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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.

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

November / December 2023

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 GALA RETROSPECTIVE

Bouquets of vibrant flowers outshined the gray clouds and rain at the American Horticultural Society's annual Gala on September 23. Despite the inclement weather, more than 250 members, neighbors, elected officials, horticultural experts and gardening enthusiasts from across the nation joined the AHS in celebrating 50 years at River Farm. Themed "Simple Pleasures of the Garden," the magical night raised \$350,000 for River Farm's maintenance, critical improvements, beautification, and preservation and reaffirmed AHS's enduring commitment to its beloved historic headquarters.



Top: The AHS Board of Directors traveled from near and far to celebrate 50 years at River Farm (left to right): Tim Conlon, Holly Shimizu, Doug Barker, Amy Golden, Scott Plein (Chair), Suzanne Laporte, Skipp Calvert, Marcia Zech, Laura Dowling, and Phil Tabas. **Above, left:** Claire Sawyers accepts the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. **Above, right:** Safe from inclement weather, gala guests socialized in the flower-bedecked banquet tent.

Led by Gala Chair and AHS Board Member **Laura Dowling** and Gala Co-Chairs **Cindy Conner** and AHS Board Member **Amy Golden**, the celebratory evening featured a cocktail reception, magnificent dinner, and dancing. Renowned designer, author and philanthropist **Charlotte Moss**, who served as the Gala Honorary Chair, was awarded the prestigious AHS National Achievement Award. Guest of honor **Claire Sawyers**, director of the Scott Arboretum in Pennsylvania, accepted the 2023 AHS Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, AHS's highest award for significant

lifetime achievements across numerous horticultural fields. Emcee **Barry Dixon** skillfully conducted the night's activities, and auction host and local Alexandrian **Bill Coffield's** high energy and humor kept the audience entertained, resulting in enthusiastic participation during the live auction and paddle raise. For the first time, the Gala featured an After Party, hosted by Young Friends After Party Chair **Cameron Hardesty** and Co-Chair **Pamela Wurst Vetrini**, concluding the evening on a sweet note with desserts and dancing.

NEW RAP GARDENS ANNOUNCED

Several new gardens have joined the AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP) over the summer:

W.J. Beal Botanical Garden (East Lansing, Michigan). Established in 1873, the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden is the oldest, continuously operated university botanical garden in the United States. Featuring a collection of over 2,000 plants, this beautiful five-acre garden is situated in the heart of Michigan State University's campus along the Red Cedar River.

Hortus Arboretum and Botanical Gardens (Stone Ridge, New York). This 21-acre arboretum is home to four gardens, with two more currently in the works. With the goal of creating a "living textbook" of plants that can be grown in the Hudson Valley, these gardens are home to native trees, unusual plants, and shrubs for you to explore.

The Houston Botanic Garden (Houston, Texas). A 132-acre urban oasis and living museum with 1,000 taxa in spires and connects visitors. The curated collection of tropical,

sub-tropical, and arid plants from around the world reflects the city's rich cultural and ethnic diversity.

Spiegel Grove of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums (Freemont, Ohio). The 24-acre Spiegel Grove is home to more than 90 species of trees—some dating back to President Hayes' time—along with a beautiful variety of other plants accessed by trails to make exploring fun and easy.

Be sure to add these gardens to your must-see list or find other RAP gardens near you at www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap.

AWARD NOMINATION FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTOR MARIANNE WILLBURN

Marianne Willburn, a garden communicator whose "In Defense of..." opinion columns have been a regular feature in *The American Gardener* over the last two years, has been short listed as Garden Writer of the Year by the Garden Media Guild (GMG) in the United Kingdom. Willburn, who lives in Virginia and is an award-winning book author and contributor to the Garden Rant blog, submitted three of her 2023 columns for the AHS magazine in her award nomination. The winners of the 2023 GMG awards will be announced following an awards lunch in London on November 17.



Marianne Willburn

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AHS EVENTS CALENDAR

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

NOV. 15 Closing the Loop in Landscapes: Enhanced Sustainability with Roots, Wildlife, and Healthy Soil. Talk by Marie Chieppo. AHS Lifelong Learning Program. (Virtual)

DEC. 1 Around the World in 80 Plants. Talk by Jonathan Drori. AHS Lifelong Learning Program. (Virtual)

DEC. 6 Holidays at the White House. Talk by Laura Dowling. AHS Lifelong Learning Program. (Virtual)

DEC. 7 Site Preparation for Landscape Transformation. Talk by Kathy Connolly. AHS Lifelong Learning Program. (Virtual) For a complete list of program offerings, visit www.ahsgardening.org/lifelong-learning.

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

2024

JAN. 28–FEB. 5. Natural Wonders of the Caribbean. AHS Travel Study Program. www.ahsgardening.org/travel

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

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

JULY 8–11. National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. Chicago's North Shore. www.ahsgardening.org/ncygs2024

SAVE THE DATE FOR NCYGS 2024

The American Horticultural Society's 32nd annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS) will be held on Chicago's North Shore from July 8–11, 2024, in partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden. Sponsors include Ball Horticultural Company and Chicago Botanic Garden. Full details and registration will be made available in January.

The AHS is now accepting session proposals for the Symposium. We encourage youth garden educators from across fields to apply. Please review the proposal guidelines at www.ahs-gardening.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening/ncygs/ncygs-2024 and submit your session proposals by Friday, December 1, 2023. We will respond to all proposals in January 2024. ■

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 August 3 and October 11, 2023.

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