

AHS 2006 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY proudly announces the recipients of the Society's 2006 Great American Gardeners Awards. These individuals 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. We applaud their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their fields.

The 2006 awards will be presented on June 2 during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet at the AHS headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia. To attend, visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 137.

LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD

Given to an individual who resides in North America and has made significant contributions to at least three of the following horticultural activities: teaching, research, writing, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

Daniel J. Hinkley is the co-founder of Heronswood Nursery, a retail mail-order nursery known for its diverse offerings. Hinkley has traveled the world for the past 15 years to bring back rare and unusual plants for American gardeners. In addition to writing the Heronswood catalog, Hinkley writes for numerous periodicals including *The American Gardener*, *Horticulture*, and *Martha Stewart Living*.



His book, *The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials*, received the AHS 2000 Book Award. Hinkley has received the Scott Arboretum Gold Medal, the Medal of Honor from the Federated Garden Clubs of America, and the Garden Communicator of the Year Award from the American Nurserymen and Landscape Association.

H. MARC CATHEY AWARD

Recognizes an individual who has enriched horticulture through outstanding and notable research.

Robert Wing Langhans is an emeritus professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Over the course of his four-

decade career at the university, he made many important contributions to horticulture and published hundreds of papers and articles. His research focused on the environmental factors for flower control of crops such as chrysanthemums,



poinsettias, and carnations; tissue culture for propagation; and the use of high intensity discharge (HID) lamps for supplemental lighting for greenhouse-grown crops during winter.

Among his many professional accolades, Langhans was elected as a Fellow to the American Society of Horticultural Science and the American Society for the Advancement of Science. He was also elected to the Hall of Fame of the Society of American Florists.

PAUL ECKE, JR. COMMERCIAL AWARD

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

Harlan F. Hamernik is president of Bluebird Nursery in Clarkson, Nebraska, a wholesale operation he founded in 1958. Over 2,000 varieties of plants are grown at the nursery, including many award-winning introductions that are the



result of Hamernik's 50 years of scouting, breeding, and testing plants suited for the Midwest region. He often lectures around the country about the new and noteworthy plants he has discovered for American gardens. His numerous honors include the Perennial Plant Association's Award of Merit and becoming a Fellow of the International Plant Propagator's Society.

HORTICULTURAL COMMUNICATION AWARD

Recognizes effective communication using media and research techniques for the purpose of expanding horticultural awareness.

After earning a degree in journalism from the University of Maine, **Paul J. Tukey**



started off his career as an award-winning newspaper editor and sportswriter. He then followed his love of the outdoors into landscaping and founded his own company, Home 'n Land, in the late 1980s.

People, Places & Plants magazine, which he founded in 1995, combined both of his passions of writing and gardening. An HGTV television show, co-hosted by Tukey and another AHS award winner, Roger Swain, followed in 2002. Through the magazine, broadcasting, and countless personal appearances and speeches, Tukey and his company have demonstrated their commitment to supporting independent garden centers and promoting environmentally friendly gardening.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD

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

From 1983 to 1992, **Darrel Morrison**



served as the dean of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia, where he taught and worked on design projects such as the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas; the Utah Botanical Center in Kaysville, Utah; and the Native Wisconsin Garden at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Now, as dean emeritus, Morrison continues to periodically teach and work on design projects around the country.

Morrison has received the Tom Dodd Award of Recognition from the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, the Hutchinson Medal from the Chicago Botanic Garden, and the 1998 AHS Great American Gar-

deners Teaching Award. His book, *Of Place and Time: Reflections on Southeastern Landscapes* will be published later this year by the Center for American Places.

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.

The late **Kathleen Fisher** was the editor of the AHS's magazine from 1989 to 1998.



Under her leadership, the magazine became a critically-acclaimed publication known for its in-depth articles on plants, design, and influential people. Fisher enhanced

the magazine's traditional emphasis on environmental stewardship by running articles on topics such as pesticide run-off from lawns and plant theft from national parks. In 1996, she oversaw the redesign of

the magazine that coincided with the name change to *The American Gardener*.

Fisher wrote several books, including the *Complete Guide to Water Gardens* (2000) and *Taylor's Guide to Shrubs* (2000). She served as senior editor for *Old House Journal*, a Washington, D.C.-based publication, from 2000 to shortly before her death in 2005.

FRANCES JONES POETKER AWARD

Bestowed on a person who has made significant contributions to the appreciation of creative floral designs in publications, on the platform, and to the public.

Hitomi Gilliam is a designer for Satsukis Flowers in Mission, British Columbia.



She has written, lectured, and demonstrated the artistry of floral design for two decades. Her work has been enjoyed throughout North America and in the

American Horticultural Society's
2006 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium July 27-29, 2006

"Cultivating a Sense of Place: A Youth Gardening Adventure"

Learn how to cultivate a sense of place for the next generation as you experience the gardens and programs of Missouri Botanical Garden, the host of the 14th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. The event will be headquartered on the beautiful campus of **Washington University** in St. Louis, Missouri.

Highlights will include the Missouri Botanical Garden's brand new **Doris I.**



Schnuck Children's Garden, opening this spring, and inspirational keynote speakers including **Richard Louv**, the nationally acclaimed author

of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1.

For more information about the Symposium visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.



Mark your calendars how to join the youth gardening adventure this summer in St. Louis!

Background: Josh Monken. Right: Elizabeth McNulty. Both courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden.

United Kingdom, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

Gilliam is an active member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) and received their Design Influence Award in 1998. Gilliam is the co-author of two design textbooks and of "Earth Man Spirit," a photoessay of creative American design. Her new book, *ArtFlor: Advanced Design and Process*, was published in December 2005, and she writes a regular column for *Flowers&* magazine.

PROFESSIONAL AWARD

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

J. Dean Norton began his career at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1969 as a high school student. After earning a degree in ornamental horticulture in 1977, he returned to Mount Vernon as its first boxwood gardener. Three years later, he became the estate's horticulturist. Today he serves as the director of horticulture.

Norton lectures across the country and abroad, and appears regularly on TV and in radio. He has been a board member for the Southern Garden History Society, serves as a screening committee member for the Garden Conservancy, and has taught courses through the USDA Graduate School and for George Washington University. He has received the Award for Conservation from the Garden Club of America and a conservation medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.



If you know someone you would like to nominate for one of the 2007 Great American Gardener Awards, please visit our website (www.ahs.org) and click on "Awards" for more information.

CATHERINE H. SWEENEY AWARD

Given for extraordinary and dedicated efforts in support of the field of horticulture.

Madalene Hill is an acclaimed expert on herbs. She has grown them, sold them, introduced them, cooked with them, written about them, and shared her knowledge of them with American gardeners since 1957, the year she and her late husband, Jim Hill, established the business that became Hilltop Herb Farm near Houston, Texas. In 1984, she sold the business but continued writing and speaking about herbs. With her daughter Gwen Barclay, Hill is the author of the *Houston Garden Book* (1983) and *Southern Herb Growing* (1987).



Since 1993, Hill has served as curator of the Susan McAshan Herb Gardens at the International Festival-Institute in Round Top, Texas, where she has created extensive herb gardens. (For more on Hill, see the article beginning on page 34.)

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.

Sheldon Fleming opened Wonderland Gardens in 1997, a 20-acre park near Atlanta, Georgia, that has become a national model for environmental education and a hub of community involvement. Through Wonderland Gardens' many innovative programs and gardens, hundreds of children and youth have been given the opportunity to learn about plants and make connections with the natural world.

Fleming also teaches classes on gardening and speaks at events around the country. He serves on the advisory panel for the AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium and was a speaker at last year's event. He is host of TV One's "Can You Dig It!" program.



TEACHING AWARD

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

James Swasey is professor emeritus at the University of Delaware, where he has taught since 1984. He retired as the university's coordinator of the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture in 2005. Before moving to Delaware, he was a professor of ornamental horticulture, chairman of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, and the landscape designer for the University of Maine.

Swasey served as the faculty advisor to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity chapter at the University of Delaware for nearly seven years. Upon his retirement, the local chapter established the James E. Swasey Scholarship for incoming freshmen.

URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

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

Edgar Aldridge opened the Aldridge Nursery Company with his parents in 1954. He ran the garden center and greenhouses until 1995, when he deeded the family property to the City of Hoover, Alabama, to establish Aldridge Gardens. He serves on the board of this 30-acre public garden as well as on the board of Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Aldridge has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Nurserymen's Association and the Florens DeBevoise Medal from the Garden Club of America. Recently, he established a perpetual chair in Auburn University's horticulture department in memory of his brother Loren Aldridge, who died in 1952.

Aldridge patented *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snowflake' in 1971 and introduced *H. quercifolia* 'Harmony' in 1972.

