

SPRING 2026

American Horticultural Society Lifelong Learning Programs

For a complete list of programs and to register, visit www.ahsgardening.org

SELF-PACED ONLINE COURSES

All self-paced courses have 24/7 access to materials between March 20 and August 21. Registration is available on a rolling basis and participants may start at any time.

Gardening in America

Each year, over 121 million Americans visit public gardens. From public green spaces to community gardens to private yards, gardening is a critical part of our country's culture. Gardening in America offers an introductory overview to the state of the country's gardening culture, contexts that inform gardening, and ways to apply gardening approaches, styles, and practices for the greater good. Modules address gardening factors, site analysis, principles and approaches, design influences, plant choices and site preparation, gardening movements, and gardening for community.

Ecological Gardening

Over 114 million American households engage in gardening. From public green spaces to community gardens to private yards, gardening is a critical part of our country's culture. A garden is a living ecosystem that impacts the health of people, plants, animals, and the environment. Ecological Gardening is designed to share ecologically sound gardening methods and practices that promote sustainability in your own gardens that will grow a greener future. Modules address ecosystems and biodiversity, soil health, site preparation, plant selection, native plants and pollinators, climate and conservation, prevention and maintenance, and community sustainability.

Horticultural Design (*New in 2026!)

Over 114 million American households engage in gardening. Through thoughtful observation and strategic planning, the horticultural design approach we take can be not only beautiful, but purposeful, sustainable, and suited to personal lifestyle. Horticultural Design will share professional processes and holistic approaches to plan and construct garden designs that fulfill preferences and promote ecological sustainability. Module address garden design history and approaches, personal style, site analysis, functionality and features, design principles and elements, planning, plant selection and materials, and design layout.

AHS LIVE

*This symbol denotes virtual programs highlighting landscapes and horticultural history that are unique and signature to the United States, in celebration of its 250th anniversary.

***Poppy State**

with Myriam Gurba, author

Thursday, April 9, 2026 from 7-8 p.m. ET
Virtual
\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Poppy State: A Labyrinth of Plants and Beginnings is both a love letter to California and a literary tour de force that tells the story of resilience and reclamation through a relationship with plants, memory, myth, and indigenous knowledge. Author Myriam Gurba meditates on susto, a spiritual sickness specific to Latin America, and its culturally specific treatments such as herbalism, botanical spirits, and soil.

Future Nature: Cultivating Resilience Amid Ecological Change

with Thomas Rainer, principal, Phyto Studio
Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 7-8 p.m. ET
Virtual
\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Vegetation is shifting in response to intensifying environmental pressures—from invasive species and habitat fragmentation to rising nutrient loads and imbalanced herbivore populations. Drawing from his firm Phyto Studio's experience with high-visibility public projects, landscape architect Thomas Rainer shares actionable strategies for designing resilient plantings. Learn how to work with competitive dynamics, select vigorous native species, introduce designed stress through soil manipulation, and embrace adaptive management models that favor abundance. This talk offers a grounded path forward for planting in a rapidly changing world.

Behind-the-Scenes Garden Tour: Headwaters at the Comal

with Nancy Pappas, managing director, Headwaters at the Comal and John Asher, landscape designer, Blackland Collaborative
Friday, April 24, 2026 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. CT
New Braunfels, TX
\$50 AHS members/\$60 non-members

The Headwaters at the Comal sits at a remarkable moment in its transformation, and visitors on this tour will experience all three chapters of its story firsthand. The journey begins in the recently completed past: a former industrial hardscape now reimagined as a Low Impact Development parking lot and entrance garden, where native plants, rain gardens, and swales intercept and treat stormwater before it ever reaches the Comal River watershed. The tour then moves into the living present. The approximately quarter mile trail walk winds through established landscape born from a major 2016-2017 restoration that diverted over 12,000 pounds of pollutants from the Comal's headwater spring run and has since matured into a thriving corridor of biodiversity offering rare refuge for native species in a region where natural habitat is rapidly disappearing. Finally, the group will witness the future taking shape in real time: the ongoing removal of remaining asphalt and impervious cover, and the conversion of

existing structures into interpretive nature centers for the community. This is restoration not as a finished product, but as a living process and this tour offers a front-row seat.

***A Conversation on Black in the Garden**

with Colah B. Tawkin, podcaster

Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Join Colah B. Tawkin, creator of podcast Black in the Garden, for a conversation reflecting on the podcast's highlights and impact, the future of horticultural communication, insights on land stewardship and farming heritage, and all things Black and botanical.

The Modern Professional Planting Designer

with Andrew Fisher Tomlin, author and director of environmental design, London College of Garden Design

Friday, May 8, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

There are many different approaches we can take to filling our gardens, landscapes and lives with plants. In this talk based on his new book, *The Modern Professional Planting Designer*, Andrew Fisher Tomlin will reveal some of the tools that will help you achieve professional-level solutions in planting. He will explore the difference between ornamental, naturalistic and nature-based planting design and discuss a guiding framework to support the development of your own planting design choices. With examples of real-life projects in Europe and the USA, he will finish with a preview of the 2026 RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

***Shrublands of the American West**

with Michael Guidi, manager of horticulture research programs, Denver Botanic Gardens

Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Shrublands exist all around us, thriving in almost any environmental condition, from the desiccating sunshine of the endless sagebrush steppe to the deep, private shade of moist forests. These diverse and inspiring ecosystems serve as perfect models for our gardens. Beyond their inherent beauty, they provide nurturing habitats, demonstrate resilience in the face of a changing climate, and offer a challenge to conventional garden-making through their intense aesthetics and obscured intentions. Join coauthor Michael Guidi of *Shrouded in Light: Naturalistic Planting Inspired by Wild Shrublands* to explore a glorious spectrum of wild shrublands and discover the philosophies and design strategies for bringing these magnificent plant communities into your home garden.

Behind-the-Scenes Garden Tour: High Line

with Richard Hayden, AHS board member and director, The High Line

Friday, May 15, 2026 from 10-11:30 a.m. ET

New York, NY

\$40 AHS members/\$50 non-members

The High Line gardens are famous for their lush and emotionally evocative four-season design and the High Line continues to evolve, responding to a changing city and a maturing tree canopy requiring careful curation from a talented team of horticulturists. Join Richard Hayden, Senior Director of Horticulture, for a tour and deep dive into the stewardship techniques employed, the iconic plants and the ecological function of this reclaimed railway garden. We'll also tour two new garden sections designed by Piet Oudolf, whose original design and long term collaboration with the High Line has helped to keep the garden at the forefront of public gardens, prompting the New York Times to label it 'One of the 25 Must See Gardens of the World.'

***Naturalistic Gardening in the American South**

with Dr. Jared Barnes, professor, Stephen F. Austin State University

Thursday, May 21, 2026 from 7-8 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

While the American South houses incredible plant diversity, its gardens rarely reflect that richness. Join Dr. Jared Barnes as he shares his approach to naturalistic plantings that are both ecologically grounded and beautiful. In this spirited presentation, we'll cover ecological principles and planting strategies for crafting sustainable gardens that are suited to the Southern landscape and some of his favorite heat tolerant plants.

Eschewing Perfection for Natural Beauty

with Melissa Ozawa, director of content & communications, Perfect Earth Project

Thursday, May 28, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Through the nature-embracing lens of Perfect Earth Project, renowned garden writer and editor Melissa Ozawa will reflect on how her career has shifted her perspective on the purposes of landscape cultivation. Part presentation and part conversation, this contemplative program will serve as a catalyst to reconsider what and why beauty can mean in the garden.

Flora Culture

with Christin Geall, author and floral designer

Friday, May 29, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Our love of flowers and desire to be close to them has, across cultures and for millennia, created both landscapes and livelihoods. In this talk, *Flora Culture* author Christin Geall will take us on a journey across continents to explore the origins of some familiar garden favourites. By weaving her narrative between art, ecology, science, and history, Geall will get you thinking about your relationships to flowers, fashion, gardens and design.

Private Garden Tour: Windcliff

with Daniel Hinkley, plantsman, horticulturist, and nurseryman

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. PT

Indianola, WA

\$40 AHS members/\$50 non-members

On six-and-a-half acres overlooking the Puget Sound, Windcliff is Daniel Hinkley's renowned personal garden that has flourished for over twenty years. Showcasing specimens from his plant expeditions around the world, the garden features a woodland, meadow, arboretum, pond, bog, terraces, and vegetable garden, surrounded by spectacular water views. Hinkley will lead the tour, finishing with time for attendees to explore the on-site nursery and purchase a bit of Windcliff to take home.

Common Garden Mistakes

with Kerry Mendez, principal and founder, Perennially Yours

Friday, June 12, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. ET

Virtual

\$15 AHS members/\$20 non-members

Whether beginner gardeners or seasoned gardeners, we all make mistakes! This eye-opening presentation features frequent misunderstandings or errors made by well-intentioned gardeners. Topics include plant care, pruning flowering shrubs, smart plant selection (including avoiding enticing plants that will become nightmares!), garden myths, and more.