FIFTY STATE FLOWER GARDEN PROJECT

AS PART OF the American Horticultural Society’s Centennial this year, we have joined with several partners to highlight 100 flower farms in the United States that are modernizing and expanding the notion of “state flowers.”

Over the past two years, more than 20 million people have turned to gardening as a way to enjoy nature and improve their home environment. Studies reveal that more younger people are choosing to make a living as flower farmers and focusing their efforts on biodiversity and eco-friendly innovations.

Given these trends, it seems like the ideal time to examine flower farming, circa 2022, and share the stories of the people and places making a difference in one of the nation’s most important agricultural sectors.

Our media partner, Flower Power Daily, will be leading the efforts in determining the 100 Best Flower Farms in the United States for 2022, and we plan to include input from everyone who loves to visit flower farms in towns all around the United States. We will also be sponsoring a photography contest—look for more details on that soon.

Other partners in this project include candlemaker Gibson & Dehn, which will be creating a signature “scent” for each state, and master porcelain maker Anna Weatherley, who will be crafting a special place setting for state flowers.

Also in the works are opportunities for landscape architects to share ideas to create a virtual “Fifty State Flower Garden” that incorporates not only the official state flowers but also additional plants that are associated with each state.

To learn more about how to get involved with this project, visit https://ahsgardening.org/fiftystateflowers and sign up to receive regular updates.

AHS AWARDS AT PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

AN EXHIBIT titled “Nature Amplified”—created by Ann-Marie Powell Gardens, based in Petersfield, United Kingdom—received the AHS Environmental Award at the 2022 Philadelphia Flower Show, which ran from June 11–19. Because of the pandemic, this year’s flower show was again staged outdoors rather than at its usual venue in the Philadelphia Convention Center.

“This inviting garden is a welcome space for pollinators, wildlife, and human visitors. Its seamless integration of plants in a naturalistic design blends aesthetics and environmental benefits,” says AHS Board member Holly Shimizu, who led the AHS’s judging team at the show.
Two other exhibits—“Urban Afterlife,” by Apiairy Studio, and “The Inner Landscape” by Refugia Design—were given honorable mention commendations.

AHS Environmental Awards are presented at flower and garden shows around the country each year. The awards recognize exhibits of horticultural excellence that best demonstrate the bond between horticulture and the environment, and inspire viewers to beautify home and community through skillful design and appropriate plant choices.

TRAVEL-STUDY PROGRAM RESUMES

FOLLOWING a long hiatus caused by the global pandemic, the AHS Travel Study Program resumed in May with an inspiring tour of “The Gardens of Provence” in France. From terraced hill-sides on the Côte d’Azur and secret gardens of medieval villages to the classic formal gardens of elegant French chateaux, AHS travel-

ers visited a spectacular array of public and private Provencal gardens over the course of their 12-day adventure. Highlights included a private tour of the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild near Nice, a visit to the tranquil “sleeping beauty” garden of Val Joanis near Aix en Provence, a fascinating walk through the major botanical gardens at Villa Hanbury and a lovely stay at the Hotel Le Pigonnet in Aix, where guests enjoyed a French flower demonstration in the hotel’s award-winning garden. The trip, organized by the AHS in collaboration with SpecialTours, was led by British garden expert and author Marion Mako and French garden tour guide Amy Kupec Larue. Laura Dowling, former chief floral designer at the White House and AHS Board member, hosted the tour.

In June, a group of AHS travelers enjoyed a tour of “Hill Towns and Gardens of Umbria and Southern Tuscany” in Italy, led by Susie Orso of SpecialTours with Umbrian resident, art historian, and guest lecturer Nigel McGilchrist and hosted by AHS Vice President of Development Susan D. Klejst. This region is rich with fine examples of classical and Renaissance architecture and art. In addition to visits to galleries, churches, and chapels, travelers enjoyed the beauty of many gardens, including the formally landscaped La Foce in Siena, a masterpiece AHS Board member and floral designer Laura Dowling, center, leads travelers through a flower market in Provence.

Keep your calendar open for Saturday, September 17, when the AHS will host its Centennial Gala at our River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The event, titled “A Great American Garden Party,” will include a number of special guests in honor of the 100th anniversary, along with a live auction amid the beautiful moonlight setting of River Farm. The AHS’s Liberty Hyde Bailey Award will also be presented to recipient Bart O’Brien. Look for more details soon on our website (www.ahsgardening.org).

During the tour of Umbria and Tuscany, AHS travelers explore the Fonte del Clitunno in Perugia. Underground springs of the Clitunno river form a water garden with weeping willows and aquatic plants that has been admired for its beauty dating back to antiquity.
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 April 30 and June 28, 2022.

$1,000+ Gifts

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For a list of the awards that will be offered and to make nominations, visit https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/national-awards/great-american-gardeners.

The deadline for nominations is September 23, 2022.

AMERICA IN BLOOM SYMPOSIUM

AMERICA IN BLOOM (AIB), a long-time AHS partner organization, will hold its 2022 Symposium & Awards Celebration September 29–October 1 in St Louis and Washington, Missouri. The symposium will feature several educational sessions, tours around the host cities, and the annual awards ceremony. AIB promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of plants and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. For more information and to register, visit www.americainbloom.org.

Written by AHS Staff.