

## AHS 2007 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is proud to announce the distinguished recipients of the Society's 2007 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 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 2007 awards will be presented on June 1 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](http://www.ahs.org) or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 137.

**LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD**

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

**Michael A. Dirr** is a renowned author, professor, researcher, and speaker who has had an immeasurable influence on the horticultural world. In addition to his well-known *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses* that was first published in 1975, Dirr has written or contributed to more than 300 publications and seven books.

Dirr served as the director of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia from 1979 to 1981, after which he began teaching at the University of Georgia. During his tenure, he established the Georgia Plant Introduction Program that has presented more than 50 new plant introductions. After Dirr's recent retirement, the university established an endowed professorship in woody plant instruction in his name.

Other accolades Dirr has received include the American Nursery & Landscape Association's L.C. Chadwick Outstanding Educator's Award, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Silver Medal for Excellence in Horticultural Writing, the Medal of Honor from the

Garden Club of America, the Linnaeus Award from the Chicago Botanic Garden, and the Georgia Green Industry Lifetime Membership Award.

**LUTHER BURBANK AWARD**

*Recognizes extraordinary achievement in the field of plant breeding.*

**Elwin R. Orton** is a researcher and professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he spent many years teaching plant propagation. He also developed the Woody Ornamentals Breeding Program to produce new cultivars with increased winter hardiness, pest and disease resistance, low maintenance needs, and attractive, compact habits. His research has involved intra- and interspecific hybridization among more than 20 species of hollies, six species of *Pyracantha*, and three species of dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.), as well as intergeneric hybridization of *Franklinia alata* and *Gordonia lasianthus*.

Orton has introduced many varieties of plants, including *Ilex opaca* 'Portia Orton' and the Stellar® series of hybrid dogwood (*C. kousa* × *C. nuttallii*). He considers *C. × Venus*® from his Jersey Star® series (*C. kousa* × *C. nuttallii*), selected as one of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2007 Gold Medal Plant Award winners, to be the best large-bracted dogwood he has ever seen.

**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 advancement of gardening practices everywhere.*

**Paul Saunders** is the owner—along with four of his sons—of Saunders Brothers



Nursery & Orchard in central Virginia, founded in 1915 by Paul's father and his four brothers. Saunders is a leading authority on boxwoods, working to increase

their use in American landscapes and gardens. To contribute to the knowledge of which boxwood cultivars will thrive in various regions, Saunders coordinates the National Boxwood Trials, which involves more than 30 botanical gardens and arboreta as well as several nurseries throughout the East Coast. He also has exchanged cuttings with gardens in England, China, Ukraine, and the Republic of Georgia for evaluation.

In 2001, he wrote the *Best of the Best Boxwood* manual that is widely used as a guide for boxwood cultivar selection.

**G. B. GUNLOGSON AWARD**

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

**Gardener's Supply (GS)** was founded by Will Raap in 1983. As an employee-owned

company of avid gardeners providing garden-tested, earth-friendly products combined with practical information, it has won many awards for its products, website, online gardening information, and innovative management.

GS donates eight percent of its pretax profits to environmental and gardening-related initiatives. The Garden Crusader Award program gives cash and prizes to individuals who are improving the world through gardening. The company also speaks out on issues such as the decline of pollinators, and in 1989, GS was the first national company to take a stand against genetic engineering.

The company has led the effort to restore the 700-acre floodplain in Burlington known as the Intervale, and founded the Intervale Center (IC). The IC is headquarters to 350 acres of organic farms, a composting project, a riparian nursery for growing native plants to restore streambeds, a farmer-in-training program, bike trails, and more.



### HORTICULTURAL COMMUNICATION AWARD

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

**Kathleen Norris Brenzel** began her career as an editorial assistant at *Sunset*



magazine and has served as its senior editor since 2000. While overseeing the magazine's garden content, she edited three editions of the popular *Sunset Western Garden Book* and a companion volume, *Sunset's Western Landscaping Book*, as well as *Sunset's Gardening in the Northwest*, *California's Top 10 Garden Guide*, and *Gardening in the Southwest*.

Brenzel has appeared regularly on television gardening programs, including the HGTV's "Grow-It" series, and PBS's "The Victory Garden." She lectures on gardening topics throughout the country and on the garden show circuit in Los An-

geles, San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia, and Boston.

In 2000, Brenzel's interest in Hawaii's native and endemic plants earned an Environmental Journalism Fellowship at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Lawai, Kauai. Her latest publishing effort is the eighth edition of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, which was published in February 2007.

### HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AWARD

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

**Teresia M. Hazen** has been a registered horticultural therapist and coordinator



specializing in gerontology and addictions counseling for the Legacy Therapeutic Gardens at the Legacy Health System in Portland, Oregon, for 15 years. She has developed six gardens within that time and created five more garden designs cur-

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NEW! 2007 AHS Online Classes

Join nationally acclaimed horticulturist **Allan Armitage** for a series of live online *gardening seminars* available *exclusively* to American Horticultural Society members

March 29: "Perennials that Work"  
May 10: "Annuals that Work"  
Sept. 25: "Bulbs that Work"

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and space is limited, so be sure to reserve your chance to participate in one or more of these interactive online presentations.

For more information and to register, visit [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) and click on the "Armitage Gardening Webinars" link.

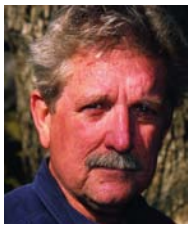
rently awaiting funding. Three of the gardens have been recognized by the American Horticultural Therapy Association's Therapeutic Garden Design Award.

Hazen was awarded the Legacy Core Values' Oscar and Helen Gustafson Award in 2004, the American Horticultural Therapy Association's Rhea McCandliss Professional Service Award in 2003, and the Wistar Morris Society's Treasure of Good Samaritan Hospital in 1997.

#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD

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

**Steve Martino**, FASLA, has earned a national reputation for design excellence. He is widely recognized for his pioneering work with native plants and developing a desert-derived aesthetic. Juxtaposing manmade elements with ecological processes is a recurring theme in his designs.



Martino's projects have received more than 100 awards, including nine national design awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 2006, he received the American Society of Landscape Architects' top design award for his Quartz Mountain Residence, as well as the society's Design Medal for 2006. His work has been published in more than 250 books and periodicals.

A Phoenix native and resident, Martino studied art and architecture at Arizona State University. His project experience ranges from urban development and remote large-scale communities to public art and private gardens. Currently, Martino is focusing his work on contemporary garden design for private gardens.



If you know someone you would like to nominate for one of the 2008 Great American Gardeners Awards, please visit our website ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)) and click on "Awards" for more information.

#### 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 Honorable **Lauralee M. Peters** was a member of the U.S. Senior Foreign



Service who held various positions in Paraguay, Vietnam, Thailand, and Pakistan. She also served on the National Security Staff for Latin America, worked at the State Department of Middle Eastern Affairs, and was ambassador to Sierra Leone for three years.

As well as volunteering with Meals on Wheels, Peters was a long-time member of the AHS who actively volunteered at River Farm, the Society's headquarters. Her contributions to the Society included generously donating a truck to facilitate work around the grounds.

#### 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.*

For 30 years, Chicago Botanic Garden Executive Vice President and Director **Kris**



**S. Jarantoski** has contributed to the development of the 385-acre site and its plant collections, which attract three-quarters of a million visitors each year. His research at the garden includes the selection and hybridization of dieback shrubs to evaluate their adaptability to the Chicago area.

Jarantoski is also active in the American Public Gardens Association. He has served as chair of the Awards and Collections Committees, as a member of the Board of Directors, and is currently a member of the Design and Planning Section and the Plant Collections Section. Jarantoski has also been involved with the Garden Conservancy, the American Association of Museums, and the Holly Society of America,

and has written many articles for the *American Nurseryman* and other publications.

#### JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD

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

**Norman Lownds** is an associate professor at Michigan State University. He has



worked with the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens for the past 10 years promoting curiosity and wonder in children of all ages. He has integrated technology into the garden and has helped create numerous interactive computer explorations. His recent work has focused on new learning programs including Seeds of Science, where students visit the 4-H Children's Gardens for multiple field trips and get involved in authentic science experiments, and the online Wonder Wall, where students and teachers can stay in contact with "Dr. Norm" before and long after they have visited the 4-H Children's Gardens.

#### 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.*

**Thomas MacCubbin** is an Extension environmental horticulturist with the Uni-



versity of Florida in Orange County. MacCubbin offers a variety of information through his "Better Lawns & Gardens" radio program, Orange County Gardening TV, Central Florida News 13, and his question-and-answer gardening columns, feature articles, and blogs for *The Orlando Sentinel* newspaper.

His efforts have been acknowledged with numerous awards from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents, including best state personal column, news photo story, news column,

and television program. "Better Lawns & Gardens" was judged best radio program for 1998 and 2000. In 2001 he received an Award of Excellence from the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

MacCubbin is the author of many books including *Florida Home Grown: Landscaping*, *Florida Home Grown 2: The Edible Landscape*, *Month-by-Month Gardening in Florida*, and *The Perfect Florida Lawn*.

#### URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

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

Since 1938, **Carolina Foothills Garden Club** has been focusing on preservation, conservation, and civic planting, including the renovation and development of urban



green space. In 1967, Falls Park was a kudzu-covered "jungle" surrounding a polluted urban river. With a vision for the area, Carolina Foothills Garden Club partnered with the city of Greenville and Furman University to acquire the property and champion the use of this green space.

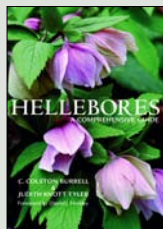
In September 2004, Falls Park underwent a massive redevelopment, a long-time vision for Greenville and the Garden Club. This newly developed 20-acre park features an award-winning pedestrian suspension bridge over urban waterfalls surrounded by specialty gardens and world-class sculpture. Two members of Carolina Foothills Garden Club, Anna Kate Hipp and Pedrick Stall Lowrey, co-chaired a \$3.6 million endowment campaign to perpetuate the development and ensure ongoing maintenance of Falls Park.

## 2007 AHS Book Award Winners

**T**HIS YEAR marks a decade that the American Horticultural Society has recognized outstanding gardening books published in North America with its annual Book Award. Nominated books are judged by the AHS Book Award Committee on qualities such as writing style, authority, accuracy, design, and physical quality. The committee also looks for trailblazing topics, books that celebrate our horticultural heritage, and books that emphasize our connection to nature. This year's three recipients, selected from more than 40 nominated books published in 2006, are listed below.

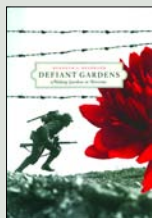
**Keith Crotz**, owner of American Botanist Booksellers in Chillicothe, Illinois, served as chair of the 2007 committee. Other committee members were **Gene Bussell**, a garden editor for *Southern Living* magazine in Birmingham, Alabama; **Thomas Cooper** of Watertown, Massachusetts, former editor of *Horticulture* and *The Gardener* magazine; **Susan C. Eubank**, a horticultural librarian for the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia, California; **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 columnist for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

**Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide** by C. Colston Burrell & Judith Knott Tyler. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$34.95.



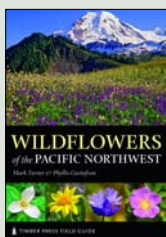
The committee was impressed by the thoroughness and overall quality of the first American book on this genus published in decades. "It achieves a very nice balance between being an authoritative monograph and a practical guide with lots of good photographs," says Tom Cooper. "What I loved most about it was all of the history concerning the breeders who developed the cultivars and hybrids," says Marcia Tatroe.

**Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime** by Kenneth I. Helphand. Trinity University Press, San Antonio, Texas. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$34.95.



This groundbreaking book stood out because of its timely and timeless subject and the comprehensive way in which it was handled. "This book shows why people enter the world of gardens, especially in times of crisis," says Keith Crotz. "It grounds the reader in the historical and social period, but it never forgets it's a garden book," says Marty Wingate. "The photographs are fascinating, and the book is very well documented," says Marty Ross.

**Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest** by Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Publisher's price, softcover: \$27.95.



"Some of the best gardening books are field guides because they contain a lot of cultural information about native plants by describing the environment where the plant grows," says Susan Eubank. For this reason, the committee felt this field guide should be recognized as one of the best currently in print. "The photographs are excellent and the book is very readable," says Marty Wingate. "Maps are a big help in the field and these maps are clear and easy to understand," says Marcia Tatroe, "And I particularly appreciated the colored page edges for looking up a flower by color."