GARDENING WEBINARS OFFERED THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

WE ARE PLEASED to announce that the AHS is cosponsoring a series of online educational webinars with New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL), a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization known for its focus on ecological landscape design.

The webinar series, titled “Ecology and the Residential Landscape: At Home with Nature,” begins May 28 and runs through June 23. The instructors—who include award-winning author and ecologist Douglas Tallamy, landscape architect and NDAL founder Larry Weaner, and others—will illustrate landscaping concepts and techniques that can help make our gardens more ecologically sound and enjoyable to experience. Some of the sessions are available for a fee, while others are free.

Under the direction of Weaner, NDAL has been a pioneering influence on the practice of ecological landscape design since 1990. The centerpiece of NDAL’s programming has been its annual symposium, which has featured some of the leading voices in the industry over the years, including Tallamy, Ian McHarg, and Carol Franklin.

Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware and author of several books on ecological gardening, says NDAL’s approach to design is based on the idea that “guiding natural processes rather than fighting them is the key to creating healthier landscapes and happier gardeners.” To register for the webinar series, visit the NDAL website at www.ndal.org.

GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS AWARD WINNERS PROVIDE VIDEO ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES

UNDER NORMAL circumstances, the AHS’s Great American Gardeners Awards are presented to the winners at a celebration held at the Society’s River Farm headquarters. Because of the pandemic, this year’s ceremony, originally scheduled for June 18, had to be canceled. Instead, we’ll be honoring the award winners from all around the country by way of video acceptance speeches that will be released on our website and social media starting in late May.

“While we are disappointed not to be able to honor our 2020 award winners in person, we are pleased to be able to highlight their exceptional achievements in American horticulture and share their acceptance speeches with American gardeners,” says Holly Shimizu, an AHS Board member and chair of the Great American Gardeners Awards Committee. For more on the 2020 award winners, visit our website at https://ahsgardening.org/awardwinners.
Mary Yee

NCYGS 2020 GOES VIRTUAL JULY 8–10

Previously scheduled to take place in Santa Cruz, California, the 28th annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS) will be shifting this year from an in-person event to a virtual one. Like so many other event organizers around the world, the American Horticultural Society has been forced to pause and pivot in this era of COVID-19 and the accompanying “stay at home” orders.

NCYGS is a professional development event, held annually in a different city each year, that brings together garden educators, administrators, designers, and others who work with youth in garden spaces. The location for the 2020 symposium was selected in advance of, and announced at, the 2019 event. Preparations were well under way with local host organization Life Lab for a robust symposium schedule that was to include tours and workshops at some of outstanding garden sites on and around the campus of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Instead, NCYGS will be offered July 8 to 10 as a collection of live and pre-recorded webinars that will approximate the in-person symposium experience as much as possible. The meat of the symposium has always been the peer-led educational sessions; this year, many previously selected lectures and workshops will be prerecorded and viewable as on-demand content. One general session daily will be live, interactive content.

Of/By/For All, a non-profit organization that provides tools to help civic and cultural organizations, will deliver a workshop on relevance and public value focusing on sharing inspiring stories and practical tools to help organizations navigate this crisis in partnership with communities and come out stronger for it.

Susan E. Yoder, Executive Director of Seed Your Future, will moderate a panel discussion sharing novel ideas for engaging middle and high school students.

The silver lining of this shift in platforms is the ability to deliver a more sustainable professional development event with a significantly decreased carbon footprint. With support from sponsors Ball Horticulture, Longwood Gardens, Terra Design LLC, National Garden Clubs Inc., and Dr. Erich E. Veitenheimer and Mr. Andrew Cariaso, we are looking forward to offering high-quality educational content at a low price point making NCYGS accessible for many more educators than normal.

Because of the unpredictable timeline for the lifting of quarantine restrictions, please check our website and those of our partners for updates on the status of events for the remainder of the year.

JUNE TBD Great American Gardeners and AHS Book Awards Ceremony. Virtual format.
JUNE 22–28 National Pollinator Week. (Partner event).
JULY 8–10 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. Virtual format.
OCT. TBD Fall Garden Market. River Farm, Alexandria, VA.
NOV. TBD AHS Online Auction. National.
DEC. 7–24 Indoor Holiday Display. River Farm, Alexandria, VA.

2021