



CONTACTS FOR AHS PROGRAMS, MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & DEPARTMENTS

For general information about your membership, call (703) 768-5700. Send change of address notifications to our membership department at 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. If your magazine is lost or damaged in the mail, call the number above for a replacement. Requests for membership information and change of address notification can also be e-mailed to membership@ahsgardening.org.

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.

DEVELOPMENT To make a gift to the American Horticultural Society, or for information about a donation you have already made, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 144, or send an e-mail to ktukey@ahsgardening.org.

E-MAIL LISTS To subscribe to specific e-mail lists for updates on programs and events, visit <http://connect.ahsgardening.org/email>.

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM For information about the Society's annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, e-mail programs@ahsgardening.org, or visit www.ahsgardening.org/ncygs.

RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM The AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program offers members free admission and other discounts to over 360 botanical gardens and other horticultural destinations throughout North America. A list of participating gardens can be found on www.ahsgardening.org/rap.

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.

TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM Visit spectacular gardens around the world through the Society's acclaimed Travel Study Program. For information about upcoming trips, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel.

WEBSITE: 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

September / October 2023

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIUM

In July, the American Horticultural Society held its 31st annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Knoxville, Tennessee, in partnership with the University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville. The theme, "Cultivating Community," examined ways that gardening both relies on and creates community.

The four-day professional development event attracted youth garden educators from 34 states and Canada, as well as from a diversity of non-profits, K-12 schools, universities, and more. With the majority of attendees each affecting more than 1,000 young people (and some attendees affecting as many as 3.3 million!), this train-the-trainer symposium offered very broad national outreach.

Through interactive sessions, keynotes, garden visits, and a volunteer opportunity, attendees



Top: Attendees explore UT Gardens during a reception. Top left: A field trip group discovers school garden models in action at Hardin Valley Elementary. Bottom left: Local community gardening leader Chris Battle delivers the opening keynote.



learned applicable skills in leadership, youth career training, curricula, collaboration, inclusion, and sustainability to bring back to their communities. Attendees also networked and built peer community together during this event. To quote one first-time attendee, "It was by far the best experience I have ever had at a training conference!"

2023 GROWING GOOD KIDS BOOK AWARDS

Each year, the Junior Master Gardener Program and the American Horticultural Society honor engaging, inspiring works of plant-, garden-, and ecology-themed children’s literature through the “Growing Good Kids—Excellence in Children’s Literature Awards” Program.

This year’s five award winners, announced during the AHS’s 2023 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Knoxville, Tennessee, focused on subjects as diverse as growing strawberries, poetry for a greener world, and mysterious neighborhood garden adventures! Here are this year’s winners:

Rooftop Garden by Danna Smith, illustrated by Pati Aguilera (Barefoot Books)

Sun in My Tummy by Andrea Blinick, illustrated by Andrea Blinick (Pajama Press)

I Love Strawberries! by Shannon Anderson, illustrated by Jaclyn Sinquett (Feeding Minds Press)

Maybe You Might by Imogen Foxell, illustrated by Anna Cunha (Lantana)

The Garden Next Door by Collin Pine, illustrated by Tiffany Everett (River Horse Books)



INTRODUCING...
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GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 29



You still have time to nominate deserving candidates for the AHS's 2024 Great American Gardeners Award Program. For information about the award categories and a nomination form, visit

www.ahsgardening.org/awards. But don't delay; nominations close on September 29.

AHS BOARD UPDATES

Following the AHS Board of Directors meeting in July, we are pleased to announce the election of three new Board members: **Doug Barker, Dr. Larry Deaven, and Philip Tabas**. Another Board change is that **Jane Diamantis**, a longtime Board member from Tennessee, announced she is stepping down. "Jane has given generously of her time and talent, and supported AHS in many significant ways," says AHS President **Suzanne Laporte**. "We are incredibly grateful for all she has done for AHS over the years, especially for her strong belief in the importance of this organization and her willingness to ensure that it serves more gardeners across the country."

Barker is a strategic advisor for Barker & Scott Consulting, which assists nonprofit organizations with leveraging the power of information technology for organizational advancement and mission success. Prior to co-founding Barker & Scott, he was vice president and CIO for the Nature Conservancy. A resident of Washington, D.C., he is active in local environmental causes including an initiative in his community to remove invasive plants and restore ecological health through planting native plants.

Deaven is a distinguished scientist with a lifelong passion for horticulture. After retiring as director of the Center for Human Genome Studies at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, he has recently volunteered to help develop extensive gardens at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center near his home in New Mexico. A member of numerous specialty plant societies, he has a particular interest in *Clematis*, *Penstemon*, and *Agastache*. A longtime AHS traveler and supporter, Deaven has written an article on penstemons for *The American Gardener* (July/August 2021).

Tabas is special advisor with the North American Conservation Region of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) based in Arlington, Virginia. As TNC's longtime general counsel, he was involved in numerous land conservation, water resource protection and compatible economic development projects. He has served on boards for several nonprofits, is a co-author of the book *Comprehensive Planning and the Environment*,

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 June 3 and August 2, 2023.

\$1,000+ Gifts

Claudia Adams	Michael O'Shea
Aubuchon Hardware	Red Hill Garden Club
Doug Barker and Sam Kilpatrick	Lynn C. Rhomborg
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In Honor of Jane and George Diamantis

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In Memory of Shane Sloms

Lisa Huckfeldt

In Honor of Nan Fredinburg

Linda and Danielle Miller

In Honor of Verity Smith

Lee Bowman

In Honor of Nigel McGilchrist

Lee Bowman

In Memory of LeClare Turner

Bob Turner

In Memory of John Thorpe Richards III

John and Jordan Richards

In Honor of Vicky Violante

Dayle Groudine

If you would like to support the AHS, please call Katie Tukey, Director of Development and Engagement, at (703) 768-5700 ext. 144.

and taught a course titled "Ecosystem Conservation Strategies" at Vermont Law School.

NEW SPRING 2024 TRAVEL PROGRAM DESTINATIONS

We are thrilled to announce the launch of four new AHS Travel Study programs in the Caribbean, Portugal, France, and Scotland for Winter/Spring 2024. These extraordinary programs promise an unforgettable experience, featuring breathtaking gardens, engaging talks with horticultural experts, delightful



Monte Palace, Portugal

accommodations, and mouthwatering local cuisine. Each program offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow AHS members and gardening enthusiasts, explore natural and cultural wonders, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

In addition, when you travel with the AHS, you make a difference. Participation in the AHS Travel Study program supports our nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.

Here are the four new programs for 2024:

Natural Wonders of the Caribbean with AHS Host Holly H. Shimizu (January 28 to February 5, 2024)

Blooming Paradise: Gardens of Northern Portugal and the Azores with AHS Hosts Christine and Tim Conlon (March 14 to 23, 2024; Post-trip extension to Madeira: March 23 to 27, 2024)

Gardens of Grandeur: Châteaux and Gardens of the Loire Valley and Versailles with AHS Host Laura Dowling (June 1 to 10, 2024)

Secrets of the Scottish Highlands: From Castle Grounds to Highland Glens with AHS Host Katie Tukey (June 12 to 20, 2024)

These trips fill quickly, so register now for these 2024 AHS Travel Study destinations on the AHS website (www.ahsgardening.org/travel).



Villandry, Loire Valley



AHS EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SEPT. 23. **AHS Annual Gala.** River Farm, Alexandria, VA.

SEPT. 27. **Rose Discoveries and Innovations.** Talk by Tom Carruth. AHS Lifelong Learning Program Launch. (Virtual) **For a complete list of program offerings for Fall 2023/Winter 2024, see page 13.**



OCT. 2–6. **Green Career Week.** (AHS partner program with Seed Your Future.)

DEC. TBD **Indoor Holiday Display.** River Farm, Alexandria, VA.

DEC. 14. **AHS Holiday Open House.** River Farm, Alexandria, VA.

2024

JAN. 28–FEB. 5. **Natural Wonders of the Caribbean.** AHS Travel Study Program

MAR. 14–23. **Blooming Paradise: Gardens of Northern Portugal and the Azores.** Optional extension to Madeira Mar. 23–27. AHS Travel Study Program

MAY 11–21. **Treasures of Japan: Gardens, Art, and Architecture.** AHS Travel Study Program. **SOLD OUT**

JUNE 1–10. **Gardens of Grandeur: Châteaux and Gardens of the Loire Valley and Versailles.** AHS Travel Study Program

JUNE 12–20. **Secrets of the Scottish Highlands: From Castle Grounds to Highland Glens.** AHS Travel Study Program



GRANT SUPPORTS RIVER FARM PATHWAY

The AHS headquarters at River Farm has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the **Historic Alexandria Foundation** to install an engraved brick pathway as part of a fundraising effort to support the maintenance of this historic property. AHS Board Chair **Scott Plein** accepted the award during a garden party reception earlier this summer. ■

Written by AHS Staff