



100  
YEARS  
1922-2022

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**THE AMERICAN GARDENER** To submit a letter to the editor of *The American Gardener*, write to The American Gardener, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308, or send an e-mail to [editor@ahsgardening.org](mailto:editor@ahsgardening.org).

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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. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 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

November / December 2022

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AHS COSPONSORS WINTER EDUCATIONAL SERIES

THE AHS is again pleased to be a co-sponsor of educational programming being offered by New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL). These include "Ecology-Based Landscape Practice," a virtual intensive course for landscape practitioners led by **Larry Weaner** and **Ian Caton** in November and December 2022. This will be followed by the NDAL's virtual Winter Series, which runs from February to March 2023. Registration for the Winter Series will open in early December. NDAL is a non-profit organization in Glenside, Pennsylvania, focused on ecological design. To learn more about the series and the individual presentations, visit the NDAL website ([ndal.org](http://ndal.org)).

## GALA CELEBRATES AHS CENTENNIAL

A ONCE-IN-A-CENTURY event, the AHS's "Great American Garden Party" brought together over 200 members, neighbors, elected officials, horticultural experts, and gardening enthusiasts from across the nation on September 17 to support and raise funds for AHS to continue its mission to educate and advocate for earth-friendly and sustainable gardening practices and to beautify and preserve River Farm. "We are



**Top:** AHS President and CEO Suzanne Laporte, left, listens along with guests as Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck reads a proclamation honoring AHS's contributions to the community. **Above:** Guests participate in a live auction during the festive Gala dinner.

overjoyed and ever grateful to the many generous donors, volunteers, and talented staff who rallied to make this momentous event possible," says AHS President and CEO **Suzanne Laporte**. "These amazing people remained committed to our cause during the most challenging of times, tirelessly working to ensure that AHS remains the nation's leading horticultural organization and to protect River Farm for future generations to enjoy."

Guests mingled in the meticulously groomed gardens and enjoyed the spectacle of a flower-bedecked 1921 Lincoln, which served as homage to the era when AHS was established. Indoors, guests visited with renowned artisans such as porcelain artist **Anna Weatherley**; artist **Maggie Austin** and her fine art sculptures; and **Thomas Lloyd**, grandson of Bunny Mellon, who was signing *Bunny Mellon Style*, the book

## AHS 100th Anniversary Gala Katy Moss Warner Speech

September 17, 2022

**"IT IS** such an honor and a joy to be back here at River Farm. Heartfelt thanks to those of you who fought hard to protect this special sacred place—and for those who fought hard to preserve the AHS. Both were at risk. And thanks to you, both have been preserved.



The AHS, 100 years encouraging Americans to treasure this Earth, 100 years inspiring Americans to make the world more beautiful with trees and shrubs, flowers and food, 100 years delivering important messages of science and art. The American Horticultural Society is a national organization with a powerful past, a hopeful present and a promising future.

Some of the greatest names in American horticulture have been leaders in the American Horticultural Society. B.Y. Morrison, Liberty Hyde Bailey, Dr. Marc Cathey, Paul Ecke Jr,

John Creech, Kurt Bluemel, Allan Armitage, Holly Shimizu. Some of the most significant professional horticultural organizations sprang from the American Horticultural Society. ASHS, APGA, Garden-Comm. Some of the most important gardening reference books were sponsored by the American Horticultural Society. *A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, *Encyclopedia of Perennial Plants*, *Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers*, *Encyclopedia of Gardening Techniques*, *Heat Zone Gardening*, *The American Gardener* magazine is recognized as one of the finest gardening magazines in the country. Yes, we have a powerful past.

And now we have a hopeful present. Now saved, we must steward River Farm as a precious American treasure. We must engage young people so that they will understand the importance of science, the value of plants, the joy of gardening and their right to have beauty in their lives. We must celebrate great American gardeners and great American gardens. We must recognize the power of social media to spread the word and share the joy. We now have hope.

But it is the future that spreads its wings before us. Our climate is changing. Our plants are telling the story. Gardening in America is changing. Butterflies and pollinators are at risk. Gardening in America can help—dramatically. Careers in horticulture and related fields are not popular. Inspiration from plants—even houseplants—may touch the souls of young people. Natural lands and native plants need protection. We can help. But it is leadership that will make the greatest difference. As we look to the future, we must ensure that we bring together the greatest scientists, the greatest artists, the greatest gardeners, the greatest communicators, the greatest leaders to truly make a difference in this world. We must listen to them and boldly create a future that understands the critical issues. The AHS has been fortunate to have leaders—with dedication, courage and vision. Many of you are here this evening. May the next 100 years of the AHS embrace the bold challenges in front of us with this same dedication, courage and vision. »

*Katy Moss Warner was AHS President from 2002 to 2006.*

BRIAN BAUMAN



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## 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 August 24 and October 7, 2022.

### \$1,000+ Gifts

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*If you would like to support the AHS,  
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## 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.

- JAN. 7–29, 2023. **Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness—A Tour of New Zealand.** (AHS Travel Study Program)
- FEB. 15–19. **Northwest Flower & Garden Festival.** Seattle, WA. (AHS Environmental Award presented)
- MAR. 4–12. **Philadelphia Flower Show.** Philadelphia, PA. (AHS Environmental Award presented)
- MAR. 8–17. **The Enchanting Gardens and Allure of Morocco.** (AHS Travel Study Program)
- APR. TBD. **San Fran Bay–Nor Cal Flower & Garden Show.** Pleasanton, CA. (AHS Environmental Award presented)
- APR. 14 & 15. **Spring Garden Market at River Farm.** Alexandria, VA.
- APR. 15–22. **Garden Club of Virginia Historic Garden Week.** (AHS partner event)
- APR. 15–26. **Discovering the Beauty of Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon.** (AHS Travel Study Program)
- APR. 22. **Earth Day.** (National and local volunteering opportunities)
- APR. 27–30. **Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium.** Williamsburg, VA. (AHS partner event)

he co-authored. Under the tent, guests marveled at breathtaking table decor designed by renowned floral artist and author **Laura Dowling**, former Chief Floral Designer at the White House.

Laporte kicked off the official portion of the evening by outlining her vision to expand AHS's programs and financial footing and to secure the preservation of River Farm. Former AHS Board Chair **Katy Moss Warner** gave a rousing speech highlighting AHS's achievements over the last century and its potential to take a leading role in solving issues facing the nation in the next century (Warner's speech can be viewed on page 9).

Another highlight was the presentation of the 2022 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, AHS's premier award for lifetime achievement in American horticulture, to **Bart O'Brien** for his contributions and leadership in horticulture in the western United States. **Carolyne Roehm**, an acclaimed style icon, author, and garden enthusiast, was presented with the AHS National Achievement Award.

National and local politicians were on hand to recognize the AHS's Centennial, including U.S. Representative **Gerry Connelly** (VA-11th), Virginia State Senator **Scott Surovell**, who read a proclamation by the Virginia State Senate in recognition of AHS's 100th anniversary, and Mount Vernon Supervisor **Dan Storck**, who presented a proclamation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honoring AHS's contributions to the community.

After the multi-course dinner, the gala went into high gear with a rousing auction. "The Great American Garden Party" will be long remembered as AHS looks toward another 100 years of advocating for and celebrating the finest in gardening practices and people. 🌿

*Written by AHS Staff.*