

AHS 2008 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is proud to announce the distinguished recipients of the Society's 2008 Great American Gardeners Awards. Individuals, organizations, and businesses who receive these awards represent the best in American gardening. Each has contributed significantly to fields such as plant research, garden communication, landscape design, youth gardening, teaching, and conservation. We applaud their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their fields.

The 2008 awards will be presented on June 6 during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet at River Farm, the AHS's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. To register for the awards banquet or for more information, visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 137.

LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD

Given to an individual who has made significant lifetime contributions to at least three of the following horticultural fields: teaching, research, communications, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

Harold Pellett is the executive director of the Landscape Plant Development Center headquartered in Chanhassen, Minnesota, which he founded in 1990. This national non-profit organization is devoted to developing durable, stress-tolerant landscape plants for all regions.



Growing up in his family's nursery business in Iowa, Pellett was involved in horticulture from an early age. He received his doctorate from Iowa State University, focusing his studies on plant physiology, breeding, and genetics. Pellett then taught horticulture and conducted research for more than 36 years at the University of Minnesota. His research involved the breeding and evaluation of landscape plants, resulting in more than 25 new tree and shrub introductions. Among these is the "Lights" series of cold-hardy azaleas.

Pellett's many accolades include the Award of Merit from the National Council of State Garden Clubs and the Medal of Honor from the Garden Club of America. He is also a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science and the International Plant Propagators Society.

H. MARC CATHEY AWARD

Recognizes outstanding scientific research that has enriched the field of horticulture.

Thomas G. Ranney is a professor of horticultural science at North Carolina State University. He leads a research program at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher, North Carolina, where he focuses on



the development of new landscape plants. Recent developments include *Calycanthus* 'Venus' and transgeneric hybrids such as *×Schimlinia floribunda* and *×Gordlinia grandiflora*. Ranney's research has helped change breeding rules for interspecific and transgeneric hybrids. He has also helped preserve germplasm of plants that are extinct or threatened in the wild.

Ranney has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Achievement Award for Nursery Crops from the American Society for Horticultural Science.

PAUL ECKE JR. COMMERCIAL AWARD

Given to an individual or company whose commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the field of commercial horticulture contributes to the betterment of gardening practices everywhere.

David Salman is the president and chief horticulturist of the retail nursery, Santa Fe Greenhouses, in New Mexico and its



mail-order division, High Country Gardens, which he founded in 1984 and 1992, respectively. Both businesses specialize in beautiful and drought-tolerant

plants for western gardens.

Widely regarded as a xeriscaping pioneer, Salman promotes waterwise gardening through articles published in national magazines and speaking engagements throughout the country.

Salman has introduced more than 25 plant selections with an emphasis on native, cold-hardy, and xeric species. He also collaborates on regional plant evaluation programs such as Plant Select®, which promotes plants suited to the Rocky Mountain region.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD

Given to an individual whose work has demonstrated and promoted the value of sound horticultural practices in the field of landscape architecture.

Herbert R. Schaal is a principal in the renowned landscape architecture firm EDAW/AECOM and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

During Schaal's more than 30 years at EDAW, he has applied the principles of landscape architecture, sustainability,



and ecology to a wide range of projects.

In recent years, Schaal has specialized in design of public gardens, including educational gardens for children and gardens for healthcare facilities. Among these, some of his best-known projects are children's gardens at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Morton Arboretum, and the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

The more than 50 regional and national awards he has received have established him as one of the most acclaimed contemporary landscape architects.

B. Y. MORRISON COMMUNICATION AWARD

Recognizes effective and inspirational communication—through print, radio, television, and/or online media—that advances public interest and participation in horticulture.

Irene Virag is an award-winning freelance journalist who has contributed a weekly garden column to *Newsday* since 1995 and writes articles for magazines such as *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Fine Gardening*.

If you know someone you would like to nominate for one of the 2009 Great American Gardeners Awards, please visit our website (www.ahs.org) and click on "Awards" for more information.



She joined *Newsday* in the 1980s and won a Pulitzer for local reporting in 1986. She later became editor of the magazine's "Home and Garden" section.

Virag is a Fellow of the Garden Writers Association and has won that organization's top award for newspaper writing several times. She is an inspirational public speaker and the author of *Gardening on Long Island with Irene Virag* (Newsday Books, 1999).

After earning a master's degree at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Virag went to Harvard University on a Nieman Fellowship.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes a past Board member or friend of the American Horticultural Society for outstanding service in support of the Society's goals, mission, and activities.

Francis X. Flaherty owns and operates Flaherty Iron Works in Alexandria, Vir-



ginia, which specializes in hot hand-forged ornamental metal work. In 2004, Flaherty assisted the AHS in the restoration of a set of 19th-century White

House gates that were discovered at the AHS's River Farm headquarters. The restored gates were featured at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show, after which Flaherty installed the gates at River Farm.

Additionally, Flaherty hand-forged a unique metal design piece for the AHS's Green Garage® exhibit, which is being displayed around the United States, and he continues to provide quality craftsmanship and support to the AHS.

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FRANCES JONES POETKER AWARD

Recognizes significant contributions to floral design in publications, on the platform, and to the public.

Renny Reynolds is a renowned entertaining, gardening, and lifestyle expert. In the 1970s he founded RENNY: Design for Entertaining in New York City, an event design firm known for its unique floral arrangements. Catering to high-profile clients such as Yves Saint Laurent and the White House, the company's designs have been featured in publications ranging from *House Beautiful* to *Horticulture*.

In 2002, Reynolds turned the business over to his nephew and co-founded Hortulus Farm Nursery & Gardens, an 18th-century farm located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He is also the author of *The Art of the Party* (Gibbs Smith, 2003).

PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Given to a public garden administrator whose achievements during the course of his or her career have cultivated widespread interest in horticulture.

Holly Harmar Shimizu has been the executive director of the United States Botanic Garden since 2000. During that period, she has overseen a major renovation of the garden's conservatory and the development of the new National Garden that opened in 2006.

Shimizu's career has included serving as the first curator of the National Herb Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., and as the managing director at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia.

For 12 years, Shimizu was a host on *The Victory Garden*, a gardening television show broadcast on PBS and HGTV. She has also contributed to many books and magazines. Shimizu is on the advisory board of the American Botanical Council, and has served on the board of directors of the American Public Gardens Association.



CATHERINE H. SWEENEY AWARD

Recognizes extraordinary and dedicated philanthropic efforts in support of the field of horticulture.

Betty Brown Casey is one of America's leading philanthropists. In 2001, after becoming aware of the dramatic decline of trees in the District of Columbia since the 1970s, she donated \$50 million to endow a new non-profit organization called Casey Trees, whose mission is "to restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of the Nation's Capital."

The organization works to increase community activism and involvement in the planting and care of trees through various educational initiatives. It has developed new mapping and monitoring systems that have enabled cities and communities around the country to inventory their trees and map their successes, encouraging local involvement.

JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD

Given to an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturists through efforts in children's and youth gardening.

Mike H.C. Devlin and **Valerie R. Frick** co-founded and co-developed the Cam-



den Children's Garden in Camden, New Jersey, in 1999. With Devlin as the executive director and Frick as the director of education, this husband-and-wife team has created a safe environment where children in one of the nation's most dangerous cities can learn about plants and nature.

Devlin and Frick also operate several other programs, including a Youth Employment and Training program for at-risk Camden youth through the Camden City Garden Club, a non-profit they founded in 1985.

TEACHING AWARD

Given to an individual whose ability to share his or her horticultural knowledge with others has contributed to a better public understanding of the plant world and its important influence on society.

Laura Deeter is an assistant professor of horticultural technologies at the Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) of the Ohio State University in Columbus, where she earned a doctorate degree in 2002. Deeter employs a variety of teaching styles and methods to create an informal, interactive learning environment.

She travels extensively, speaking on many gardening topics, and has authored numerous publications on wide-ranging topics such as landscape ornamentals, plant identification, and student-centered learning techniques.

Among the honors she has received are the ATI Distinguished Teaching Award, the Ohio State Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, and the Perennial Plant Association Academic Award.

URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Given to an individual, institution, or company for significant contributions to urban horticulture and the beautification of American cities.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA), a nonprofit organization based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is a unique network of more than 80 affiliate parks, arboreta, and other public garden sites across Nebraska. Founded in 1978, the organization is dedicated to the greening of every community in the state.

Through its Community Program, the NSA has provided more than \$7 million in matching grants to 228 Nebraska communities, resulting in more than 850 landscaping projects. It also provides a range of technical assistance, including planning, design, plant selection, and water conservation.



2008 AHS Book Award Winners

EACH YEAR, the American Horticultural Society recognizes outstanding gardening books published in North America with its annual Book Award. Books are judged by the AHS Book Award Committee on qualities such as writing style, authority, accuracy, and physical quality. This year's four recipients, selected from books published in 2007, are listed below.

Susan C. Eubank, a horticultural librarian for the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia, California, chaired the 2008 committee. Other committee members were **Gene Bussell**, a garden editor for *Southern Living* magazine in Birmingham, Alabama; **Thomas Cooper** of Watertown, Massachusetts, former editor of *Horticulture* and *The Gardener* magazine; **Doreen Howard** of Roscoe, Illinois, a former garden editor for *Woman's Day* who writes for various garden publications; **Marty Ross**, a regional contributor for *Better Homes & Gardens* and writer for Universal Press Syndicate who lives in Kansas City, Missouri, and in Hayes, Virginia; **Marcia Tatroe** of Centennial, Colorado, a writer for the *Denver Post* and *Sunset* magazine; and **Marty Wingate** of Seattle, Washington, a garden columnist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

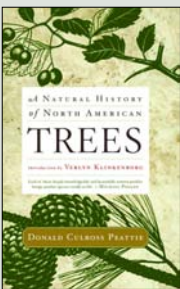
Foliage by Nancy J. Ondra. Storey Publishing, Massachusetts.

"This outstanding book is like opening a new box of paints," says Marcia Tatroe, "providing both inspiration and practical advice on using foliage plants." With more cultivars with colorful leaves becoming available, author Nancy J. Ondra "encourages readers to think conceptually about foliage," says Tom Cooper. "Rob Cardillo's magnificent photographs show just how exciting leaves can be," adds Marty Ross.



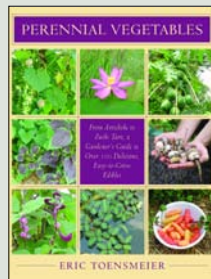
A Natural History of North American Trees by Donald Culross Peattie. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, New York.

This condensed version of two volumes originally published in the 1950s "keeps alive a tradition of high-quality writing and great horticulture," says Cooper, and brings the late Donald Culross Peattie's lyrical essays to a new generation. "It's like being taken on a trip to visit these trees," says Marcia Tatroe. "The black-and-white drawings of each tree are amazingly evocative," says Marty Wingate. "A must for every horticultural library," says Doreen Howard.



Perennial Vegetables by Eric Toensmeier. Chelsea Green Publishing Company, White River Junction, Vermont.

Full of surprising edible possibilities, this book "promotes fresh thinking as to what a vegetable garden can be," says Howard. "This topic is presented in a thorough and engaging way," says Susan Eubank. "It teaches responsible gardening practices without preaching," adds Ross. Gene Bussell notes that the book's production "reflects Chelsea Green's earth-friendly policy," while maintaining high quality.



Viburnums by Michael Dirr. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.

In the first book dedicated entirely to this versatile genus of landscape trees and shrubs, "Michael Dirr has distilled his great knowledge of viburnums into a handsome reference full of careful observations and the unrestrained opinions that gardeners rely on him for," says Ross. "This book is useful, inspiring, and nicely done, with lots of good color photographs taken by Dirr as well as several beautiful illustrations by his wife, Bonnie," adds Wingate.



Citation of Special Merit

The AHS Book Award is given to publishers for a single book published in a specific year. However, two AHS Citations of Special Merit are being awarded in recognition of a series or regularly revised reference that has become an invaluable addition to horticultural literature.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden's All-Region Guide series

Published under the auspices of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden since 1945, this collection of horticultural handbooks currently includes more than 180 volumes offering practical ideas and inspiration for North American gardeners.



Sunset's Western Garden Book

In 2007, Sunset released the eighth edition of the *Western Garden Book*. Because this "bible" for western gardeners maintains up-to-date information built on a foundation of earlier editions, the committee chose to recognize the entire body of work rather than a single edition.

