museum. Julia du Pont Andrews Bissell, a great-great-granddaughter of both Victor and Eleuthere Irenee du Pont, specializes in native plants, camellias, and azaleas that she grows on her mother's estate in Aiken, South Carolina, and has won the Conservation Committee Certificate and the Horticultural Award from the Garden Club of America. Wilhelmina du Pont Ross, who gardens in Delaware and in the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York State, is a Longwood Gardens trustee and a member of Longwood's Landscape and Visiting Committees.



Julia Andrews Bissell



Pamela C. Copeland



Wilhelmina du Pont Ross



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Portland Garden Club clubhouse

discovered that different colors of light brought forth either all staminate or all pistillate blooms. This led to further studies involving the full electromagnetic spectrum and its influence on the human immune system and human health and behavior.

In 1948 Ott began a film-making company, John Ott Pictures, Inc., followed in 1960 by John Ott Laboratories, Inc. In 1962 he founded and became president of the Time Lapse Research Foundation, later renamed the Environmental Health and Light Research Institute. Ott's research on the effects of sunlight on plants, animals, and human life has revealed many health benefits of ultra-violet light. Health experts have warned people of the harmful effects of ultra-violet light (skin cancer, cataracts), but Ott's findings show that a basic amount of UV light can reduce cholesterol, lower high blood pressure, and can be used to treat those with cancer, AIDS, and degenerative arthritis.

Ott's honors include horticultural awards from the North Shore Horticultural Society, the American Horticultural Council, the Garden Club of America, Men's Garden Clubs of America, and the Garden Club of New Jersey.

## Urban Beautification (Individual)

John Alex Floyd Jr., marketing services director for *Southern Living* magazine, describes Louise G. "Weesie" Smith, this year's Urban Beautification (Individual) award winner, as "the heart of horticulture in the Mountain Brook area of Birmingham." Smith, a devoted gardener and environmentalist, describes her garden as having "given way to native wildflowers and shrubs rescued from the bulldozer as dams, freeways, and shopping centers were built."

Smith was instrumental in organizing the Nature Conservancy in Alabama. The Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Friends of Jemison Park, Alabama Wildflower Society, and Sipsey Wilderness

Preservation have all benefitted from her expertise. She has received three awards from the Garden Club of America and was named Water Conservationist of the Year (1974) and Conservationist of the Year (1975) by the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

According to Floyd, Smith "is, in my mind, an educator, preservationist, environmentalist, conservationist, and the best practical and best-read horticulturist I have ever had the pleasure of being associated with."

## Urban Beautification (Institution)

Six months after the Portland (Oregon) Garden Club was formed its members began their first project—insuring the permanency of Portland's Rose Test Gardens. In 66 years their horticultural commitment to the community has never diminished.

The club's first gift to the city fulfilled the conditions of certification set by the American Rose Society: members of the club became rose society members and employed a curator for the test gardens. Since that first project the Portland Garden Club has supported projects throughout the city: a 19-acre wildflower meadow at Macleay Park; the Duniway Lilac Garden, which includes the lilac collection of B. O. Case; construction of a glass house at the Rhododendron Test Garden; plantings of Oregon natives around the state office building; and plans for the Japanese Garden in Washington Park.

The garden club has provided financial support to numerous Portland organizations including Pittock Mansion, Oral Hull Foundation Garden for the Blind, Marquam Nature Preserve, the Rae Selling Berry Botanic Garden, Washington Park Zoo, and Leach Botanical Park. The club has also donated funds to the Nature Conservancy to preserve six natural areas in the region. The club's projects attempt to protect native trees and plants and encourage civic beauty.

—Mary Beth Wiesner



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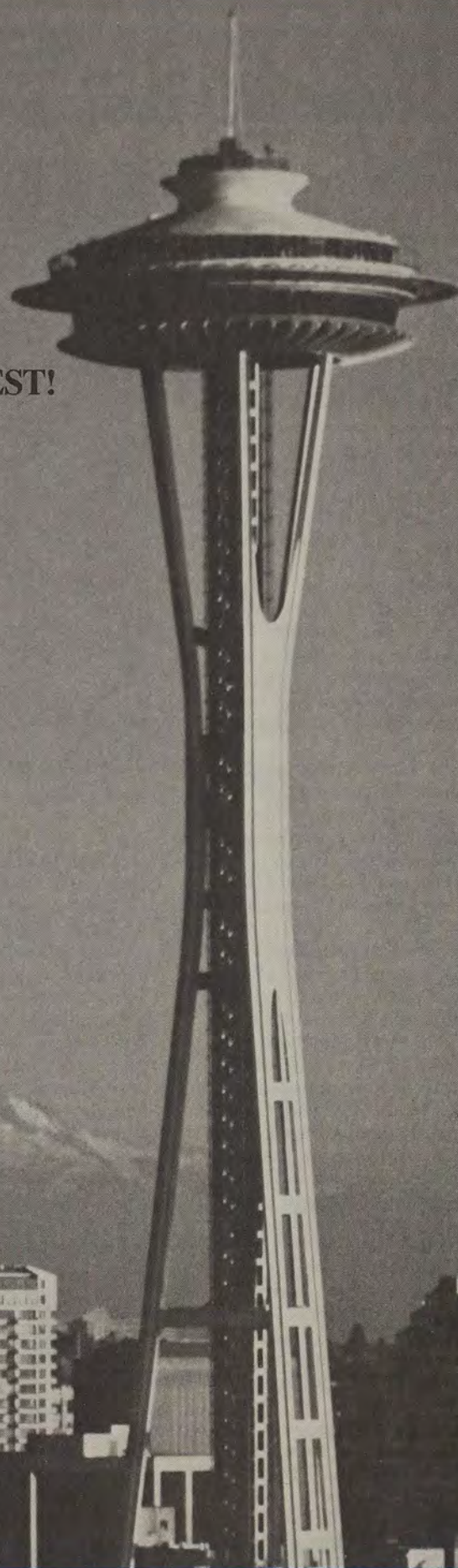


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# Making a Difference

## Passionate About Pruning

Cass Turnbull once confronted some tree terrorists directly. But when she hopped out of her car to tell them that their lovely little cherry tree might die from having its limbs chain-sawed to stubs, their reaction was to express doubts about her femininity.

Since then, she has avoided hand-to-hand combat with the enemy, but she is no less ardent about the evil done to woody plants. "I am," she says, "a woman with a mission."

An 11-year veteran of the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, Turnbull left to start her own landscaping business, and three years ago founded PlantAmnesty, the goal of which is "to end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs caused by malpruning."

The private, nonprofit corporation now has about 500 members in 27 states and several foreign countries: professional gardeners, garden writers, extension agents, arborists, and concerned citizens. For their \$10 a year, members receive the quarterly newsletter, which is written to amuse as well as inform. It includes "Tales of Hope" and "Tales of Horror," atrocious horticultural jokes, and a list of woody plants that can be had free for the digging and hauling. Members can attend monthly meetings, yearly retreats, and the annual Fun(d)raiser, which includes an Ugly Yard Contest.

But Turnbull emphasizes that it is not merely appearances that are at stake here. "Bad pruning drags on the health of the plant," she will tell you. "It causes stress, deadwood, and low vigor, but the effects take years to show." One noticeable effect is suckering: a malpruned plant will rebel by sending lots of ugly little whips up from its roots. But ill-informed homeowners will keep repeating the same mistakes until they literally prune a tree to death.

To make matters worse, says Turnbull, 80 percent of commercial landscapers don't prune correctly. The fact that professionals will top trees and shear shrubs into lollipops and poodleballs convinces homeowners that



Cass Turnbull

this is the right approach. After all, they see instant effects. But they should see very little: good pruning is invisible, says Turnbull.

Topping—cutting all of a tree's branches to the same height—is one of Turnbull's nightmares. "Topping has nothing to do with pruning. It's so bad for the trees that you just cringe inside." Shearing, on the other hand, "is mildly disgusting. It can be good or bad, depending on the plant and the desired effect." She is not opposed to shearing small-leaved plants to create topiaries, "but too many people poodleball forsythias." Stripping—removing all the side branches to achieve a more pronounced trunk—is also a poor practice, especially with mature trees and shrubs.

In a brochure she has developed, Turnbull calls shearing, topping, and pinching "heading" cuts: "Good for hedges and chrysanthemums. Not good for most shrubs and trees." Instead, she advises, pruning should consist of about 80 percent thinning cuts, which are cuts back to another branch or twig where the cut branch began as a bud. Such cuts force new growth in existing branches and spread new growth more

evenly throughout the plant. The thinning should be selective, she emphasizes: take the puniest, sickest, ugliest branches, but not necessarily every one that is less than perfect. The goal is to let more light into the interior of the plant.

Your pruning method will also depend on the plant itself, and whether it is naturally mound-shaped, a cane-grower, or more treelike.

Turnbull attempts to spread the PlantAmnesty gospel through classes, lectures, articles, and a popular slide show of pruning horrors. Through a "Good Gardeners Referral Service," homeowners in need of plant care are given the names of professionals who won't do strange and unnatural things to the landscape. For its efforts, PlantAmnesty has received the "Friend of the Tree" Award from the City of Seattle, and the Golden Leaf Award from the International Society of Arboriculture.

—Peggy Lytton

For more information about PlantAmnesty, write to Cass Turnbull at 906 NW 87th, Seattle, WA 98117.

Alan Berner/Seattle Times



## Volunteers ♥ New York's Trees

When New York's city government was going bankrupt in the late 1970s, the city's tree lovers concluded that the care of street trees was not about to get high priority. So they took matters into their own hands.

Today, New York is solvent again, but the group that formed during that fiscal crisis is still growing. The New York City Street Tree Consortium has graduated some 1,600 citizens empowered to prune, spray, water, and landscape around neglected city trees.

"They have to prune down low, for liability reasons," said Barbara Eber-Schmid, the consortium's executive director, "but they can accomplish quite a bit with limb loppers and pole saws. And our focus is on new and young trees, because they're the ones most impacted by urban conditions."

The consortium offers two courses each year, consisting of three or four classroom sessions and two field trips. To earn their diplomas, students must correctly answer 28 of 40 questions on a written exam. There is now an advanced seminar that introduces students to additional tools and includes more on disease-identification.

The consortium itself is, as the name implies, a coalition of city and state agencies

concerned with the environment. Although early classes were heavily populated with amateur gardeners and retirees, the continual updating and refining of the curriculum have attracted professionals hoping to advance their careers.

The consortium's offerings have expanded, too, to include a number of direct services that grew out of its course. In addition to brochures that offer "tree tips" and "tree tips for kids," it now has a hot line with arborists on call to advise citizens concerned about sick city trees; a matching fund to help block associations and other civic

groups plant trees; and special pruning days on which its graduates descend on a neighborhood en masse.

Eber-Schmid said she has been asked for guidance in starting similar programs in other cities. While the basic structure of the course can be the same anywhere, "our textbooks really wouldn't be too useful in the Midwest and South or in Phoenix."

*Write the New York City Street Tree Consortium at 16 West 61st Street, New York, NY 10023, or call (212) 541-8268.*

## Iris Intersection

The Society for Louisiana Irises was among the organizations donating work and materials to the Gateway Lafayette Project, a community effort to beautify the intersection of Interstates 10 and 49 outside of Lafayette, Louisiana.

The \$2.1 million project, in which the Lafayette Tourist Center was moved nearer to the interstate, involves landscaping the area with two large ponds, 12,000 azaleas, 560 cypresses, 184 live oaks, and 1,200 camellias on 10 acres. It seemed the perfect opportunity to draw more attention to the beauty of Louisiana irises. This fall society president Dorman Hayden and member Jim Leonard planted 1,500 rhizomes in five beds: three of mixed colors, one with predominantly blue and lavender, and one featuring the hybrids of Dr. Charles Army. The rhizomes were donated by Army and Hayden. Later, Leonard hopes to plant another 2,500 rhizomes—a total of 80 cultivars—in six more beds adjacent to the ponds.

*Write the Louisiana Iris Society at P.O. Box 40175 USL, Lafayette, LA 70504.*



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## Yin Meets Yang in Seattle Chinese Garden

**I**t has been said that “we enter the entire culture of China through the moon gate of the garden.” Chinese gardens contain a record of the country’s millennial history, philosophy, poetry, art, and architecture, as well as its plant life and geology. Inspired by the natural landscape gardens of Sichuan Province, the City of Seattle and the Seattle Chinese Garden Society, in cooperation with the Chongqing Garden Bureau, are planning the first authentic classical Chinese garden to be designed and built by the Chinese in the United States.

The six-acre garden design that emerged from the most recent visit to Seattle by the design team from Chongqing, its Chinese sister city, is based on a design tradition that had its origins 2,000 years ago in the hunting parks of Chinese emperors. The Seattle Chinese garden is a comprehensive work of art composed of buildings, hills and waters, flowers and trees. While all classical Chinese gardens are poetic and picturesque, this design will differ from the grandeur of the northern imperial gardens and from the elegance and mildness of the gardens of South China. The unique natural beauty of Sichuan gardens springs from the mysterious, tranquil mountains, an

abundance of garden-making materials, and the availability of experienced and talented landscape architects and artisans with distinctive garden-making techniques.

The goal of the Seattle Chinese Garden Society, which is leading the campaign to raise funds for the garden, is to begin construction of the garden in 1991. The projected cost is more than \$6 million. Buildings and other architectural features will be fabricated in Chongqing and assembled by skilled craftsmen in Seattle.

A walk through the garden will reveal the principle of yin/yang, which views life and nature as the balance of forces in contrast—restless and serene, large and small, light and dark, rising and falling. Confined courtyards give way to large, open areas; jagged rocks give way to calm waters; curves meet straight lines.

Each turn in a path or glimpse through the lattice window in a wall reveals a carefully framed view, while maintaining a feeling of spontaneity, imagination, and delight. The whole garden is never perceived in a glance; a few elements at a time are unveiled as one moves through.

Water is the heart of the garden. From its hilltop source near a complex of pavilions and courtyards at the

garden entry, through the waterfalls and rushing torrents of the gorge, to the “Mirror Lake,” the water surfaces have been designed to combine the dynamic and stationary, even and straight, winding and tortuous. In the ripples one may see the inverted reflection of the rope-shaped bridge, whose beauty derives from its apparent flexibility. Or one might traverse the zigzag bridge, where a newly framed vista is revealed with every twist and turn. The seeker of solitude can sit in the “Water Listening Pavilion” and watch swirling waters tumble into the rock-strewn gorge. Further downstream, the twisting and turning waters widen into a mirror lake that reflects the “Moon Water Pavilion” and “Sichuan Marble Boat.”

Irregular rock formations, including intricate grottoes and “mountains,” evoke images of the natural landscape of Sichuan. Rock shapes, textures, and colors are carefully combined to look as natural as possible. Clusters of rocks tucked against courtyard walls may inspire quiet contemplation.

Tracing the steps of the “Mountain Climbing Covered Corridor” up the pine-covered hillside takes one to the three-tiered “Cloud Pagoda,” where the view is not of the Sichuan mountains immortalized in ancient Shan-Shui



(mountain-water) paintings, but of majestic Mount Rainier, the snow-capped Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges, and the Seattle skyline, nestled against the sparkling waters of Elliott Bay.

Balanced against this profusion of water, rocks, pavilions, walls, near and distant views are plants chosen for their symbolic meanings as well as their physical qualities. The "three friends of winter"—pine, bamboo, and winter-flowering plum—evoke various aspects of nature. The pine symbolizes strength; bamboo, resilience and flexibility; the plum, renewal and hope. In winter, the plum trees and Sichuan camellias will blossom defiantly through snow or frost.

Seattle is universally known for a climate that enables the growth of a greater diversity of plant material than any other single region on the globe. These conditions will let Seattle's Chinese garden use plant material of Chinese origin and fulfill the Chinese sensitivity to plant forms, colors, textures, shadows, and movement.

The garden will offer an exceptional opportunity to introduce a number of interesting hardy ornamentals of Chinese origin to the gardening public in Seattle. These will include *Enkianthus deflexus*, with its tall, erect habit; *Rosa moyesii*, spectacular in its fall color and its bright crimson fruit; *Syringa reflexa*, one of the best of the lilac species; *Decaisnea fargesii*, which bears unusual flowers and fruit; *Viburnum setigerum*, a distinctive plant with foliage of constantly changing color; *Rubus henryi* var. *bambusarum*, a handsome vine for pergolas with its bamboolike foliage, pink flowers, shiny black fruit, and graceful habit; and dwarf peony species of various foliage types.

To help acquire these plants, the Seattle Chinese Garden Society has received a \$30,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, a San Francisco-based, internationally governed organization. The selection of the plant materials is being led by the nationally recognized horticulturist Mrs. Pendleton Miller. A model of the garden, which is being built in Chongqing, is expected to be done in time for display at the American Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting in Seattle in mid-June.

—James C. Dawson

James C. Dawson is a principal in the Seattle architectural firm Dawson Hoshide Williams and is president of the Seattle Chinese Garden Society.

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# Regional Notes

## Fuelproof Landscape

You may think your list of the ways plants can benefit humans is about complete. But does it mention fire prevention? The City of Santa Barbara, California, has developed a model "Firescape" that uses four zones of increasingly fire-resistant plants to reduce potential damage from wildfires.

The outermost zone, Zone 4, consists of existing native vegetation that has been thinned to reduce fuel volume. Many native plants are less susceptible to fire than common landscaping plants. The coastal live oak and silktassel also stabilize slopes and their extensive root development keeps them healthy through long, dry seasons. They are to be thinned to grow 20 to 40 feet apart.

The next area, Zone 3, consists of selected native and introduced plants of similar low-growing, slow-burning characteristics. Reduced volume shrubs such as santolina and rockrose and meadow plants such as yarrow tolerate sun, heat, poor soils, and need little moisture. This area is to be maintained by periodically removing invasive grasses and crowded plants.

Still closer to the house is Zone 2, the "greenbelt," planted with highly fire-retardant succulents and ground covers. Fleshy succulents such as the jade plant and sedum resist fire by storing water in their tissues. Also



Courtesy of EDAW, Inc.

found here is the oleander, which tolerates intense heat and sunlight, little water, and poor soil.

Zone 1, closest to the house, calls for highly fire-resistant plants such as the tobira and shiny leaf jasmine, which are also tolerant of drought, heat, dust, and smog. Proper pruning and removal of plant litter are also recommended for reducing the risk of fire.

The Firescapes Garden can be seen at City Fire Station No. 7, less than five miles from downtown Santa Barbara at 2411 Stanwood Drive. For more information on the site or concept, call (805) 564-5703.

## Column Dedication

June 14 will mark the formal dedication of the National Capitol Columns project at the U.S. National Arboretum. The new arboretum feature is more historical than horticultural: the 22 columns that are its focal point were once part of the east portico of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., but were removed as part of an expansion in 1958. The design was conceived by famed landscape architect Russell Page shortly before he died.

Mrs. George Garrett and then Betty Rea led a group of arboretum supporters, Friends of the U.S. National Arboretum, in obtaining private funds to have the 15-ton, 30-foot-tall columns taken out of storage and moved to the new site selected by Page, a personal friend of Mrs. Garrett. Set in the arboretum's ellipse meadow, the columns are arranged on a nearly square stone platform from which a low fountain overflows into a small channel and cascades down a gentle slope to a reflecting pool. Page asked that there be no formal paths to the site, so visitors will climb a grassy slope to reach the platform, or view the columns from the west where they are set off by a forest background.

Since Page's death in 1985, the landscaping of the National Capitol Columns has been overseen by EDAW, Inc., of Alexandria, Virginia. The columns will be formally planted this spring and lit for viewing at night.

## Conservatory Closed

The century-old Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio, was closed to the public this spring so that it can be expanded and renovated for the AmeriFlora '92 Floral and Garden Festival, which begins in April 1992. It will be expanded by some 30,000 square feet, making it one of the largest conservatories in the world.

John Peterson, executive director of the first sanctioned international floral and garden festival in the United States, said the closing of the conservatory represented a time of mixed emotions, because the planned improvements necessitated closing it to its most regular visitors.





# A Garden for Peace

**T**he nation's capital has many monuments honoring the men and women killed during past wars: the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery. But a former English teacher visiting from Berkeley, California, felt that something was missing—a garden devoted to the future, and to peace, seemed the perfect complement to these memorials to the past.

Now Elizabeth Mackay Ratcliff's dream is becoming a reality. Four years ago she took her idea of a peace garden to Congress and a year later, on June 30, 1987, the National Peace Garden Bill was signed into law by President Reagan. Ratcliff hopes the garden will be an enduring symbol of the quest for peace. "A garden is a metaphor for the future. A garden has to be tended, just as peace does," she told *The New York Times*.

The garden has been designed by Eduardo Catalano, whose entry won \$20,000 in the National Peace Garden Design Competition. The 71-year-old architect from Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a native of Buenos Aires and professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's school of architecture.

Catalano's garden—one of 930 entries in the competition—is a twist on the parterre style. Instead of the classic geometric-shaped beds, plants will be arranged in the shape of an olive branch.

Visitors will enter the tree-bordered garden through the Peace Gate, a hemispherical glass pavilion, which will be used as an information center and a place for gatherings and ceremonies. Paved pathways will border each of the seven leaves of the branch, connecting where the leaves join. A variety of ground covers and grasses will form the leaves, creating an intricate texture of green. The curved stem and leaf forms will be elevated one foot above the ground and illuminated at night. Near where the stems join the main branch, round containers of white-flowering plants—representing the purity of peace—will suggest the calyxes of the olive's flower.



Site plan of Eduardo Catalano's winning design for the National Peace Garden. The smaller plan indicates details of the ground plan beneath the foliage.

Exedra, or half-circle, benches will furnish places for rest, contemplation, and conversation along the paths.

The garden's future home is Hains Point, 12 acres of federal land in Washington's East Potomac Park. The park is bordered by the Potomac River and the Washington Channel, two miles south of the Mall. Jogging, walking, fishing, picnicking, and playground areas already within the park will be preserved. The plan has generated some protests from local residents because it will necessitate removing a popular sculpture by J. Seward Johnson. "The Awakening," a massive figure arising from the ground, has been on loan to the National Park Service since 1980, but was never intended to be a permanent installation, according to an official there.

Immediate goals of the garden planners include building a national organization, and, by 1992, raising the \$12 million needed to build the peace garden. Garden organizers have received a \$75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, but no federal funds were authorized by the peace garden bill. Funding is being sought from foundations, corporations, organizations, and individuals.

Rita Eisenberg, a young Washington tour guide, has been involved with the project since the beginning. After meeting Ratcliff by chance on the Washington subway, Eisenberg testified before a congressional subcommittee in support of a national peace garden. In addition to leading tours, she now volunteers in the garden's Washington office. For Eisenberg the garden fulfills "a great need to balance all the war memorials," a sentiment echoed by Eduardo Catalano. Upon winning the design competition, he expressed his feeling that "...all the

visual offenses built by men are silenced by the outburst of spring."

—Mary Beth Wiesner

For more information contact the National Peace Garden at 806 15th Street, N.W., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 393-6248 or P.O. Box 5282, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705, (415) 652-6351.

## Buzz Off!

Many gardeners find it hard to relax and enjoy their flowers when they're being visited by stinging pollinators such as bees and wasps. Virginia Tech entomologist Richard Fell says in a recent issue of *The Virginia Gardener* that it's almost impossible to select garden plants that won't attract any of the stinging insects: wasps may forage around the house for insect prey or nesting sites. But if it's bees that worry you, you can plant some annuals that either don't entice the creatures or are only minimally attractive. Bees find blue, yellow, and white blooms particularly pleasing. As a general rule, Fell says that red flowers are less alluring. Bees are blasé about carnations, chrysanthemums, daisies, red dianthus, geraniums, marigolds, roses, strawflowers, and zinnias. There are others; Fell suggests that gardeners wishing to reduce their bee populations should observe small groups of different flowers to determine if they are visited by bees or other stinging pests.

Adrian Catalano



# AHS Bulletin Board

## Seed Program 1991

Participating in the American Horticultural Society Seed Program is a wonderful way to share your seed with others who would enjoy growing the same plants you treasure. In this year's program, tree seeds went extremely well; we have sent out over three times as many as we have in the past. Perennial wildflowers also were very popular. Named cultivars, such as Cosmos 'Bright Lights', also do well, so if you have one of the cultivars that will come true from seed, try to send a large amount of that seed. Other selections that went well this year included the hostas, *Penstemon cyananthus*, the *Allium* species as a whole, the *Aquilegias*, and both species of *Lobelia*, *L. cardinalis*, and *L. siphilitica*. The vegetables, on the other hand, went slowly and some not at all.

We have had many member requests for information on this program so here are some typical questions and answers that we hope will be helpful.

### How do I send my seeds?

*When your seeds are ready to harvest, collect, clean, and dry them. The drying process is very important. Let the seeds dry on a paper towel or on sheets of newspaper. If the seeds are sealed in an air-tight bag and sent while still wet, they will mildew and become unusable. When you pack the seeds, be sure and seal them well because little seeds have a way of finding any hole and working their way free. Reclosable plastic bags are good for this purpose, but a plain mailing*

*envelope will work if you tape all the openings well. Place the seed packets in a padded mailing envelope, label it "Hand Cancel" and mail to: 1991 Seed Program, American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.*

### How much seed should I send?

*When donating seed, you should send enough seed to fill at least 200 orders. The size of the seed determines how many we will put in each envelope. Ideally, we would like to send about 50 small seeds per envelope. For larger seeds, such as tree seeds, etc., the envelopes only hold five seeds.*

### What is the deadline for sending in my seeds?

*November 1, 1990, is this year's deadline. Any seed received after that date*

*will appear on the supplementary seed list or in the next year's program.*

### Is there anything I should enclose with my seeds?

*There are several very important pieces of information you should send:*

- 1. Information about the plant's height, flower color, germination, zones of hardiness, and other cultural information.*
- 2. Your name, so we can give credit where credit is due, and your phone number, in case we have questions about your seeds.*

Thank you for your support. If you have any further questions or comments, feel free to call our toll-free number (800) 777-7931. We hope to receive seed from every member this year!

—Cathy Gau  
Horticultural Intern

## Flower Show Citations Awarded

Each year AHS recognizes one exhibit at each of several major flower shows "which best demonstrates the bond between horticulture and the environment," and inspires viewers to "beautify home and community through skillful design and appropriate plant material."

Winners of the 1990 citations were:

- ♦ Atlanta. Ryan Gaaney, Tom Woodham, and Brooks Garcia of the Connoisseur's Garden in Atlanta for "Mr. Skinner's Vegetable Garden";
- ♦ Washington. Kevin and Steve McHale of McHale Landscape Design in Brandywine, Maryland, for an informal all-white garden that featured white azaleas, tulips, pansies, dogwood, and japonicas complemented by a waterfall;

♦ New York. Mrs. Jock Whitney's Long Island garden, Greentree, an apartment terrace garden that proved a small city space could be turned into a beautiful garden;

♦ Boston. Randall G. Wieting Landscape Design, Inc., in Salem, Massachusetts, for a simply designed viewing garden that demonstrated an appreciation and respect for the natural world;

♦ Philadelphia. Mansmann/Linkey Landscape Contractors of Frazer, Pennsylvania, for their exhibit entitled, "A Garden Sanctuary."

## Dogwood Donated

River Farm is very proud of its newest addition—a flowering Chinese dogwood donated by the Garden Club of Alexandria. Club members presented the tree March 15 in honor of Nancy Talley, president of the Garden Club of Virginia, during a joint meeting with the Fairfax Garden Club and the Hunting Creek Garden Club. All three groups are members of the Garden Club of America.

The tree planting, one of several projects that are part of the club's National Celebration of the Outdoors, fulfills a 70-year obligation of the

Garden Club of America. A 1920 resolution called for encouraging "the preservation of all woodland things, that the natural beauty spots of our country may not be destroyed."

Members chose the *Cornus kousa*—a new genus in River Farm's collection—because of its beauty and resistance to disease. The tree is the first of several from the Garden Club of Alexandria, according to AHS Executive Director Frank Robinson. A 40-year-old pine originally occupied the area; it toppled over during a wind and rainstorm last June.



"Mr. Skinner's Vegetable Garden" won the AHS citation at the Atlanta Flower Show. The formal parterre style garden featured edible flowers, vegetables, herbs, and fruit for the South, including radishes, beets, broccoli, English peas, alpine strawberries, elephant garlic, parsley, nasturtiums, and violas.



# Six Nominated to AHS Board of Directors

The following individuals have been nominated to serve on the American Horticultural Society's Board of Directors. The three year terms begin with the Society's Annual Meeting in June.

**William E. Barrick** is executive vice president and director of gardens at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia, a position he has held since 1980. He received a doctoral degree in landscape horticulture from Michigan State University. Barrick is currently vice president of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and serves on Longwood Gardens Visiting Committee, AmeriFlora '92 Masterplan Subcommittee, Abraham Baldwin

Agricultural College Advisory Committee, and the Riverfront Development Committee in Columbus, Georgia. Barrick is a prolific writer and researcher; his articles have appeared in *The Florida Nurseryman*, *Florist Review*, *Southern Florist and Nurseryman*, and *HortScience*.

**Mary Katherine Blount** is an active gardener and long-time member of the Montgomery Garden Club in Montgomery, Alabama. She serves on the board of directors of Kenmore, a restored estate and museum in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as well as boards of several colleges, museums, and other charitable organizations.

**Sally Boasberg** is a landscape designer in Washington, D.C., and teaches courses in the history of garden design and garden preservation at George Washington University. Boasberg is a graduate of Smith College and received a certificate in landscape design from George Washington University. A 15-year member of AHS, she is a former chairman of the Washington Opera Guild and has been active in other organizations.

**Julia Hobart** of Troy, Ohio, is administrator of the Overfield Early Childhood Program, a program which she began in a log cabin 30 years ago. She is an active member of the Garden

Club of Dayton and over the last five years has worked with Child Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to create gardens at her Troy and Nantucket homes. Hobart is also active in school-related and arts organizations.

**Joseph E. Howland**, a retired professor of horticulture, is currently a professor of advertising/marketing at the University of Nevada in Reno. He received a doctoral degree in floriculture from Cornell University. Howland has been an associate editor at *Better Homes & Gardens* and garden editor of *House Beautiful* and *The Practical Gardener*. Howland has been a horticultural consultant to Reader's Digest, Time/Life Books, World Book encyclopedia, and Ortho garden books. He has also served as chairman of Pan American Seed Company, Burgess Seed & Plant Company, CASSA Seed Company in Honduras, and Ball Advertising.

**Flavia Redelmeier** of Toronto, Canada, is owner of Southbrook Farms, a market farm which produces sweet corn, strawberries, and raspberries. She is a director and officer of the Herb Society of America and is past president of the Garden Club of Toronto. Redelmeier, an avid gardener and flower arranger, also serves on the board of the Royal Ontario Museum and is a Girl Guide leader.

## AHS Board of Directors Proxy

Notice of Election in conjunction with the 45th Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society. Cut out proxy and return by June 12, to President, AHS, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.

I will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society on June 20, 1990. Please assign my proxy to AHS President, Carolyn Marsh Lindsay, or

to cast my ballot in the annual election of the Society's Board of Directors, and to cast my ballot in other matters that may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting with the same effect as though I were personally present.

Vote for six.

- ☐ William E. Barrick
- ☐ Mary Katherine Blount
- ☐ Sally Boasberg
- ☐ Julia Hobart
- ☐ Joseph E. Howland
- ☐ Flavia Redelmeier

Write-in Candidate

Write-in-Candidate

Name

Address

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Signature

Date

## AHS Membership Services

Your satisfaction with our member service is very important to us. If you have a question or problem concerning your membership, please contact the Membership Department for assistance.

You can help by giving complete information when you call or write. Please refer to the five digit number on the mailing label of your magazine or news edition. The number helps us to quickly identify your membership record for corrections.

### Changing Your Address?

Please allow 6-8 weeks advance notice. Attach a current mailing label in the space provided (or write in your old address) then fill in your new address on the lines below.

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Mail to: Membership Services, American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.



# Gardener's Q&A

Explore the world of gardening by asking and learning through our Gardener's Information Service.

**Q:** I have had violets growing in my garden for over 20 years. They are very healthy and spread rapidly but there are few flowers. What can I do to encourage blossoms?  
*W. M. S., Wilmington, Delaware*

**A:** Violets (*Viola odorata*) prefer cool, slightly shaded locations with plenty of oak leaf mulch or compost. They also need well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil but they are not finicky plants. In fact, they are prone to spread rapidly and if allowed to do so may decrease their flower production. Your violets may be too crowded; try weeding out a few and/or dividing the plants after they bloom this spring. You might also try feeding them with fish emulsion a month or so before the blooming period.

**Q:** My boxwood is fairly old and large. Many of the leaves are "cupped," but I always thought that this was just a natural characteristic of boxwoods until a neighbor explained that it was caused by an insect. Is this true?

*W. G., Rochester, New York*

**A:** Boxwood cupping is caused by insects called psyllids that suck the juices from the leaves, causing them to yellow and curl. To eradicate the psyllids, spray the boxwoods in the spring with a systemic insecticide (contact your local extension agent or nursery for brand suitable for your area). To prevent infestations, spray with half-strength dormant oil in the winter.

**Q:** I have lavender growing as a perennial hedge in my back yard. Should I prune it back at any time?

*A. R., Hagerstown, Maryland*

**A:** Yes, lavender should be pruned back to half of the stem's length, in the late winter or early spring. Pruning will keep the lavender upright, increase the air circulation throughout the plant, and encourage flower production from the new growth.

**Q:** I tried growing freesias in my house last winter but I didn't get very many flowers, just leggy stems. I would still like to try these again next year. Do you have any suggestions?

*C. H., College Station, Texas*

**A:** Freesias are cormous plants with beautiful, fragrant blooms. It is important to purchase high quality, plump corms. Buy them from a well-known bulb specialist, not from supermarkets and discount stores.

Freesias do not need the cold treatment that tulips and daffodils need. They do need porous, well-drained soil. In the fall, plant the corms about one inch deep and two inches apart in a pot and place the pot in a cool, dark place. When the shoots emerge, transfer the pot to a well-lit but cool place in the house. This is often the most difficult part since most houses are centrally heated. When the flower stalks begin to show, apply a dilute fertilizer once a week until the blooms open. Freesias do get tall and will flop over if they don't have support. But if they seem especially elongated, it may be that you haven't yet found the right combination of bright light and cool temperature.

*—Peggy Lytton*

*Gardener's Information Service*

## Correction

In the January "Members' Forum," an extra million crept into our reported estimate of how many pleione bulbs were believed to have been imported by Japan from Taiwan in 1985. The correct figure should have been 250,000. Thanks to member Arthur F. Phinney of Fairfax, Virginia, for drawing this typographical error to our attention.

## Letter to the Editor

Regarding your March article on landscape fabric, we have another problem with it that was not mentioned. Out here on the prairie where the wind blows all the time, organic mulches such as shredded bark or wood chips will not stay put on landscape fabric. This is usually no problem with mulch that is placed directly on soil. Apparently the mulch will not grip or bind with the landscape fabric as it will in direct contact with soil.

We have also had a problem holding mulch on slopes or where water moves across a bed. The mulch stays put better when in direct soil contact than when placed on top of landscape fabric. We have stopped using it because of this problem.

*Steve Sprehe, Landscape Supt.  
Conoco, Inc., Ponca City, Oklahoma*

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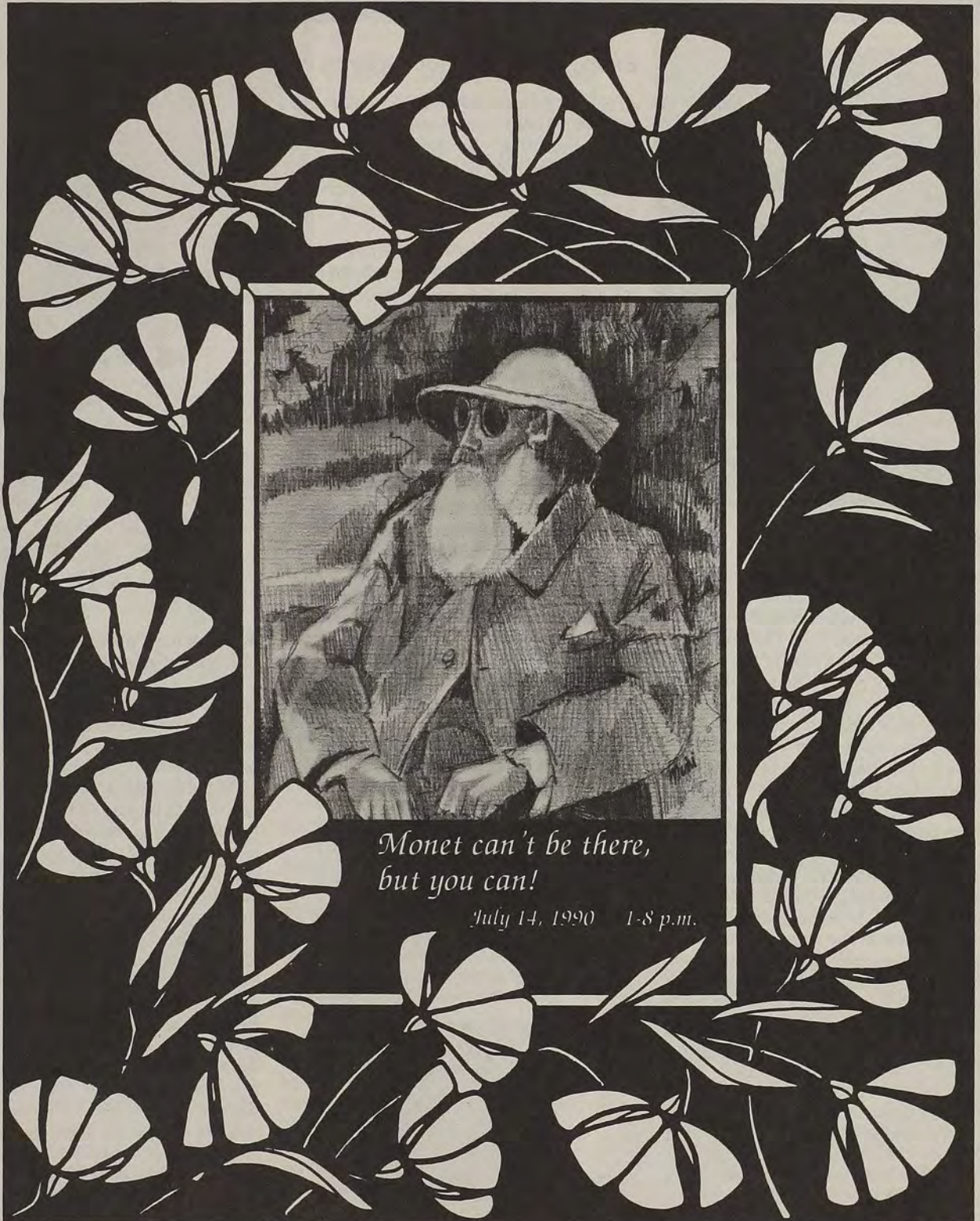
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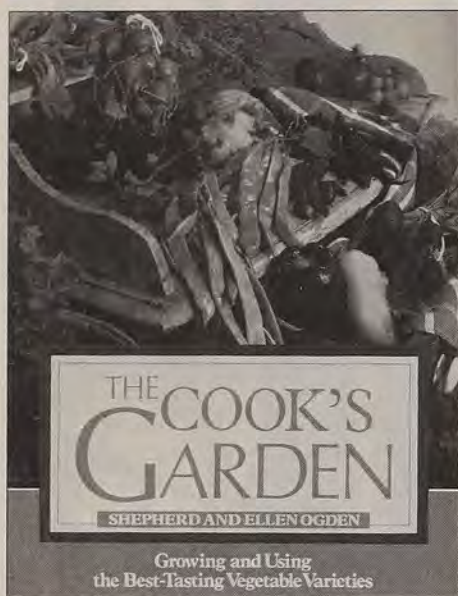
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# Gardener's Bookshelf



## The Cook's Garden

Tired of hard tomatoes, wilted salad greens, and cardboard carrots? Try growing non-commercial varieties of vegetables and herbs with *The Cook's Garden*, a refreshing guide to the combined arts of gardening and eating. The Ogdens' years of experience shine through as they emphasize conservation of space, time, and energy yet use creative techniques such as blanching, growing seedling crops, and interplanting. Those who already garden can skip past the basics of soil, water, and light and zoom right ahead to ideas such as mixing carrot seeds with radishes to help speed germination of the less vigorous carrots, or planting cool-weather greens in the summer shade of trellised late peas. Variety Source Charts list recommended varieties of vegetables and herbs, and for each, when to plant, when to harvest, what to harvest, and sources. My favorite is the *what to harvest*—for years I have wondered how to eat a leek. Unfortunately, not every plant is illustrated; one would have to use another source to learn what a mâche looks like before it matures. The last chapter lets the reader incorporate the season's harvest into several of Ellen's recipes. By Shepherd and Ellen Ogden. Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pennsylvania. 1989. 230 pages. Black and white drawings. Publisher's price: hardcover, \$19.95; softcover, \$14.95. AHS member price: hardcover, \$16.95; softcover, \$12.70.

—Peggy Lytton

## Exotic Flowering Houseplants

Although *Exotic Flowering Houseplants* is a British book (which means you need to remember that "compost" means soil), the admiration for flowering houseplants is universal. If you haven't yet branched out into this area of gardening, here is a good primer.

The introduction covers the basics of selecting a disease-free plant, bringing it home, and acclimatizing it; general tips on care; pests and diseases; and displaying the plants.

The rest of the book describes 75 plants, each beautifully illustrated with a color photo, which have been divided into three categories: Easy, Moderately Easy, and Difficult to Grow. These definitions are based on the care required after the blooming period. Easy to Grow plants are usually bought in full bloom and discarded after flowering. Moderately Easy plants require different conditions after flowering to induce a dormant period; Difficult plants are mostly flowering shrubs requiring greenhouses. A shortcoming of note is that although the author includes tips for prolonging bloom, he often fails to offer detailed instructions for repeating blooms year after year. By William Davidson. Price Stern Sloan, Inc., Los Angeles, California. 1989. 96 pages. Color photographs. Publisher's price: softcover, \$9.95. AHS member price: \$8.45. —P. L.



## A Gourmet's Guide to Herbs & Spices

After mastering the art of cultivating even the most difficult of herbs, the next question that comes to mind may be "Now what?" *A Gourmet's Guide to Herbs & Spices* is not a grower's manual. It begins at the point of harvest and guides the reader through exotic culinary adventures. This pictorial encyclopedia covers herbs, salad leaves, edible flowers, spices, and flavorings from throughout the world, techniques for harvesting and storage, and recipes for using herbs in vinegars, oils, butters, and teas. Many of those obscure herbs and spices that one hears about but rarely ever sees—clary, curry leaf, purslane, rocket—are described and very well illustrated, as are spices and spice mixtures for ethnic dishes: alino criolo (Venezuela), garam masala (India), pickling spice (England), and Japanese seven-flavors spice. Further uses for the herbs and spices are found in 48 recipes with color photographs of the prepared dishes. By Mary Trewby. Price Stern Sloan, Inc., Los Angeles, California. 1989. 120 pages. Color photographs. Publisher's price: softcover, \$9.95. AHS member price: \$8.45. —P. L.





## Window Boxes

Three years ago my husband and I received a wonderful wedding present—a beautiful window box handmade by a friend. But after several unsuccessful attempts to produce a box overflowing with flowering beauties we still had only scraggly-looking plants. So I put the box away hoping to come up with some other use for it. Now that I've read Martin Baxendale's book, I think there may be some hope in using the window box as a window box! Here is everything I've ever wanted to know about window box gardening, from planning and design to solving plant

problems. The containers themselves are naturally the first consideration and Baxendale weighs the advantages and disadvantages of many types with comments on style, color, size, and material. He provides easy-to-follow directions and drawings for constructing your own boxes, and for mounting the boxes to a window ledge or to the house if you haven't much windowsill. Then it's on to the planting—climbers

and trailers, plants for every season, shade lovers and sun lovers, plants that are pollution-tolerant—are all described along with suggestions for what looks good with what. There are ideas for rock garden window boxes, seasonal displays, fruit, vegetable, and herb boxes, hanging baskets, and even designs for creating a year-round garden in just one box. Baxendale also covers basic gardening techniques—planting, watering, feeding, pests, and diseases. An appendix contains two sections—for seasonal and permanent displays—listing for each potential choices among bulbs, corms, and tubers, evergreens, bedding plants, climbers, trailers, foliage plants, bushy plants, rock garden plants, and dwarf shrubs. Part of Ward Lock's Gardening By Design series, this is an excellent comprehensive guide to window gardening. By Martin Baxendale. Ward Lock Limited, London, England. Distributed by David & Charles, Inc., North Pomfret, Vermont. 1989. 80 pages. Line drawings and color photographs. Publisher's price: softcover, \$11.95. AHS member price: \$9.95.

—Mary Beth Wiesner

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## Town Gardens

Those with limited space in their gardens will want to make room in their home gardening libraries for *Town Gardens*. Gill Page has packed this slim volume with all the information needed for turning an unsightly corner or cramped yard into a beautiful flowering retreat. He opens with a chapter on planning the small garden, covering practical issues such as designing a garden to complement the house and accommodate your lifestyle, providing spaces for children and pets, and creating attractive storage spaces. Plant selection is well covered; Page makes suggestions among climbers and wall shrubs, small trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, annuals, bulbs, and water plants for shade, semi-shade, and sun, and offers pointers on which look best together. Of course container plants are perfect for the small garden and all the basics are included here, from choosing the container and the plants (herbs, bulbs, and vegetables as well as annuals and perennials) to the actual planting. A chapter on hard-surfacing covers different types of paving, noting the advantages and disadvantages of each, and provides examples of bricklaying patterns. Walls and

fences, water gardens, roof gardens, and garden ornaments are briefly mentioned. Detailed line drawings graphically explain various garden processes and the many full-color photographs should inspire many town garden design ideas. *Town Gardens* is part of Ward Lock's Gardening By Design series. By Gill Page. Ward Lock Limited, London England. Distributed by David & Charles, Inc., North Pomfret, Vermont. 1989. 80 pages. Line drawings and color photographs. Publisher's price: softcover, \$11.95. AHS member price: \$9.95. —M. B. W.





# Gardener's Dateline

## Northeast

♦ **May 5. Wilmington Garden Day.** Tour of gardens and homes benefits children in Delaware. Wilmington, Delaware. Information: Mrs. David H. Williams (302) 764-7426.

♦ **May 9-10. Annual Benefit Plant Sale. Largest in the Northeast.** Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Brooklyn, New York. Information: Lois Carswell or Lucille Plotz (718) 622-4433.

♦ **May 10. The 51st Annual Herb Sale.** The Herb Society of America—Philadelphia Unit. Farm of Dr. and Mrs. Bryce Douglas, Pughtown Road, Kimbertown, Pennsylvania. Information: Mrs. Edward S. Madara (215) 664-2738.

♦ **May 12-13. Wildflower, Native Plant, and Seed Sale.** Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Information: Laura Mumaw (215) 388-7601.

♦ **Through May 13. The 12th Annual House and Garden Tour.** Coordinated by The Friends of Independence National Historic Park. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Information: (215) 928-1188 or write POH, 313 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

♦ **May 24-26. Herbs and Folklore.** Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Information: Landis Valley Museum, 2451 Kissel Hill Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, (717) 569-0401.

♦ **May 30-June 3. Rhododendrons for the '90s: The Northeast Perspective.** Hosted by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Tara Hyannis Resort & Hotel, Hyannis, Massachusetts. Information: Anne Reisch (508) 671-2494 during business hours, (508) 371-0755 after business hours.

♦ **May 31. Biennial Garden Tour.** West Hartford Garden Club, West Hartford, Connecticut. Information: Mrs. Bradford Ward, 36 Banbury Lane, West Hartford, CT 06107, (203) 236-1019.

♦ **June 7. "An Evening of Roses."** Brooklyn Botanic Garden Auxiliary benefit for the restoration of the rose garden's wood structures. Brooklyn, New York. Information: (718) 622-4433.

♦ **June 9. The 16th Annual Plant Sale.** Garden in the Woods, New England Wild Flower Society, Hemenway Rd., Framingham, Maine. Information: (508) 877-6574 or (617) 237-4924.

♦ **June 9. The 22nd Annual Rose Show.** The only rose competition in New York City. Our Lady of the Snows Church, 258-15 80th Ave., North Floral Park, Queens, New York. Information: (718) 347-6070.

♦ **June 17. Annual Garden Tour.** Visit five private gardens in the Wilmington area. Sponsored by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum. Information: (215) 328-8025.

## Mid-Atlantic

♦ **May 2. Symposium: Clean Air/Air Pollution Plants are the Solution.** In cooperation with The

Clean Air Council. U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, DC. Information: (202) 475-4815.

♦ **May 5. Annual Herb Plant Sale.** Sponsored by the Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America. U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, DC. Information: Jo Sellers (703) 451-7037.

♦ **Through May 6. 1990 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage.** Sponsored by six Maryland organizations to raise funds for historic preservation. Information: (301) 821-6933.

♦ **May 6. Second Annual "Gardeners In Their Gardens" Tour.** Virginia Beach, Virginia. Sponsored by the Norfolk Botanical Garden Society. Information: (804) 481-6656 or (804) 481-4777.

♦ **May 10, 12-13. Wildflower Photography Lecture and Workshop taught by John D. Smithers.** U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, DC. Information: (202) 475-4815.

♦ **May 18-20. Wintergreen's Seventh Annual Spring Wildflower Symposium.** Wintergreen, Virginia. Information: Mike Caouette (804) 325-2200, Ext. 391.

♦ **May 19. Annual Plant Sale of the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society.** Giant Food Store parking lot, Hillwood Ave. at Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, Virginia. Information: Edith Probus (703) 536-8358.

♦ **May 20. Annual Roses and Mayflowers Garden Tour.** Annapolis, Maryland. Sponsored by the Historic Annapolis Foundation. Information: Write or call the William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401, (301) 267-6656 or (301) 269-0601.

♦ **June 18-22. Weeklong Conifers Course.** Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Information: Continuing Education, Longwood Gardens, P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501, (215) 388-6741, Ext. 516.

## Fun at the Farm

Spring is a beautiful time to visit the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters any day of the week. But if you need an excuse to come out, we always have some special events coming up:

♦ **May 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Our annual spring festival has been greatly expanded this year. Specialty nurseries and plant societies will offer perennials, shrubs, and herbs for sale. Reston, Virginia, artist Marlan Buckner will be displaying and selling paintings of River Farm. There will be other arts and crafts and food to buy, or you can bring along a picnic. Admission is free.

♦ **June 16, 10:30 a.m.** Libby Hodges Oliver of Colonial Williamsburg will present a lecture and demonstration on "Fresh Flower Arranging in the Williamsburg Style." Admission \$5. Call for reservations or pay at the door.

♦ **June 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Daylily/Lily Day. Members of the Capitol area chapters of the national daylily and lily societies will be on hand to share all their knowledges on growing these two genera, which should be at the peak of their bloom. Admission is free.

For more information call (703) 768-5700 or (800) 777-7931.



# San Antonio Site of Begonia Meeting

The American Begonia Society will hold its annual convention May 17-20 at the Airport Holiday Inn in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting is hosted by the Southwest Region of the American Begonia Society.

Conservation is the theme this year, with emphasis on preservation of species in cultivation and in their native habitat, and conservation of water resources in gardens and greenhouses.

For more information call or write: Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262, (817) 481-4305.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION 1990



SAN ANTONIO

## Southeast

♦ **May 12-13. Bonsai Exhibit.** Selby Gardens, Sarasota, Florida. Information: The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236, (813) 366-5730.

♦ **June 11-15, 18-22, 25-29. Landscape School of the South.** Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Information: Course Content, Dr. Neil Odenwald (504) 388-1434. To register, LSU Short Courses, (504) 388-6621 or (800) 234-5049.

## North Central

♦ **May 17, 19-20. Wildflower Photography Lecture and Workshop taught by John D. Smithers.** The Holden Arboretum, Mentor, Ohio. Information: (216) 946-4400.

♦ **May 20-24. Annual Convention of the American Iris Society.** Omaha, Nebraska. Information: Kay Nelson, P.O. Box 37613, Omaha, NE 68137, (402) 895-9112.

♦ **June 22-24. "Summer Spectaculars."** Summer Flower Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois. Information: (708) 835-5440.

## Northwest

♦ **May 5, 12, 19, 26. June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Spring Tours of Ikenobo Gardens.** Redmond, Washington. Information: Marla Kenney (206) 868-0589 or (206) 242-6583.

♦ **June 27-30. AABGA Annual Meeting.** Focusing on Working with Plants. Hosted by the Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington. Seattle, Washington. Information: American Association of

Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, P.O. Box 206, Swarthmore, PA 19081.

## West Coast

♦ **May 3. Mediterranean Gardens.** Talk by Shirley Kerins. The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, California. Information: Catherine Babcock (818) 405-2147.

♦ **May 5. The Strybing Arboretum Society 23rd Annual Plant Sale.** San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, San Francisco, California. Information: Apple Walker (415) 661-1317 or Susan Addison (415) 549-9549.

♦ **May 5-6. Rose Show.** South Coast Rose Society. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. Information: LuAnn Munns (818) 446-8251.

♦ **May 12-13. "Geranium Festival."** Annual Plant Show sponsored by the Los Angeles Branch of the International Geranium Society. Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., LaCanada Flintridge, California. Information: Betty Tufenkian (213) 222-3469 or (213) 222-6809.

♦ **May 19. Xeriscape for the Homeowner Seminar.** California Arboretum Foundation. Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia, California. Information: LuAnn Munns (818) 446-8251.

♦ **May 26-27. The 12th Annual Rose Show.** Fountain Square, 7115 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights, California. Information: (916) 969-6666.

♦ **June 2-3. Creating a Garden, Centennial Symposium.** Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA. Information: (415) 642-3343.

♦ **June 7. Lecture on unusual trees for Southern California gardens.** The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, California. Information: Catherine Babcock (818) 405-2147.

♦ **June 29-July 1. The 25th Annual Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale.** Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Sponsored by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Information: Karen Ostler, (818) 881-9601.

♦ **June 30-July 8. International Festival of Flowers.** Hilo, Hawaii. Information: 929 Kuhikuhi St., Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 435-2845.

## International

♦ **May 22-25. Chelsea Flower Show.** London, England. Information: Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1 2PE, or call 01-834-4333.

♦ **June 14-17. European Garden Symposium and Exhibition.** Dunkirk, France. Information: APRIA: 35, rue du Général-Foy, 75008—Paris, Phone: 33-1-42 93 19 24, Fax: 33-1-43 87 71 92.



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We at the American Horticultural Society are often asked to refer individuals for significant horticultural positions around the country. We are not in a position to offer full placement services to candidates or employers. However, as a service to our members, both individuals and employers alike, we would be very glad to receive résumés and cover letters of individuals seeking job changes and employers seeking candidates. All responsibility for checking references and determining the appropriateness of both position and candidate rests with the individuals. AHS's participation in this activity is only to serve as a connecting point for members of the Society. Inquiries and informational material should be sent to: Horticultural Employment, American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308.

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## Rare Mint Protects Itself With 'Bomb'

Cornell University researchers have found that a nearly extinct mint plant protects itself with a chemical "bomb" that remains hermetically sealed until an insect bites into one of its leaves.

The leaves of the mint, *Dicerandra frutescens*, which is found in only a few patches in central Florida, contain capsules of a number of mint oils found in other plants, but also a previously unknown one, called trans-pulegol. Many plants contain chemical defenses in their leaves, said Thomas Eisner, the Jacob Gould Schurman professor of biology at Cornell; it is the mint's means of economizing on its defenses that make it particularly intriguing. "It's probably a general phenomenon that we biologists have overlooked."

The discovery was made at the Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid, Florida. When an undamaged mint leaf was offered to ants feeding on a sugar solution, they took no notice, but when the leaf was cut, they stopped feeding and fled. When trans-pulegol was dabbed on a cockroach's abdomen, the insect began to scratch itself.

Only one insect, the caterpillar of a pyralid moth, seems able to tolerate eating the mint leaves. That caterpillar then uses the mint as its own defense, by regurgitating the meal when disturbed.

Eisner is an advocate of what he calls "chemical prospecting": a systematic search for undiscovered medicines, food chemicals, and substances like trans-pulegol that might serve as natural pesticides. In the medical area, he

Top: Insects are repelled by the mint scent of *Dicerandra frutescens* found pleasant by Cornell biology professor Thomas Eisner, chemistry professor Jerrold Meinwald, and graduate student Kevin McCormick. Bottom: Ants feeding on a circle of sugar begin to flee from a mint leaf thrust in their midst.



John Pachai/Cornell University

points to such recent discoveries as vincristine, an anticancer agent isolated from the Madagascar periwinkle; cyclosporin, made from a Norwegian fungus and used to prevent rejection of transplanted organs; and ivermectin, a drug derived from a Japanese mold and used to treat river blindness.

The trans-pulegol discovery demonstrates that researchers don't have to go all the way to the tropical rain forests to discover useful substances in plants, Eisner said, although there is a greater variety of life there. It also underscores the urgency of such research. Mark Deyrup, an Archbold scientist who participated in the study, noted that the entire known population of *Dicerandra frutescens* would be wiped out in a few hours with a lawn mower, or a few minutes with a bulldozer.



Thomas Eisner/Cornell University

Team members believe large quantities of trans-pulegol could be produced synthetically if there is commercial interest, so that the remaining population can remain undisturbed. They will next study two related mint plants found in Florida that are in even greater danger of extinction.



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