

AHS NEWS SPECIAL

AHS Launches Lifelong Learning Programs

by Courtney Allen

For over 100 years, the American Horticultural Society (AHS) has made national impact through our programs, including the Reciprocal Admissions Program with our network of over 360 gardens, our Awards Program recognizing horticultural excellence, and our annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. Now we are excited to announce a new national program branch for **Lifelong Learning**, launching this September!

AHS created Lifelong Learning in direct response to feedback from members. In 2021, hundreds of AHS members responded to a survey inquiring about ways you would be excited to grow with AHS. You shared a desire for more learning opportunities in virtual formats, as well as opportunities to learn with fellow gardeners in your regions. Your responses affirm that learning not only builds knowledge, it also builds community. Learning is a collaborative experience that creates peer and mentor relationships and celebrates collective interests and values. Learning unites us across the nation.

As AHS launches our first semester of educational programs this fall, you will see a spectrum and balance of program topics and formats. Programs will address five plant-driven learning areas: science, design, culture, health, and industry. All areas will integrate objectives for learning about plant materials and selection, approaches and techniques, and cultivation and maintenance. Program formats during the first semester will include workshops, classes, conversations, and talks.

We are delighted to feature leading horticulturists and fellow plant professionals from across the country, including **Tom Carruth**, rose curator at the



AHS's Lifelong Learning kicks off in September with a talk about roses by Tom Carruth, curator of the rose collection at the Huntington in San Marino, California, followed by a conversation in October with Claire Sawyers, director of the Scott Arboretum in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and recipient of the AHS's 2023 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award.

Huntington Botanical Gardens in California; **Yota Batsaki**, executive director at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.; **Uli Lorimer**, bestselling author and director of horticulture at Native Plant Trust in Massachusetts; **Andrea DeLong-Amaya**, director of horticulture at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas; and **Michael DeMotta**, head of living collections at National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawai'i, among many others. We selected speakers to feature perspectives from regions and lenses as diverse as America's gardeners.

The fall/winter semester will focus on live virtual formats, along with occasional in-person programs at AHS's River Farm headquarters. To serve our national audiences wherever you are—not only virtually, but in person—we plan to pilot further in-person programs across the country in spring 2024. At that time, we will also introduce garden tours to our

program formats. While programs are designed with our members in mind, many of whom are confident gardeners, we encourage plant lovers of all learning levels to participate in these public programs.

AHS looks forward to spending more time with you through these engaging new programs. To learn more and register for the fall/winter programs (see opposite page), visit the AHS Lifelong Learning webpage <https://ahsgardening.org/lifelong-learning>.

Programs are open to all; as an AHS member, you will receive educational program discounts! Our national programs are also open to sponsorships and program proposals for future semesters; for more information about those opportunities, e-mail programs@ahsgardening.org. ■

Courtney Allen is the director of national programs for the AHS.



FALL 2023/WINTER 2024 AHS LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION OPENS IN LATE SUMMER 2023.

For more information and to register, visit <https://ahsgardening.org/lifelong-learning/>

2023

Rose Discoveries and Innovations

with Tom Carruth
Curator of the Rose Collection,
The Huntington
• Wednesday,
September 27, from
7–8 pm ET
Virtual



Conversations with Great American Gardeners

with Claire Sawyers
Director, Scott Arboretum
• Wednesday, October 4, from 7–8 pm ET
Virtual

A Life of Learning in the Garden

with Holly Shimizu
Executive Director Emerita, United States Botanic Garden
• Wednesday, October 11, from 2–3 pm ET
In Person at River Farm

Land Development and Landscape Stewardship

with Scott Plein
Principal, Equinox Investments
• Thursday, October 12, from 1–2 pm ET
Virtual

Designing with Nature

with Marie Chieppo
Founder and Principal, EcoPlantPlans
• Wednesday, October 18, from 7–8 pm ET
Virtual

Plant Humanities Initiative

with Yota Batsaki, PhD
Executive Director, Dumbarton Oaks
• Wednesday,
November 8, from
2–3 pm ET
Virtual



Horticultural Approaches in the Southwestern US

with Andrea DeLong-Amaya
Director of Horticulture,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
• Thursday, November 9, from 2–4 pm ET
Virtual

Closing the Loop in Landscapes: Enhanced Sustainability with Roots, Wildlife, and Healthy Soil

with Marie Chieppo
Founder and Principal, EcoPlantPlans
• Wednesday, November 15, from 7–8 pm ET
Virtual

Around the World in 80 Plants: A Botanical Journey of Beauty and Science, Myth and Mayhem

with Jonathan Drori
Author and Board Member,
Cambridge University Botanic Garden
• Friday, December 1, from 2–3 pm ET
Virtual

Holidays at the White House

with Laura Dowling
Former White House Chief Floral Designer
• Wednesday, December 6, from 7–8 pm ET
Virtual

Site Preparation for Landscape Transformation

with Kathy Connolly
Founder and Principal,
Speaking of Landscapes
• Thursday, December 7, from 1–3 pm ET
Virtual

2024

Three Ways to Fight Invasive Plants

with Kathy Connolly
Founder and Principal,
Speaking of Landscapes
• Wednesday, January 10, from 7–8 pm ET
Virtual

North American Regionalism

with Uli Lorimer
Author and Director of Horticulture,
Native Plant Trust
• Friday, January 12,
from 2–3 pm ET
Virtual



New Nature for a Climate Change Future

with Noel Kingsbury, PhD
Author and Garden Designer
• Friday, January 19, from 2–3 pm ET
Virtual

Take a Garden Break: How Plants and Nature Nurture Your Well-Being

with Perla Sofia Curbelo
Founder, Agrochic
• Wednesday, January 24, from 12–1 pm ET
Virtual



Food Forests for the Home Garden

with Jessi Bloom
Author and Ecological Landscape Designer,
NW Bloom Ecological Landscapes
• Thursday, February 1, from 2–3 pm ET
Virtual

Black Garden History: A Great American Garden Road Trip

with Abra Lee
Director of Horticulture, Historic Oakland Foundation and Writer, *Conquer the Soil*
• Friday, February 2, from 2–3 pm ET
Virtual

Schools of Ikebana

with Valerie Eccleston
Ichiyo School Teacher,
Ikebana International Chapter 1
• Friday, February 9, from 12–1 pm ET
Virtual

Tropical Collections and Care

with Michael DeMotta
Head Curator for Living Collections,
National Tropical Botanical Garden
• Wednesday, February 21, from 7–8 pm ET
Virtual

Ikebana Workshop

with Linda Ely
Sogetsu School Teacher and
Board Member, Ikebana International
Chapter 1
• Wednesday, March 6, from 1–3 pm ET
In Person at River Farm

What We Sow: The Personal, Ecological, and Cultural Significance of Seeds

with Jennifer Jewell
Creator, Writer, and Host, *Cultivating Place*
• Monday, March 11, from 2–3 pm ET
Virtual