

**John Forti**, an award-winning garden historian, ethnobotanist, garden writer and local foods advocate, is the executive director of Bedrock Gardens, a leading regional resource for horticultural education and agritourism, in Lee, New Hampshire. Under his leadership as founding director, Forti is guiding the transition of the 37-acre site from a historic farm and private garden to a public oasis of art, horticulture, and inspiration.

Forti is a regional governor and biodiversity specialist for Slow Food USA, a national chapter of Slow Food®, a global organization and international grassroots movement that connects food producers and consumers to champion local agriculture, farmers' markets, and traditional regional cuisine.

He previously served as director of horticulture for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the oldest horticultural society in the United States, where he transitioned the society's grounds into a public garden, restored a beloved children's garden and spearheaded a statewide school garden collaboration.

During his tenure as curator and director of historic landscapes at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Forti created an ethnobotanical herb garden; an award-winning historic landscape app; a Victorian hothouse exhibit; a World War II victory garden restoration; and the first living history children's garden in the nation at the historical site. Strawberry Banke Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features 32 historic buildings, 12 original historic gardens ranging from the 17th to the 19th centuries and diverse educational and preservation programs. In addition, he served for 12 years as director of horticulture at Plimoth Plantation Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where he researched, designed and led on-site classes in the museum's Native American and colonial gardens and developed a historic seeds program that garnered international attention for the preservation of the Pilgrim and Wampanoag heirloom crops.

A celebrated author and frequent contributor to gardening, lifestyle and food publications, Forti is a regular media guest and popular lecturer nationally and internationally. He also hosts "The Heirloom Gardener – John Forti," a daily blog visited by more than 60,000 people around the world. His new book with Timber Press is due out in spring 2021.

He was nominated for the 2020 NGC Award of Excellence by The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

### **About Bedrock Gardens**

A premier garden of New England, [Bedrock Gardens](#) is an emerging public garden in Lee, New Hampshire, that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into an inspiring landscape journey. Situated on 37 acres on land that once served as the site of a historic dairy farm, Bedrock Gardens offers beautiful vistas that guide visitors along paths through distinct garden areas, which include an acre of native grasses designed like a painting; an extensive espaliered Belgian fence; a serene Japanese teahouse garden; elegant lotus rill; rock garden; pinetum; apiary; wildlife ponds; pergolas; and two miles of garden and woodland trails, which visitors can explore and take inspiration from for their own home landscapes.