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## RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 AHS NATIONAL AWARDS

**Alexandria, VA** (March 10, 2009). The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is pleased to announce the 12 distinguished recipients of the Society's 2009 Great American Gardeners Awards. Individuals, organizations, and businesses that 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 plant conservation.

Among this year's winners is **Panayoti Kelaidis**, senior curator and director of outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado, who is receiving the AHS's highest honor, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, for his many important contributions to horticulture. The AHS applauds all of this year's recipients for their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their fields. This year's Great American Gardeners Award recipients are:

**Panayoti Kelaidis** (Denver, Colorado)—Liberty Hyde Bailey Award

**Jim Ault** (Glencoe, Illinois)—Luther Burbank Award

**Ronald E. Gass** (Litchfield Park, Arizona)—Paul Ecke Jr. Commercial Award

**Soil Food Web, Inc.** (Corvallis, Oregon)—G. B. Gunlogson Award

**Karen L. Kennedy** (Kirtland, Ohio)—Horticultural Therapy Award

**Paul Comstock** (Malibu, California)—Landscape Design Award

**Carol F. Carter Morrison** (Barrington, Illinois)—Meritorious Service Award

**William C. Welch** (College Station, Texas)—B. Y. Morrison Communication Award

**Claire E. Sawyers** (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania)—Professional Award

**Shawn Akard** (Alexandria, Virginia)—Jane L. Taylor Award

**Michael N. Dana** (West Lafayette, Indiana)—Teaching Award

**America in Bloom** (Columbus, Ohio)—Urban Beautification Award

On Thursday, June 4, 2009, the American Horticultural Society will honor these award recipients during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet, held at the Society's headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia.

For descriptions of each award and brief biographies of this year's recipients, go to [http://www.ahs.org/publications/the\\_american\\_gardener/pdf/09/03/AHS\\_Award\\_Winners.pdf](http://www.ahs.org/publications/the_american_gardener/pdf/09/03/AHS_Award_Winners.pdf). Photographs are available upon request by contacting AHS Communications Manager Viveka Neveln at (703) 768-5700 ext. 120 or [vneveln@ahs.org](mailto:vneveln@ahs.org).