

American Horticulturist



A. Brooke Russell

A new volunteer program here at River Farm provides the “raw materials” to give our grounds a facelift. This volunteer is lending her gardening skills to aid the Department of Horticulture; others are contributing their time and special knowledge to the Publications Department, the Gardeners’ Information Service, meeting planning and management, house and garden tours, and special activities here at River Farm. This “behind-the-scenes” scheme is helping the AHS staff to serve you better.

Board Member Retires at Annual Meeting

The Society extends its sincere thanks and a goodbye to Mrs. Frances J. Poetker, a dedicated member of our Board of Directors who has served for the past nine years (1978-1987). Mrs. Poetker's term expired at the Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society, held on May 13th in New York City, New York. In addition to serving on the Horticultural Awards Committee, Mrs. Poetker was a member of the Society's Professional Horticulture Advisory Council. She and her husband, Mr. Joseph Poetker, donated flowers for this year's Annual Meeting and in addition, Mrs. Poetker created some magnificent floral arrangements for the AHS Awards Banquet. This lovely contribution, which was the Poetker's 50th-anniversary present to each other, was appreciated by all who attended the Banquet.

The Society has decided to present a new award at its annual Awards Banquet, in Mrs. Poetker's honor. The Frances J. Poetker Award will be presented to a floral artist—either amateur or professional—of national reputation who has, over an extended period of time, generously given of his or her inspirational talents. Artists who have contributed to floral design, teaching, and/or writing, and who have, through the use of plant material, enhanced American aesthetics will be honored.



Joseph and Frances Poetker at the Society's 42nd Annual Meeting in New York City.



Mr. and Mrs. David Rockefeller accepting the Society's National Achievement Award from Mr. Everitt Miller, AHS President, and Mrs. Carolyn Marsh Lindsay, Awards Chairman.

Photos by Rob Klein

American Horticulturist

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The Apple of Our Eye

The Applewood Seed Company of Arvada, Colorado, deserves a special "hats off" from the staff and members of AHS. The company has supported Society projects for numerous years, and has provided priceless consultation to staff horticulturists. Since the late 1970's, Applewood has annually provided bulk quantities of seed for a large number of selections in our Seed Program. Thanks to Applewood, seeds of such unusual plants as *Jacaranda*, *Gilia*, and Jerusalem cherry have rounded out our program, stimulating the interest of our members and keeping them coming back for more. Large quantities

of packaged seed have been made available to AHS, for use in participant packages at our Annual Meetings, due to donations from Applewood. In addition, Applewood has consistently provided the Society with large quantities of various meadow seed mixtures for use in the River Farm wildflower meadow, thus greatly enhancing the educational value of this effort.

As is sometimes the case with close friends and associates, we have neglected to show our great appreciation for these fine deeds. We'd like to do so now: Bushels of thanks, Applewood!

AHS What's Happening



A gnarled old walnut tree at River Farm.

Summer is here! Everyone seems to be seeking the shade of the beautiful old trees that grace the River Farm property, in order to keep out of the hot summer sun. What stories those ancient trees might tell if only they could speak. Some of the gnarled old walnut trees are thought to have been planted during George Washington's ownership of River Farm.

Cool breezes from the river blow across the wildflower meadow and over the "ha-ha" wall, providing an absolutely idyllic summer setting for all who visit. The "ha-ha" wall is an 18th-century structure that kept grazing livestock within pasture areas and out of the garden. Because of this, a sweeping vista to the river beyond was left open.

If you have not yet been to River Farm, perhaps you might want to include it in your vacation plans while you're in the Washington area. Or, if you live nearby, we are just a short distance from Old Town Alexandria. It is such a lovely place, and one we especially want to share with all of our members. We hope the following activities will provide a little extra incentive for you to plan a visit.

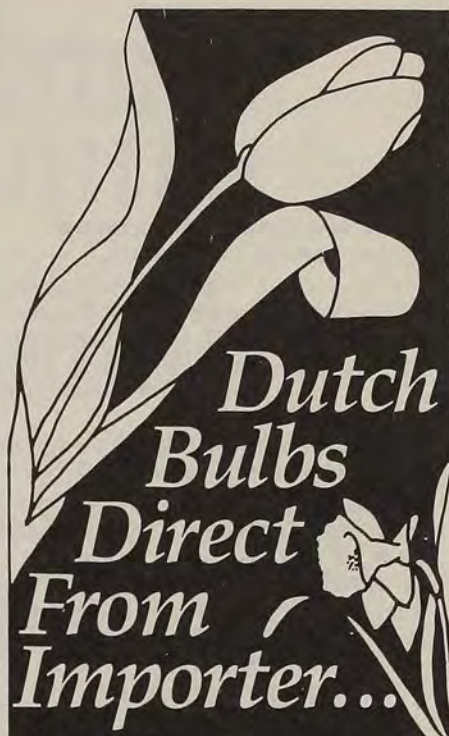
Dahlia Day. Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Once again, this special day will provide an opportunity for members and other inter-

ested gardeners to visit our Dahlia Test Garden, one of nine such gardens in the United States. Experts will be on hand to answer your gardening questions, and the dahlias will no doubt be gorgeous! The other gardens here at River Farm will also be lovely at that time of year. Admission: AHS members, \$1; non-members, \$2; children under 12, free.

Autumn Festival. Sunday, October 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Autumn Festival is always a delight, as autumn is a particularly beautiful time of year here. The chrysanthemums and dahlias are in spectacular bloom, and the foliage at River Farm is showing splendid color. Numerous activities are planned for this year, among them exhibits by various plant societies; arts and crafts; and the sale of plants, bulbs, gardening books, and other gardening items. Refreshments may be purchased and enjoyed as you stroll around the grounds. Admission: AHS members, \$2; non-members, \$3; children under 12, free.

For more information, please write or call me at the Society: Sharon Barnes, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, (703) 768-5700.

—Sharon Barnes,
Public Relations Director



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Gardener's Dateline

July 1-4

American Gloxinia & Gesneriad Society Annual Convention

The Landmark at Metairie, New Orleans, Louisiana. Information: George Waguespack, Registrar, AGGS Annual Convention, 334 Halsey Dr., Harahan, LA 70123.

July 3-10

Course: "The Protection & Conservation of Historic Landscapes, Parks & Gardens"

West Dean House, West Sussex, England. Information: The Lecture Organizer, West Dean College, West Dean, Nr. Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QZ England, Tel: Singleton (0243 63) 301.

July 6-10

Course: Landscaping with Groundcovers

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Registration: \$155. Information: Longwood Gardens, Continuing Education Department, PO Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348, (215) 388-6741, Ext. 516.

July 7-8

Course: "Urban Design Charette"

Department of Architecture and Planning, Catholic University, Washington, DC. Information: Thomas Walton, Department of Architecture, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064, (202) 635-5188.

July 7-August 7

Course: "Gardens & Urban Landscape"

Department of Architecture and Planning, Catholic University, Washington, DC. Information: Thomas Walton, Department of Architecture and Planning, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064, (202) 635-5188.

July 9-10

Agri-Tech '87

Virginia Tech Horticultural Gardens, Blacksburg, Virginia. Information: William Allen, Agri-Tech Coordinator, 101 Hutcheson Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, (703) 961-5299.

July 9-12

Marigold Society of America Annual Meeting

Lompoc, California. Information: Gordon Marten, 2437 Moreno Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90039, (213) 661-3002.

July 14-16

Course: "Trees for the Times"

Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, Pitts-



burgh, Pennsylvania. Information: Allegheny County Extension Service, 1520 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (412) 392-8540.

July 19-22

National Herb Growing and Marketing Conference

Purdue University's Dept. of Horticulture and Cooperative Extension Service, International Herb Growers and Marketers Association. Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Information: Dr. James Simon or Laura Clavio, Horticulture Bldg., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47709.

July 19-23

American Society of Plant Physiologists Annual Meeting

Chase Park Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Information: ASPP 1987 Annual Meeting Registration, 15501-A Monona Drive, Rockville, MD 20855.

July 22-25

Society of American Florists Annual Convention

St. Louis, Missouri. Information: Beth Grandel, SAF, 1601 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

July 24-August 1

International Botanical Congress

West Berlin, Germany. Information: The Secretary, XIV International Botanical Congress, Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, D-1000 Berlin 33, (030) 831-60-10.

July 26

Lecture: "A Native American Guide to Woodland Plants & Trees"

Museum theater, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Admission: Members, \$2.00; non-members, \$3.00. Information: Donna DeFabio, Plimoth Plantation, PO Box 1620, Plymouth, MA 02360, (617) 746-1622.

July 26-28

National Council for Therapy & Rehabilitation Through Horticulture Annual Conference

Houston, Texas. Information: Maria Ga-

baldo, HTR, c/o Community Re-entry Services of Michigan, 216 St. Mary's Lake Road, Battle Creek, MI 49017, (616) 962-9529.

July 31-August 2

Natural Organic Farmers Association Summer Conference

Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. Information: NOFA 1987 Summer Conference, Jack Kittredge & Julie Rawson, RFD #2, Barre, MA 01005, (617) 355-2853.

August 3-7

Perennial Plant Symposium

Perennial Plant Association. Omni International Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Information: Dr. Steven M. Still, 2001 Fyffe Court, Columbus, Ohio 43210, (614) 292-6027.

August 9-13

American Institute of Biological Sciences Annual Meeting

The Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio. Information: Louise Salmon, Meetings Manager, AIBS, 730 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 628-1500.

August 15-16

Eastern International Gladiolus Show

Northwest Ohio Gladiolus Society. Toledo, Ohio. Information: Vince Sattler, 4919 Angola Rd., Toledo, OH 43615, (419) 382-4260.

August 15-23

Southern California Home & Garden Show

Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California. Information: George Colouris, 501 N. Brookhurst, Suite 100, Anaheim, CA 92801, (714) 635-8330.

August 17-21

Association of Zoological Horticulture Annual Conference

Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden & Prehistoric Park, Alberta, Canada. Information: Don Peterkin, Horticulturist, Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden & Prehistoric Park, Box 3036, Station B, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M 4R8, (403) 265-9310.

August 27-28

Conference: Exterior Landscape Contracting

Associated Landscape Contractors of America, Red Lion Inn, Portland, Oregon. Information: Rebecca Crocker, ALCA, 405 North Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046, (703) 241-4004.



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Gardener's Check List

The months of July and August can bring total disaster to a garden if rainfall is inadequate, or if one allows pests and other problems that crop up during this part of summer to take over. But don't worry—we're going to suggest some solutions to these and other calamities that will help keep your summer days trouble free.

- If you are hosting a picnic or other outdoor party, be sure your guest's children don't eat part of one or more of the plants in your yard. Some plants can be very harmful or even fatal if eaten. You might want to identify the potentially harmful plants ahead of time and rope them off or otherwise deter little hands from coming too close.

The following plants, or parts of plants, have toxic agents that can be hazardous to your health. Please contact your local Poison Control Center (see your telephone directory) for more information on these and other plants that could accidentally be eaten: ***Phytolacca americana* (poke-weed)**—roots, mature leaves, fruit, and seed; ***Gloriosa rothschildiana* (glory lily)**—stems, leaves, seeds, and tubers; ***Ricinus communis* (castor bean)**—seeds; ***Dieffenbachia* (dumbcane)**—entire plant; ***Wisteria* (wisteria)**—pods and seeds; ***Iris* (iris)**—underground stem and bulbs; ***Delphinium* (larkspur)**—young plants and seeds; ***Rheum* (rhubarb)**—leaves; ***Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches)**—leaves and roots; ***Digitalis* (foxglove)**—leaves and seeds; ***Rhododendron* (rhododendron)**—entire plant; ***Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust)**—bark, foliage, and young sprouts; ***Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot)**—underground stem, roots.

- If you are planning to add trees or shrubs to your landscape this summer, be sure to consider the follow-



ing items when purchasing new plants from a nursery: 1. Make sure plants aren't pot bound. If you suspect that they are, check to see if roots have circled the pot or are too tightly packed. (Ask the nurseryman to slide the plant out of its pot so you can inspect the roots.) Check for girdling roots that encircle the stem of the plants. They will literally choke trees to death. Also, make sure plants have good feeder roots. For example, if a balled and burlapped tree that is just being removed from a mulch bed has roots growing outside of the burlap, this usually indicates the presence of good feeder roots. New burlap and loosely balled trees oftentimes indicate young or pruned rootstock, both of which could have insignificant feeder roots. 2. Check closely for insect infestations. 3. Look for significant die-back. Leaves should be lush green, not scorched, and there should be few, if any, dead twigs. Also, avoid plants that exhibit excessively lush growth. They may have been over-fertilized or may be greenhouse-grown and not yet acclimated to the outdoors. 4. Inspect trees to see if they have been properly pruned. Look at the branch structure and notice any branches that are crossing over and rubbing against each other. Are there any wounds? Do the crotches of the branches form a 45° angle? Remember, wide crotches are stronger than narrow ones. Avoid double-trunked trees that under normal circumstances should have a single trunk. More trunks aren't always better; they

sometimes weaken the base of the tree which can later be damaged by weather. 5. Compare prices to get a feel for the average price of the plant you want to buy. Sale prices don't always mean quality stock. 6. Watch closely for mislabeled plants and misplaced prices.

● If you're like most gardeners, you probably don't like to hover over your plants and hand water for two to four hours, or turn on your sprinkler, go out, and return to a massive puddle in the middle of your lawn. If you do, our hat goes off to you. However, there are automated systems that can do the work for you. Why waste valuable time watering your plants, when you can spend that time weeding or solving other problems in the garden?

Many hardware stores carry timers that connect to an outdoor faucet. Some will even work 24 hours 'round-the-clock, and give a digital reading of the amount of water that

has been used. As a general rule, two hours of watering per week is sufficient, with increased periods during severe droughts. The best time to water is between dawn and 11 a.m. In hotter regions around the United States, watering later in the day could scorch the tender leaves of plants. Watering in the evening can encourage fungal, pest, and other infestations that can hamper a plant's performance.

● If you didn't get a chance to mulch this spring, it's not too late to do so now! Mulching can control soil erosion, promote root growth, conserve moisture, control weeds, improve soil structure, add nutrients, control diseases, provide winter protection, and beautify your garden. Researchers in Louisiana are even working on pre-emergence, herbicide-treated mulch that provides weed control for thirty weeks.

—Brian C. Little,
Gardeners' Information Service

The following is a list of different types of mulches that you might want to try in your garden this year.*

Type of Mulch	Depth	Decomposition Rate	Comments
Hulls			
Buckwheat	3"-4"	medium	dark color
Cocoa	3"-4"	medium	supplies potash
Peanut	2"-3"	medium	supplies N-P-K
Inorganic Mulches			
Gravel	1"	none	hides standing water
Marble Chips	1"	none	aesthetically pleasing
Sand	1"	none	retains moisture
Films (cover with mulch)			
Black Plastic	1"	none	excludes light
Newspaper	1"	fast	breaks down too fast
Mulching Paper	1"	slow	excellent weed control
Barks			
Fir	2"-3"	slow	good weed control
Pine	2"-3"	slow	good weed control
Shredded hardwood	2"-3"	medium	good weed control
Peat Moss			
Horticultural grade	2"-3"	medium	not good; pulls moisture from the soil; washes away; forms a crust
Chunky	2"-3"	medium	
Wood			
uncomposted chips	2"	slow	apply N-P-K underneath
fibers	2"	medium	tends to crust
Miscellaneous			
Compost	2"-3"	fast	good soil conditioner
Grass Clippings	2"	fast	decomposition causes excessive heat; odor attracts insects that harbor disease
Hay or Straw	3"-4"	fast	can improve soil, can carry weed seed
Pine Needles	2"-3"	slow	insulate the soil

*All of these mulches can be purchased from local nurseries and garden centers in your area. Some can be found in your yard.

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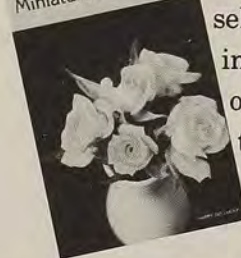
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"How-To" Hints for July Gardeners

Dried Florals Capture Summer's Glory

Summer is here, surrounding us with triggers to our senses that are beyond compare: a cool breeze blowing across perspiring skin; the taste of plump, juicy raspberries fresh from the plant; the sound of honeybees buzzing by in search of nectar; the smell of wild onions cut by a lawnmower; and of course, the sight of the vast array of colorful wild and cultivated flowers that bedeck our meadows and gardens. We can capture the spirit of summer and immortalize it if we wish—stretch it far into the cold, dark recesses of winter. All it takes is a few of nature's bountiful products and a little creativity of our own.

Gathering Materials

Drying plant materials is an easy and aesthetically rewarding way to preserve a piece of summer's glory. The best time to gather plant materials is right now, extending into fall, as this is the time mother nature pulls out all the stops and produces in abundance. (However, be sure to collect before grasses and flowers are spoiled by damp autumn weather.) Since the idea is to remove all the moisture from your plant materials, collect them on a dry day, waiting until late morning, after the dew dries. Gather flowers before they are in full bloom; they will continue to mature as they dry (providing you are not pressing them). Make sure that you gather flowers in differing stages of maturity so that you have a variety of sizes to work with. Keep in mind the ultimate use of the material while you are gathering, and be sure to collect a wide variety of plants with interesting shapes, sizes, colors, and textures. Also, be sure to collect undamaged specimens so you don't waste your time preparing imperfect ones; they don't get any more perfect after drying.

Pressed Plants

If you are pressing flowers, choose plants with thin leaves and petals; plants with a high water content are not suitable. (Berries, however, often add a particular beauty, and may be



Mary Read Cooper

pressed by wrapping them in facial tissue as long as they don't have large seeds inside.) And remember: simple flowers often are the most effective and beautiful in a pressed flower arrangement.

Place each type of flower and/or stem on a newspaper blotter (several layers of newspaper), and form all materials to a shape that represents how you want your finished product to look. Fold the newspaper in half to cover the plant, and place the plant and blotter between two pieces of corrugated cardboard. (Corrugated cardboard allows air to circulate more readily.) Press open, flat flowers face down. You may wish to curve the plant's stems—if so, fasten them with adhesive tape. If you are feeling particularly patient, you might want to cut off all stems and leaves and press these separately from the flowers. Never press dissimilar types of flowers or stems between the same layer of cardboard; thicker flowers and stems will prevent thinner ones from receiving the correct amount of pressure.

Press buds and flowers in profile; tubular flowers must be cut in half beforehand. When you are dealing with flower heads with numerous florets, such as hydrangeas, each tiny flower or bract should be dealt with individually for best results. Flowers with many petals should be dismantled, each petal pressed, and reassembled later.

You can make a primitive press by

simply placing the layers of newspaper and cardboard on a flat surface and covering them with a heavy object, such as a large book, or you may wish to build your own plant press. Presses may be tailor-made to suit your needs (small and portable, for easy carrying in the field; or large and stationary for big jobs). Simply choose two boards the size you want your press to be, drill holes through each corner of the boards, and use long (12-inch) bolts inserted through the holes and fastened with wingnuts to hold the two sections together. (For a heavier, stay-at-home press, use two pieces of plywood 13 inches wide by 15 inches long, and about three-quarters to one-half inch thick.) Put your layers of plants, newspaper, and cardboard between the wood, and tighten the wingnuts. It is a good idea to start out with just enough pressure to flatten your plants, and then increase the pressure as the plants dry. Leave plants undisturbed in the press in a dry room for about three weeks (three months is better, if you can stand to wait that long). You may wish to label each layer within your press for easy identification later. Once pressed plants are ready, you can use them to decorate notecards and bookmarks, or arrange them in a picture frame for wall hangings. Be creative!

The following are some late-summer plants to consider for pressing: Gramineae (grasses), *Pteridium*



Water Garden Symposium

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aquilinum (bracken), *Campanula* spp. (bellflowers), *Foeniculum vulgare* (fennel), *Linum* sp. (flax), *Polygala vulgaris* (common milkwort), *Acer palmatum* (Japanese maple), *Thymus* spp. (thyme), and *Daucus carota* (Queen-Ann's-lace).

Air Drying Plants

The easiest way to dry plants is to simply remove all of their leaves, bunch small numbers of them together and tie them tightly with a rubber band, and then hang them upside down. Hanging them upside down insures that the flower heads and the tops of the stems remain straight and firm; the rubber band will hold the stems even after they have dried and shrunk. (Plants with flowers that hang down naturally,

such as heather, may be dried upright in a container.) Remember to leave about two inches of stem near the heads of the flowers if you are going to wire them later. Tie the bunches to a coat hanger, a row of nails, a clothes horse, or a clothes line located in a dark, dry, airy place (air-conditioned environments are a consideration for those who live in a warm, humid climate). If you don't have such a space available to you, dry plants in brown paper bags in as dry a place as possible. Punch several holes in the bag to allow air to circulate.

The following are a sampling of late-summer-flowering plants suitable for air drying: *Achillea* sp. (yarrow), *Amaranthus* sp. (amaranth), *Celosia* sp. (cockscomb), *Cortaderia selloana*

(pampas grass), *Gypsophila paniculata* (baby's-breath), *Helichrysum* sp. (strawflower), *Limonium latifolium* (wide leaf sea-lavendar), *Molucella laevis* (bells-of-Ireland), and *Physalis alkekengi* (Chinese lantern).

To add some "spice" to your arrangement, try drying gourds, artichokes, and cardoons. Wash them gently to remove garden dirt, immerse them in a solution (the same as is recommended for ordinary household use) of Lysol® or chlorine bleach, and then place them in full sunshine, or a very warm airing cupboard. Gourds take at least three months to dry fully; they are ready when they feel light and empty. Protect fully dried gourds with a coat of varnish before adding them to your arrangement. Remember, pine cones,

Collecting Seed

While you're out collecting materials for your dried florals, you might want to consider collecting seed for use in your own garden or for donation to the Society's annual Seed Program. Seeds of such plants as *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood), *Celastrus scandens* (American bitter-sweet), *Helichrysum bracteatum* (strawflower), *Amaranthus hybridus* (green amaranth), *Celosia cristata* (cockscomb), *Agrostis nebulosa* (cloud grass), *Lunaria annua* (money plant), *Solidago caesia* (wreath goldenrod), *Daucus carota* (Queen-Ann's-lace), and *Dipsacus ful-lonum* (common teasel) would be especially helpful in our Seed Program; these plants would provide excellent materials for your dried flower project, too.

Knowledge of when to collect and collection of quality seed are key prerequisites for successful germination. Although some seed will continue to ripen after it is harvested, it is best to wait until it is fully mature before you collect. The seed will not only have an increased chance for germination, but it will be easier to clean. Correctly determining the maturity of different seeds can be difficult, but with some practice, it can be mastered. The first step is to check the structures on the plant that hold the seed. In most plants, the fruiting structures (capsules, pods,

and berries) will expand in size and become darker as the seed matures. Next, check the seeds themselves. Most seed turns darker as it matures also, but there are some exceptions to this rule. Jack-in-the-pulpit seeds, for example, are white or very light and remain encased in their fleshy red covering. The best way to determine if seed is mature is to break it open and look for a moist, white embryo inside.

Each species has its own rate of seed maturation, and catching some species at the right time can be tricky. For example, the seed capsule of bloodroot often splits and releases its seeds in a matter of a few hours. One way to collect seed, especially from species like this, is to slip a sleeve over the developing fruit. Various materials may be used to make a sleeve, ranging from cheesecloth to foot-long sections of a discarded nylon stocking (make sure it is easy to see through the material you choose, so you don't have to disturb the plant when checking the fruit). Simply place the sleeve over the fruit after the flower petals have withered, but before the fruit is fully ripe. Tie the open end gently but firmly with string or a paper clip, being careful not to crush the stem in the process. When the fruits are ready, snip the stem just below the sleeve and place it in a labeled paper bag.

Of course, organization will aid you in your collecting endeavors.

Keep a collecting journal and mark the date and location where you obtained your seed. Mark plants with plastic flags so you can find them easily, both when the seed is mature and in successive years.

Should you decide to send your seed to AHS for inclusion in the 1988 Seed Program, here are a few pointers that will aid our staff in processing your donation: Collect seed only of identified plants. Try to collect large quantities (in the case of flowers from the wild, only if the population from which you are collecting is quite large); we would like to be able to fill at least 500 requests for each item (perhaps 10 seeds each). Remember, others may collect the same seed, and your donation, combined with theirs, may be enough to satisfy the orders. If seed requires cleaning, any help that you can give us will be greatly appreciated. (Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like a list of books containing instructions for gathering, cleaning and storing seed to: Associate Editor, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.) Be sure that the seed is dry before packaging and shipping, and send it no later than November first. If you can, please let us know ahead of time the type of seed you will be donating, along with any cultural or germination information about the plant. This will allow us to begin working on the brochure for the program.

samaras ("wings" or "helicopters" from maple or ash trees, for example), peach stones, lotus and milkweed seed pods (hairspray holds seeds in place, if desired), sweet chestnuts, and acorns all may be utilized. Use your dried plant materials to make wreaths, potpourri, centerpiece arrangements, corsages, and sachets, or to decorate hats and gifts. Again, your imagination is the limit.

Other Drying Methods

Glycerine, available from drugstores or chemical and biological supply houses, is useful for preserving fern fronds or other foliage. The leaves should be fully mature and in perfect condition when the foliage is cut. Simply make a solution of half warm water, half glycerine in a wide-mouth jar, cut the foliage, smash the stems' ends to facilitate absorption, and stand them in the jar. Leave the stems for two to three weeks, until you can feel glycerine on the outer edges of the leaves. Glycerine is effective for preserving such plants as *Fagus* sp. (beech), *Eucalyptus*, *Prunus* sp. (flowering plum), *Mahonia* sp. (holly grape), *Viburnum* spp. (arrowwood), *Acer* (maple) leaves, *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian olive) leaves, and ferns.

You may decide to dry flowers such as roses, daffodils, delphiniums, butterfly bush, Queen-Anne's-lace, pansies, and camellias in silica gel or sand, which will keep the blossoms from shriveling and will help maintain their original shape. White sterilized sand, available at local hardware stores and nurseries, is less expensive than silica gel, although it is much heavier. Silica gel and sand are both re-usable; the manufacturer provides instructions for reactivating silica gel. If you decide to use this method of preserving flowers, there are some excellent books and booklets available that provide detailed instructions. In fact, these books provide excellent information on drying plants in general. If you are interested in obtaining a book list, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Associate Editor, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

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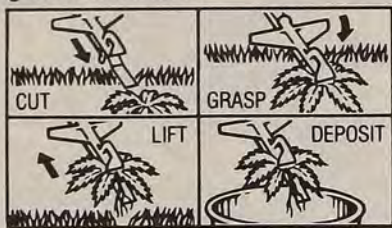
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GCA Donates Slide Library

In a formal presentation ceremony held on March 9th, the Smithsonian Institution received the Garden Club of America's historic collection of more than 65,000 images of notable American gardens and parks. The Institution's Office of Horticulture and the Garden Club will spend the next three to five years cataloging, documenting, and photographing the glass-plate photographs and slides. These thousands of images will then be transferred to a single laser video disc, which will be made available to the public after the project is completed.

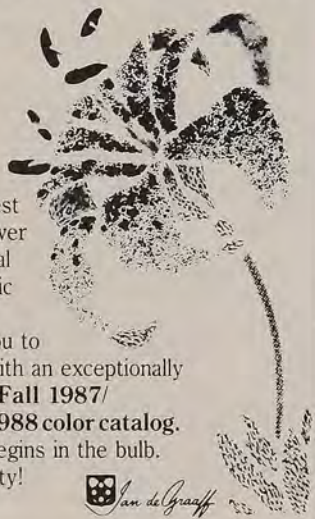
Included in the newly acquired collection are more than 2,500 rare, hand-painted glass slides that date from the 1920's and '30s. Once widely scattered, this particular collection has been reassembled through the efforts of Garden Club members nationwide. They came from "attics and basements all over the country," according to Mrs. Frank H. Weller, Jr., director of the project. "These hand-tinted slides with their luminous colors are an invaluable record of American gardens predating

the general use of color photography," she added.

In addition to the glass slides, the Garden Club collection includes thousands of 35mm color slides and much original material. "This collection will be a visual archive of America's gardens from Colonial days to the present, a colorful reflection of our nation's history," Horticulture Director James Buckler said.

The images in the collection include those of the oldest surviving landscaped garden in America (Middleton Place, near Charleston, S.C.), such Gilded Age gardens as the "Blue Garden" of Newport socialite Mrs. Arthur Curtis James (described in "The Illusive Blues," by Tovah Martin, American Horticulturist, October 1986), and gardens of such celebrities as famed silent-film comedian Harold Lloyd. According to Buckler, "when the new collection is available on videodisc, scholars, landscape architects, horticulturists, and garden enthusiasts can learn not only how America's gardens grow but for whom, where, when, why and how they grew."

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Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, this catalogue, contained in a computer database, records the results of a major information-gathering project being undertaken by the American Garden and Landscape History Program at Wave Hill. The information gathered concerns the location and content of records that document American landscapes. As defined by scholars involved with the project, the term "landscape" includes rural, vernacular, or cultural landscapes, but the initial phase of the project emphasizes designed, manipulated, or managed landscapes, including small private gardens, national parks, parkways, college campuses, urban parks, and historic restorations. Entries to the catalogue are categorized under one of the following three headings: landscape architect, designer or patron; site; or repository. The entries index maps, personal correspond-

ence, drawings, plans, slides, photographs, film, diaries, postcards, plant lists, government records, and oral histories, among other things. Although they are not yet available, portions of the database may be published at a later date if there is a demand for them.

So far, the project is booming. The program leaders have received data from librarians, individual landscape firms, relatives of landscape architects, and curators, among other parties interested in providing information. In fact, the information is still pouring in. A free newsletter, first made available in June of this year, includes articles on current research and the results of that research as it comes out. Further information about the project, or a free newsletter, may be obtained by writing The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States, Wave Hill, 675 West 252nd Street, Bronx, New York 10471, or by calling (212) 549-3200.

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WILDFLOWERS

Southeastern Wildflowers for the garden and naturalizing. All top quality nursery propagator plants. Catalog \$1.00 Refundable. NICHE GARDENS, Dept. A, Rte. 1, Box 290, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

AHS Travel Program

Kenya and East Africa (October 14-31).

With its fertile green highlands, vast open plains, thick forests, and semi-arid deserts, Kenya offers an incredible spectrum of botanic wonders. During our tour of this land of contrast we will spend a brief time in Nairobi, and then we'll be off on a horticultural safari, journeying north to the Aberdare National Park, a lush, verdant region typical of an equatorial forest ecosystem. We will cross the equator en route to Samburu Game Reserve, a semi-arid landscape, and continue on to the multi-vegetational zones of Mt. Kenya. Here we will stop at the luxurious Mt. Kenya Safari Club. An exciting adventure follows with three full days of game viewing in the Masai Mara, Kenya's finest game reserve. We will conclude our safari at Lake Naibasha, after touring private estates and gardens. This will be a most unusual trip, encompassing a scope and variety rarely found in other itineraries for Kenya! Leader: Therese Saphieha, expert on wildlife and horticulture. Cost (exclusive of air fare): \$3,975.00.

Gardens of Burgundy and the Riviera.

(Note: Because of a tremendous response to past ads, this tour will be full as of the July issue. For those who missed out on this year's tour but are still interested, a similar tour will be offered in June of 1988. Write for more information now, before it's too late!) Take a week-long cruise of the canals of Burgundy and the Rhone Valley aboard the luxurious hotel barge *Janine*. Spend a second week exploring the gardens of the Riviera, dividing time between Cannes and Monaco. On the scenic peninsula of Cap d'Antibes, we'll visit the famous Meilland nurseries, where many of the world's most beautiful roses are raised.

YES! Please send me more information on the tours I have checked below:

- ☐ Kenya and East Africa
☐ Burgundy and the Riviera—June 1988

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO: Elizabeth Smith, AHS, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

New Publications

• **Boxwood Bulletin Index.** Put out by the American Boxwood Society, this publication indexes the Boxwood Bulletin for the last 25 years. Articles are indexed by author and subject, and are listed in chronological order of publication. Copies of the index may be obtained for \$10 from the American Boxwood Society, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620.

If you are interested in boxwood care and culture, the American Horticultural Society has a handout for you! Send your request and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Gardener's Information Service, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

• **Discover the Pleasure of Roses.** The gardening experts at All-America Rose Selections have produced an all-new, 24-page color brochure on growing and enjoying roses, as well as a slide program including 60 slides and a script. The brochure and the slide program cover everything from defining the different types of roses to providing information on landscaping, site selection, soil preparation, planting, feeding, watering, pruning, pest control, and winter care. The brochure also includes information on using fresh-cut roses, making potpourri, cooking with rose hips, and rose folklore. Additionally, it includes a listing of over 130 public gardens,



which are accredited by All-America Rose Selections (AARS), where roses can be seen. Both the brochure and the slide show arrived in a timely manner; the rose was declared our national floral emblem in the fall of 1986.

For a copy of the brochure, send a stamped, self-addressed, four- by nine-inch envelope to: Discover the Pleasure of Roses, Route 1, Box 740, Palmyra, IN 47164. Bulk quantities are available to garden clubs, civic organizations, and other similar groups upon request to the above address. To receive the slide program, send check or money order for \$15 (postpaid), payable to AARS, to All-America Rose Selections Slide Program, Route 1, Box 740, Palmyra, IN 47164.

• **Gardener's Index for 1986.** A handy reference for home gardeners and professionals alike, this softcover book indexes articles found in five of the most popular gardening magazines issued in 1986: *American Horticulturist*, *Flower & Garden*, *Horticulture*, *National Gardening*, and *Rodale's Organic Gardening*. The three divisions of the index—Subject

Guide, Subject Index, and Name Index—help the reader rapidly locate the information sought. The 38-page Subject Guide includes a listing of all subject headings used to organize the articles, and an informative summary of each article along with the title, source, and author. The Subject Index lists, from A to Z, plants, cultivar names, insects, diseases, and gardening topics such as propagation, regional gardening, landscaping, and public gardens. Standard plant information such as cultural facts, description of the plant, and information on plant sources is indexed. Entries in this section use abbreviations to indicate the kind of information that is referenced. Photographs of plants are also indexed, and are identified by an abbreviation. All abbreviations are defined in a note at the bottom of each page. The Name Index lists all persons who wrote in or who were written about in the magazines mentioned above. Included are authors of articles and letters to the editor, and authors of books reviewed. Individuals who were quoted or who were the subjects of articles are also included. This book is quite thorough and extremely informative; a must for anyone interested in keeping his or her finger on the pulse of current gardening information and trends. It is available to members through the AHS Book Service for \$9 (\$10 for non-members) plus \$2 postage and handling. Send your order to Robin Williams, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

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