



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

**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.

AHS RECIPROCAL GARDEN NETWORK
The AHS Reciprocal Garden Network offers members free admission and other discounts to over 380 botanical gardens and other horticultural destinations throughout North America. A list of participating gardens can be found on www.ahsgardening.org/ahsgardennetwork.

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 e-mail 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.

RIVER FARM The AHS's River Farm headquarters in Alexandria is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (December–February) and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (March–November). 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

July / August 2024

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY OPENS AT RIVER FARM

In early June, dozens of young visitors joined us to celebrate the reopening of the Children's Nature Library and Reading Room at our River Farm headquarters. The opening day activities included face painting, story time, and interactive crafts



Children and their parents listen to a reading

for young children. This dynamic space for young readers, which was closed during the pandemic, will once again offer an extraordinary collection of over 1,700 books focused on nature and gardening. The library will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through August 24.

The reading room houses over 1,700 books, many of which are part of the **Jane L. Taylor** book collection.

Taylor established the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State University, the first children's garden in North America, among other achievements.

The library's reopening was made possible by generous grants from **Dominion Energy** and the **Ruppert Family Foundation**. "We are incredibly grateful for the support of Dominion Energy and the Ruppert Family Foundation, whose contributions have been instrumental in bringing this beloved library back to life," says **Katie Tukey**, AHS Director of Development and Engagement.

The library will also host engaging programs for children, including story time and activities inspired by *Plant Heroes*, a website that provides nature-based educational programming for K–5 children. Local residents interested in sharing their love of nature with the next generation are welcome to volunteer in the new library. Volunteers will help with opening and closing, leading story time, creating fun educational programs, organizing and shelving books, and more.

The library is also accepting children's book donations to expand the current collection. Dedicated contributions to River Farm may also be made to enhance the library and River Farm property by visiting www.ahsgardening.org/donatotoday and selecting "Stewardship of River Farm" box. For further information about volunteering in the library or donation opportunities, contact **Caitlin Metzger** at cmetzger@ahsgardening.org.

CHANGES TO AHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AHS President **Suzanne Laporte** announced that longtime Board member and former chair **Marcia Zech** rotated off the Board at the end of the organization's fiscal year in June, and **James P. Folsom**, PhD. of Eastpoint, Florida, is joining the Board starting in July.

Zech, who lives in Mercer Island, Washington, has been on the AHS Board for 13 years. She played an active role on several Board committees and served as chair of the Board from 2021–2022. An avid gardener, Zech is also active in many civic and cultural organizations in her Washington community. Over the years, she and her

KATIE TUKEY



Longtime AHS Board member Marcia Zech steps down in July.

husband, **Klaus**, have been regular participants in the AHS Travel Study Program and prominent supporters of the annual Gala and other AHS programs.

“Marcia’s impact on the AHS can’t be overstated,” says Laporte. “As a Board member, she gave generously of her time and stepped in to help financially at critical moments that changed the organization’s trajectory. We will be forever grateful to her for believing in the importance of the AHS on gardening and

horticulture in the U.S. We would not be the organization we are without her. Her leadership and dedication to River Farm, especially in the wake of the pandemic, were inspirational.”

Folsom retired in 2023 after serving for many years as the director of the gardens at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. A botanist with a special interest in the orchid family, Folsom did extensive field work in Central and South America early in his career and published his research in a wide range of scientific and popular publications. He was named the AHS’s Liberty Hyde Bailey Award winner in 2020.

NEW GARDENS IN THE AHS NETWORK

Several new gardens have been added to the AHS Reciprocal Garden Network (RGN) in the last couple of months, reports **Courtney Allen**, AHS Director of National Programs. These gardens join over 380 gardens around North America that offer free admission and other benefits to AHS members. Information on all network gardens can be found on the AHS RGN webpage.

Arborcrest Gardens (Boone, NC) Nestled in downtown Boone, the 26-acre botanical garden features diverse flora, including a well-tended vegetable garden and greenhouse. Known for its plant evaluation program, the garden offers in-



Arborcrest Gardens in Boone, North Carolina

AHS EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events that are sponsored or cosponsored by the AHS. Visit www.ahsgardening.org for more information.

LIFELONG LEARNING

To learn more about the Lifelong Learning program and view a complete list of events, visit <https://ahsgardening.org/lifelong-learning>. Unless noted, all events are virtual.

JULY 19. **Designing Meadows and Naturalized Landscapes.** 2–3 p.m. ET.

JULY 25. **Benefits of Native Grasses.** 2–3 p.m. ET.

JULY 26. **Plant-Based Cosmetics.** 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Alexandria, VA.

AUG. 1. **Ecological Horticultural Techniques.** 2–3 p.m. ET.

AUG. 8. **Sustainable Gardens in a Changing Climate.** 1–2:30 p.m. ET.

TRAVEL STUDY

To learn more, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel.

AUG. 19–23. **Oregon: The Gardens of Portland & the Farm-to-Table Bounty of the Willamette Valley.**

DEC. 3–8. **Bermuda’s Gardens, Homes and Holiday Magic.**

sights into plant varieties and gardening practices. Visitors can take walking tours or reserve guided riding tours for a more immersive experience.

Draves Arboretum (Darien, NY) Draves Arboretum includes a 1.75-acre pond surrounded by over 800 species of trees. The Arboretum annually offers diverse educational programs for the western New York green industry, and it serves as a public regional learning station. The Arboretum models the possibilities that unique and unusual plants bring to a landscape.

Bard Arboretum (Annandale on Hudson, NY) Comprising over 1,000 acres along the historic Hudson River with trees over 200 years old, the Bard Arboretum serves as both a place for enjoyment and a living classroom. The campus encompasses a dramatic natural landscape of forested bluffs and ravines, with forests lining the stream corridors that wind their way to the Hudson River. In addition to this natural setting, the character of Bard is defined by the historic farms and estates on campus.

University of Guelph Arboretum (Guelph, ON, Canada) This arboretum on the campus of the University of Guelph features 400 acres of plant collections, gardens, trails, woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. The grounds focus on native Ontario trees and are home to more than 2000 taxa of woody plants and collections of oaks, beeches, maples, and conifers.

Aldersgate Public Garden (Lincoln, NE) Aldersgate benefits the environment and serves the community by providing a habitat for wildlife and a space to experience immersion in na-



Cherry trees in bloom at University of Guelph Arboretum

ture. The garden includes 135 trees, nearly 850 shrubs, and 2,500 perennials.

Salisbury University Arboretum (Salisbury, MD) Located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, this arboretum holds some of the most horticulturally diverse plantings in the region. When the university was founded in 1925, students celebrated Arbor Day by planting linden (*Tilia* spp.) trees in front of Holloway Hall, sowing the seeds of the arboretum. Today, the 200-acre campus showcases over 3,000 trees and an extensive inventory of woody and herbaceous species.

NEW NATIVE PLANT GARDEN AT RIVER FARM

A new garden showcasing native plants in a traditional Virginia landscape has been created at the AHS's River Farm headquarters. Inspired by the backyard of a beloved gardener, the **Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden** was officially unveiled on June 7.

"The Memorial Garden is a tremendous palette of plantings that is definitive of both our cultural and natural past," says **Scott Plein**, Chair of the AHS Board of Directors and grandson of Clara B. Plein. "It pays homage to River Farm's history as part of George Washington's original farmland and exemplifies the AHS's focus on best gardening practices."

The garden's plantings include 2,400 individual plants representing 30 native species. Plants were selected for their ability to support pollinators, create habitat, improve air and soil quality, and produce food. The garden's layout was thoughtfully planned around existing large trees, and plantings are layered to provide year-round interest through varied colors, textures, and branching structures.

The garden reflects a collaborative achievement made possible with generous funding from the **White House Farm Foundation**, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Bristow, Virginia. In all, 14 area companies leveraged their landscape design and installation capabilities to transform the area into an ecologically conscious oasis.

"This stunning new garden showcases how Virginia's gardening legacy can inspire landscapes that are not only visually captivating, but also resilient and environmentally conscious," says AHS President **Suzanne Laporte**. "We are proud to add the Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden to the rich horticultural experiences available to visitors of our headquarters."

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 4 and June 1, 2024.

\$1,000+ Gifts

Doug A. Barker and Sam Kilpatrick	Paul and Nancy Hess
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If you would like to support the AHS, please call Katie Tukey, Director of Development and Engagement, at (703) 768-5700 ext. 144.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AHS GALA

Please join us at our River Farm headquarters on September 21 for an evening of dinner and dancing as we celebrate the American Horticultural Society and River Farm. Support for this primary AHS fund-raising event helps underwrite several strategic initiatives including our Lifelong Learning programs, reopening the Children's Nature Library and Reading Room at River Farm, new mobility-accessible pathways throughout River Farm, and more. Thank you for being our partners in this important work as we prioritize environmental stewardship and an unwavering commitment to preserving our spectacular headquarters nestled on the banks of the Potomac River. For more information on sponsorships or purchasing tickets, contact **Katie Tukey**, AHS Director of Development and Engagement, at ktukey@ahsgardening.org. ■

Written by AHS Staff