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YEARS  
1922-2022

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**RIVER FARM** The AHS's River Farm headquarters in Alexandria is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information about facility rentals, call (703) 768-5700, ext. 114 or e-mail [rentals@ahsgardening.org](mailto:rentals@ahsgardening.org).

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**WEBSITE: [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org)** The AHS website is a valuable source of information about the Society's programs and activities. Users must set up a username and password to access the members-only sections.

# News from the AHS

May / June 2022

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTS SUZANNE LAPORTE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE AHS

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is pleased to announce the appointment of **Suzanne Laporte** as the Society's new President and CEO. Laporte, the



Suzanne Laporte

former CEO of Friends of Compass, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that provides pro bono strategic consulting to other nonprofits, will focus on managing overall operations of the Society and will work collaboratively with the AHS Board and stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition to a forward-thinking organization positioned for growth and long-term success. With expertise in nonprofit leadership, program innovation, capacity building, strategic planning, financial management, team building and community engagement, communications, marketing, and Board governance, she is well-equipped

to lead the AHS at this critical juncture in the Society's history.

"We are delighted to welcome Suzanne to our AHS team," says **Marcia Zech**, AHS Board Chair. "Suzanne brings a unique perspective and comprehensive approach to non-profit management that will help inform all of our work. In addition, she will be a key partner in our efforts to lay the necessary groundwork for carrying out our national horticultural mission," notes Zech. "It's truly an honor to join the AHS during the Society's 100th anniversary year," Laporte says. "I look forward to working with the entire AHS team to help strengthen the organization to further its important work." [See Laporte's message to AHS members in "Notes from River Farm" on page 5.]

## NDAL SUMMER EDUCATION SERIES

THE AHS IS extending cosponsorship of educational programming offered through **New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)**. The NDAL's Summer



TOP: MARY YEE. BOTTOM: COURTESY OF LARRY WEINER

Education Series, which runs from June through August, features a blend of virtual and in-person programs presented by well-known landscape designers, horticulturists, and ecologists. Among them are **Darrel Morrison, Piet Oudolf, Veronica Tyson Strait, Gerould Wilhelm, Angela Kyle, and Larry Weaner**, who is NDAL's founder. Some will present virtually on the artistic, social, and ecological considerations that can inform landscape design. Others will guide hands-on "In the Field" sessions at a variety of regional locations to observe and analyze the real world results of various ecology-based landscape approaches. In the Field locations include Madison, Wisconsin; Framingham, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; Garrison, New York; Sparta, Tennessee; and Stafford, Virginia.

For more information and to register for these programs, visit the NDAL's website [https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022\\_NDAL-Summer-Virtual-and-Field-Sessions-Brochure\\_v2\\_compressed.pdf](https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022_NDAL-Summer-Virtual-and-Field-Sessions-Brochure_v2_compressed.pdf).

### SEED YOUR FUTURE COLLABORATION

IN MARCH, AHS Associate Director of Member Programs **Nora MacDonald** participated in a meeting of **Seed Your Future (SYF)**, a national organization that promotes plant careers to younger generations, helps foster a more positive perception of horticulture, inspires younger people to pursue careers working with plants and highlights the importance of plants and gardening to the world around us. The meeting, held in Athens, Georgia, was attended by representatives of many gardening industry groups that support SYF's work.

Originally supported by Longwood Gardens and the American Society for Horticultural Science, SYF is now under the auspices of the Society of American Florists as it continues to promote in-



**AHS Associate Director of Member Programs Nora MacDonald, second from left, in the children's garden at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia with other Seed Your Future meeting participants.**

COURTESY OF KIMBERLEY LOUGH



### AHS EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events that are sponsored or cosponsored by the AHS. Visit [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org) or call (703) 768-5700 for more information.

- JUNE–AUG. **NDAL Summer Education series.** (AHS partner event)
- JUNE 6–15. **Umbria and Southern Tuscany.** (AHS Travel Study Program)
- JUNE 20–26. **National Pollinator Week.** (AHS partner event)
- JULY 13–15. **30th National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.** Richmond, VA.
- AUG. 6–15. **Glaciers, Geysers, and Gardens of Iceland.** (AHS Travel Study Program)
- AUG. 24–SEPT. 4. **The Netherlands and Floriade.** (AHS Travel Study Program)
- SEPT. 17. **AHS Annual Gala.** River Farm, Alexandria, VA.
- SEPT. 29–OCT. 1. **America in Bloom Symposium and Awards Ceremony.** St. Louis, MO. (AHS partner event)
- OCT. TBD. **Annual AHS Online Auction.**



### Save the Date—September 17 Celebrating 100 Years!

We hope you'll join the AHS for our Centennial Gala, which will be held at our River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on the evening of Saturday, September 17, 2022. This long-planned celebration of the AHS's Centennial year will feature a number of special honorees and horticultural luminaries. Look for more details soon on our website.

creased awareness of horticulture and floriculture and inspire more people to pursue careers working with flowers and plants.

MacDonald reports that Seed Your Future has several new initiatives planned for 2022, including adding a job board aggregator that will connect job seekers interested in plant careers with plant industry job openings; conducting an industry salary survey so job seekers understand the wage ranges across industry sectors and positions; partnering with colleges and universities to inform high school and middle school teachers about career exploration and education opportunities in green industry sectors; and hosting the fifth year of the Plant Mash-up contest for middle-schoolers across the country. This contest gives students the opportunity to see themselves as problem-solvers, learn they can impact their community, and have fun with plants and flowers. For more on the organization's work, visit [www.seedyourfuture.org](http://www.seedyourfuture.org).

## Garden Market Welcomes Spring



**SO MANY PLANTS, SO MANY DECISIONS.** After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the AHS's annual Spring Garden Market returned to its headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia, in early April and was a hit with local gardeners. Vendors offered a wide selection of perennials, shrubs, herbs, and vegetables as well as garden-related products; a pair of alpacas delighted the kids. Even a heavy rainstorm the day before the two-day event opened didn't dampen the enthusiasm of visitors looking to add something new to their landscapes and enjoy the beauty of spring in the gardens at River Farm.

**PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL TOUR OF GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C., METRO AREA** IN LATE APRIL, a group of AHS President's Council members toured a number of gardens and culturally significant sites in and around our nation's capital. The annual trip to a different destination in the country is an exclusive opportunity for members of the President's Council. Previous locations have included Seattle, Chicago, Tucson, and Santa Barbara.

This year's tour featured a special reception at the AHS's headquarters at **River Farm** in Alexandria, Virginia, and a visit to **Great Falls National Park**, where the Potomac River rushes over jagged rock formations in a spectacular natural setting. Gardens on the four-day tour included **Meadowlark Botanical Garden** in Vienna, Virginia; **Green Spring Gardens** and **George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens** in Alexandria, Virginia; and **Glenstone** in Potomac, Maryland. A day in Washington, D.C., was filled with tours of **Dumbarton Oaks**—one of the finest gardens designed by Beatrix Farrand; **Hillwood Estate and Gardens**—the home of philanthropist Marjorie Merriweather Post; the **Capitol Grounds**; and the **U.S. National Arboretum**.

To find out more about the President's Council, visit <https://ahsgardening.org/ways-to-support/presidents-council>.

*Written by AHS Staff.*

## Gifts of Note

*In addition to vital support through membership dues, the American Horticultural Society relies on grants, bequests, and other gifts to support its programs. We would like to thank the following donors for gifts received between March 5 and April 29, 2022..*

### *\$1,000+ Gifts*

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*In Memory of Eric Pratte*  
Ms. Hope Gordon

*If you would like to support the AHS, please call Susan Klejst, Vice President of Development, at (703) 768-5700 ext. 127.*



Gardens Unit Leader Scott Aker, right, provides a special tour of the bonsai collection at the U.S. National Arboretum for President's Council members during a day in Washington, D.C.