

AHS NEWS SPECIAL

2006 AHS BOOK AWARD WINNERS

SINCE 1997, the American Horticultural Society has given its annual Book Award to outstanding gardening books published in North America. Out of more than 40 nominated books received in 2005, the AHS Book Award Committee selected five winners, which are listed below.

Garden writer and editor **Ray Rogers** of North Brunswick, New Jersey, served as chair of the 2006 committee. Other committee members were **Gene Bussell** of Birmingham, Alabama, a garden editor for *Southern Living* magazine; **Keith Crotz**, owner of American Botanist Booksellers in Chillicothe, Illinois; **Susan C. Eubank**, a horticultural librarian for the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia, California; **Lucinda Mays** of Chadron, Nebraska, a garden writer and producer of gardening television shows; **Marcia Tatroe** of Centennial, Colorado, a writer for the *Denver Post* and *Sunset* magazine; and **Marty Wingate** of Seattle, Washington, a columnist for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

To view a complete list of previous AHS Book Award winners, visit www.ahs.org and click on "Awards."

The Art of the Japanese Garden by David and Michiko Young. Tuttle Publishing, North Clarendon, Vermont. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$40.

"THIS BOOK IS so roundly written that it could, if necessary, serve as the only book one had to introduce and explain to Westerners the basic components of Japanese gardens," said Lucinda Mays. "It illuminates a style of gardening that greatly influences American gardens, but is not widely understood," said Marcia Tatroe. "The authors do a good job of bringing the historical and theoretical together," said Susan Eubank.



California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien. Cachuma Press, Los Olivos, California. Publisher's price, softcover: \$27.95.

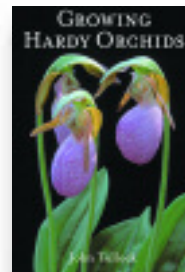
WHILE THE TITLE of this book seemed to imply a narrow scope, the committee felt the book spoke to a broader audience because, as Marcia Tatroe said, "It lists native habitat as well as range and cultural requirements. This reflects the current trend of planting by habitat, one which should be encouraged." It also garnered praise for its authoritativeness, comprehensiveness, and overall quality. "This book presents a great deal of cultural information, it compares plants and explains why some are bet-



ter than others, it gives many ideas for garden use, and includes useful, good quality photos," said Ray Rogers.

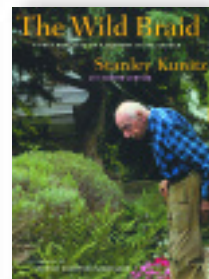
Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$29.95.

"THIS BOOK IS important for both gardeners and horticulturists because you can't find this useful information compiled anywhere else," said Lucinda Mays. "In addition, it reads like a conversation with someone who is extremely knowledgeable, presenting the information in a very interesting way." Even the committee members without a great interest in orchids found this book fascinating and enjoyable. "I was intrigued by this topic," said Susan Eubank. "This book could help anybody grow orchids outside," she added.



The Wild Braid by Stanley Kunitz with Genine Lentine. W.W. Norton, New York, New York. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$23.95.

SEVERAL MEMBERS of the committee felt this book by Pulitzer prize-winning poet Stanley Kunitz was a powerful example of how gardening can be a lifelong passion as well as inspire other art forms such as poetry. "This little book is a graceful bridge connecting poetry, gardening, and growing old," said Lucinda Mays. "I liked the minimalist concept, the aphorisms at length, even the poems. The book helps teach us to listen," said Keith Crotz. The interplay of photographs, poetry, and prose "captures the essence of what gardening is about," observed Marcia Tatroe.



Yard Full of Sun by Scott Calhoun. Rio Nuevo Publishers, Tucson, Arizona. Publisher's price, softcover: \$22.95.

"BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY and an engaging writing style combined with useful cultural information and planting ideas distinguish this book as the best of this year's offerings on personal gardening," said Ray Rogers. While the book focuses on the author's experience of building his own house and garden in Tucson, Arizona, the committee felt it appeals to gardeners everywhere because of its environmentally sensitive approach to common issues such as water use and native plants.

