

## AHS 2005 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

**T**HE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY proudly announces the recipients of the Society's 2005 Great American Gardeners Awards. These individuals, organizations, and businesses represent American gardening at its best. Each has made significant contributions to fields such as plant research, garden communications, landscape design, youth gardening, horticultural technology, and conservation. AHS applauds their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their fields.

The 2005 awards will be presented on April 14 during the Great American Gardeners Conference in Orlando, Florida. To register for the awards banquet or for more information about the Great American Gardeners Conference, visit [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 121.

**LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD**

*To qualify for this award, an individual must reside in North America and must have made significant contributions in at least three of the following areas of horticultural activity: teaching, research, writing, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.*

A professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Wisconsin–Madison,



**Edward R. Hasselkus** has conducted research on woody ornamental plants throughout his career. Since 1967, Hasselkus has served as curator of the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, where he developed a premier collection of woody plants with over 2,500 taxa.

Among his proudest achievements is having influenced the lives and careers of over 3,000 students. Hasselkus's many other awards include the American Association of Botanical Gardens & Arboreta Award of Merit Distinguished Career Award (2003), the National Council of State Garden Clubs Award of Excellence (2000), and the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal (1996).

**LUTHER BURBANK AWARD**  
*Recognizes extraordinary achievement in the field of plant breeding.*

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The late **Donald R. Egolf** spent the majority of his career at the United States Na-



tional Arboretum, where he developed numerous shrubs and trees with improved ornamental features, disease resistance, and cold and heat tolerance. His research resulted in the introduction of 57 cultivars, many of which—including the 'Shasta' doublefile viburnum and dozens of crape myrtle selections—are commonplace in the American landscape.

Egolf received many honors during his lifetime, including a Fulbright Scholarship to England and awards from the American Nursery Association, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the International Lilac Society.

**PAUL ECKE, JR. COMMERCIAL AWARD**

*Given to an individual or institution, who, because of a commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the field of commercial horticulture, contributes to the betterment of gardening practices everywhere.*

**Roy G. Klehm** represents the fourth generation of the Klehm family to work as nurserymen in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. He is the co-founder and vice president of Beaver Creek Nursery, Inc. and Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery. Klehm has also served as the president of the American Peony Society (APS) from 1972 to



1974 and on the APS's board of directors from 1968 to 2004.

Klehm's many other professional awards include the American Peony Society's A.P. Saunders Memorial Medal (1989), the Garden Writers of America Will Jung Distinguished Service Award (1995), and the American Peony Society's Gold Medal for the 'Pink Hawaiian Coral' hybrid peony (2000).

**G. B. GUNLOGSON AWARD**

*Given for the creative use of new technology to make home gardening more productive and enjoyable.*

Located on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, the **Horticulture Gardening Institute (HGI)**



is a national organization founded by the MSU Department of Horticulture, MSU Global Ventures, and the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program. HGI offers online programs, face-to-face events, access to national gardening experts, certificates of completion, and Master Gardener educational credits in selected states.

Founder **Christine Geith** (left), is HGI's co-executive director along with **Mary McLellan** (right), who also serves as the curriculum director.

**HORTICULTURAL COMMUNICATION AWARD**  
*Recognizes effective communication using*

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media and research techniques for the purpose of expanding horticultural awareness.

**Steve Bender** has been a senior writer for *Southern Living* magazine since 1983. He



is a popular speaker and gives talks on a wide variety of gardening topics all over the country.

Bender's articles in *Southern Living*, which often poke fun

at gardeners' foibles, have won many writing awards. His first book, *Passalong Plants*—co-authored with Felder Rushing—was named the best-written garden book of 1994 by the Garden Writers Association of America. Recently, Bender revised and updated the *Southern Living Garden Book* that describes more than 7,000 plants. Bender has served as chairman of the Homewood, Alabama, Beautification Board and currently sits on the board of Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover, Alabama.

#### HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AWARD

*Recognizes significant contributions to the field of horticultural therapy.*

**Rebecca L. Haller** has practiced and taught horticultural therapy for nearly 30



years. She established a vocational horticultural therapy program in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, for adults with developmental disabilities that is still thriving after more

than 20 years in operation.

Currently Haller directs the Horticultural Therapy Institute in Denver, Colorado, teaches horticultural therapy classes in affiliation with Colorado State University, and provides consultation to new or developing programs. At Denver Botanic Gardens, Haller designed and taught a series of professional courses in horticultural therapy, managed the sensory garden, and created programs and access for people with disabilities. Haller has served as

president, secretary, and board member of the American Horticultural Therapy Association, focusing on professional development and education.

#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD

*Acknowledges an individual whose work has expanded the awareness of horticulture in landscape architecture.*

**Julie Moir Messervy** is an acclaimed landscape designer, author, and lecturer



with an inspired vision for creating outdoor sanctuaries that feed the spirit. Her innovative approach to composing gardens of beauty and meaning is furthering

the evolution of landscape design and changing the way people think about their outdoor surroundings.

With more than two decades of experience, Messervy has emerged as a leader of a movement in which landscape design is

### American Horticultural Society

## 2005 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS CONFERENCE

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

APRIL 13-15, 2005

### *"Sub-Tropical Garden Treasures, Old and New"*



We invite you to join your fellow AHS members for three days of sub-tropical garden delights this spring. Orlando, Florida, will be the site of our 2005 Great American Gardeners Conference and our home base as we explore the rich garden traditions of the region and discover the diversity of contemporary gardens to be found in central Florida.

Enjoy an evening at Orlando's Harry P. Leu Gardens and experience the graciousness and beauty of "Old Florida."

Celebrate outstanding American horticulture and meet the winners of the 2005 Great American Gardeners Awards.

Visit private gardens and see amazing horticulture—talk to the people who make it all happen, and learn firsthand about the joys and challenges of gardening in the sub-tropics.

Attend the opening-day festivities at the 2005 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, including an appearance by Paul James, host of HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard."



Paul James

**PLUS... all full-conference registrants will receive a complimentary copy of the 2004 edition of the AHS landmark publication the AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants—an essential reference source for every gardener's library!**

***The 2005 Great American Gardeners Conference promises to be an event not to be missed!***

Visit [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 121 for more information.

as much a personal journey as it is about leaving a unique imprint upon the earth. She has inspired a new generation of landscape designers, homeowners, and others to create gardens that reflect an inward vision deeply rooted in outdoor archetypes, childhood imagination, and aesthetic impulses.

Author of acclaimed books such as *The Inward Garden* and *The Magic Land*, Messervy is currently working on a book titled *Outside the Not So Big House* that will be released in early 2006.

#### MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

*Awarded to a past board member or friend of the Society to recognize outstanding and exemplary service in support of the Society's goals, services, and activities.*

**Duane Kelly** is chairman of Salmon Bay Events, which produces the Northwest and San Francisco Flower & Garden Shows, and the Seattle Interior Show. The Northwest and San Francisco shows are the third and fourth largest flower shows, respectively, in the United States.



Kelly served on the Board of the American Horticultural Society from 2002 to 2004. As a member of the AHS Visioning Committee during that period, he played a leading role in crafting new vision and mission statements that have guided the Society's expanded programs and initiatives in the new millennium.

Kelly has also been an active member of many other national and regional gardening groups. He has served as president of the Arboretum Foundation, a 3,000-member support group for Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle, and he is currently on the Board of the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

#### PROFESSIONAL AWARD

*Given to an individual who makes a living as director of an arboretum or botanical garden and whose achievements during the course of his or her career represent a significant contribution to horticulture.*

**Mary Pat Matheson** is the executive director of the Atlanta Botanical Garden.



She also directs Smithgall Arboretum, a new 168-acre arboretum in Gainesville, Georgia. Under her leadership, the Atlanta Botanical Garden has been actively

expanding its visitor base through developing its educational programs, exhibitions, and special events. Matheson has been involved in the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) for more than 18 years. She recently completed a two-year term as the organization's president and continues to serve on its board as past president. Her commitment to the field of public horticulture is evident from her service to AABGA as well as her participation as a peer and panel reviewer with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. She is also a member of an international steering committee focused on the development of a national strategy for plant conservation in America's botanic gardens.

#### JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD

*Awarded to an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturists through its efforts in children's and youth gardens.*

**Marcia Eames-Sheavly** has worked in the New York State Cooperative Extension system for the past 20 years, most recently providing statewide leadership and coordination of a garden-based learning program through Cornell University's



Department of Horticulture. Her efforts have focused on engaging young people in learning about the significance of plants in their lives, often by way of art, culture, or other interdisciplinary avenues. She also strives to help adults understand the benefits of involving young people in the process of garden planning, design, and implementation instead of inviting them to the garden upon completion.

In recent years, Eames-Sheavly has made a commitment to applied research in the area of youth development and

garden-based learning, and is currently engaged in a study of children's levels of participation in a number of gardening projects.

#### TEACHING AWARD

*Recognizes an individual whose ability to share his or her knowledge of horticulture with others has contributed to a better public understanding of the plant world and its impact on people.*

**Terry H. Mikel** is an acclaimed teacher and commercial horticulture agent with the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona. Mikel developed the Arizona Certified Landscape Professional Program, teaches with the Master Gardener program, and is the state's primary instructor for the Arizona Certified Nursery Professional Program.



Mikel has received many awards including the Arizona Nursery Association's Distinguished Service Award and the University of Arizona's Extension Faculty of the Year Award.

#### URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

*Awarded to an individual or institution for significant contributions to urban horticulture.*

**Gateway Greening** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community development through community gardening. Since 1984, Gateway Greening has helped transform neglected and abandoned lots in St. Louis into productive gardens and beautiful landscaped areas. Gateway Greening supports more than



160 neighborhood greening and community garden projects. In addition, Gateway Greening offers school programs in classrooms in more than 150 schools in the St. Louis area. Its mission is to provide resources and training to neighborhood groups who believe in their communities and want to reclaim them from urban decay. **Gwenne Hayes-Stewart** currently serves as Gateway Greening's executive director.