



# AMERICA'S 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*The Journey That Changed the World*

*Sandra Day O'Connor, Honorary Chair*

For Immediate Release

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March 13, 2007

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## **Anniversary Garden Seeds to be Given Away at 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend** *Red, White and Blue-Themed Gardens Provide Homegrown Way to Participate in Commemoration of Jamestown*

Williamsburg, Va. — The nation took root at Jamestown 400 years ago, and this spring Americans are honoring the settlement's anniversary by planting their own seeds. Jamestown 2007, in conjunction with Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will be distributing "America's Anniversary Garden" seed packets at Anniversary Weekend, the May 11-13 centerpiece of the 18-month commemoration of Jamestown's founding in 1607.

Free seed packets are just one of the many great reasons to attend Anniversary Weekend. Single-day, date-specific tickets to the event, which include admission to three Jamestown sites and concerts by performers including Bruce Hornsby, Chaka Khan, Ricky Skaggs, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children six to 12. Children under six are free. Tickets information and event details are available at [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com).

The seed packets are the latest part of a multi-faceted program to encourage the planting of red, white and blue-themed gardens in honor of the commemoration. The packets, funded by Rutherford Insurance, include a mix of baby's breath, blue cornflower, forget-me-not, white cosmos and red Flanders poppy seeds. Plants were selected for bloom colors as well as their ability to thrive in a variety of climates.



Jamestown 2007 Executive Director Jeanne Zeidler said, “The Anniversary Garden concept was developed to provide a simple way for anyone to participate in this landmark American commemoration. We’re pleased that citizens from golf course superintendents to municipal landscapers to individual citizens are honoring the beginnings of our nation by participating.”

Limited numbers of seed packets are being distributed to students and partner organizations throughout the commonwealth this spring to create interest in the Anniversary Garden concept.

Bonnie Appleton, professor of horticulture at Virginia Tech, said, “Participating organizations so far include about everyone – garden clubs, nurseries and greenhouses, professional organizations, local governments and communities participating in the Virginia 2007 Community Program. Not only is the program stimulating interest in casual gardening, it’s providing a way for professionals in the green industries to participate in the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

The America’s Anniversary Garden program sprouted from beautification efforts by the commemoration’s Historic Triangle Host Committee. Virginia Tech and the Virginia Cooperative Extension supported a national rollout of the idea, and developed online planting lists and garden design recommendations, which are available at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden>.

*Jamestown 2007, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. The nation’s first representative government, free enterprise system and culturally diverse society began at Jamestown. State, national, and international commemorative events to salute these legacies began in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC), Verizon (NYSE: VZ) and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Other supporters include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. (NYSE: BUD), AirTran Airways (NYSE: AAI), Dominion, James City County, Philip Morris USA, SunTrust, TowneBank and Wolseley PLC/Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Contributors include the City of Poquoson and Rutherford Insurance. More information about the commemoration is available at [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com).*

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