

AHS 2010 Great American Gardeners National Award Winners

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is proud to announce the distinguished recipients of the Society's 2010 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 communication, landscape design, youth gardening, teaching, and floral design. We applaud their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their area of expertise.

The 2010 awards will be presented on June 10 during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet at River Farm, the AHS's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit www.ahs.org/awards or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.

LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD

Given to an individual who has made significant lifetime contributions to at least three of the following horticultural fields: teaching, research, communications, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.



THIS YEAR'S recipient of the AHS's most prestigious award is Steven M. Still, a professor emeritus of horticulture at the Ohio State University (OSU) in Columbus and an internationally recognized expert and leader in the field of herbaceous perennial plants.



Steven Still at the 2007 dedication of a garden named in his honor at the Chadwick Arboretum

Still began his teaching career while doing graduate work at the University of Illinois. After graduating in 1974 with a doctorate in horticulture, Still taught horticulture at Kansas State University in Manhattan for five years before moving to OSU, where he taught and mentored thousands of horticulture students from 1979 to 2005. In addition to his teaching duties, he conducted horticultural research and served as the first director of OSU's Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Garden.

Still's acclaimed book, *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants*, was first published in 1980. Now in its fourth edition, it is a standard textbook for horticulture students. In addition, he has written numerous articles for horticultural publications and has amassed an extensive archive of plant photographs, many of which have been published in books, magazines, catalogs, and on plant tags.

For the last 27 years, Still has been the executive director of the Perennial Plant Association, a 1,400-member international organization for horticulturists, plant growers, researchers, and gardeners interested in propagating, growing, and promoting the use of perennial plants. One of five founding members of the PPA, Still edits the organization's quarterly journal and coordinates its annual symposium and trade show. He has also served in top leadership positions with many other national and regional organizations, including the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association, the Garden Writers Association, and the American Horticultural Society.

Still has received numerous awards, including the L.C. Chadwick Teaching Award from the American Nursery & Landscape Association in 2004 and the Garden Club of America's Medal of Honor in 2008. In 2007, the Steven M. Still Garden in the Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Garden was dedicated to Still. (To read an interview with Still, turn to page 42.)

H. MARC CATHEY AWARD

Recognizes outstanding scientific research that has enriched the field of horticulture.

A research geneticist at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS),



Robert J. Griesbach earned a doctorate in genetics from Michigan State University in 1980. The following year, he joined the Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit within the USDA-ARS. While conducting

research in the genetics of floral plants, Griesbach helped to create new floral crops, develop new genetic engineering technologies, and determine the genetic basis of floral and vegetative leaf colors.

Griesbach has published more than 130 articles. He served as the chair of the American Orchid Society's Research Committee for more than 10 years and is a past president. In 2006, he was named a Fellow by the American Society for Horticultural Science.

PAUL ECKE JR. COMMERCIAL AWARD

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

The late Thomas D. Hoerr Sr. was president of Green View Companies, founded



in Peoria, Illinois, in 1955. Green View Companies includes landscape contracting, growing-retail centers, and a landscape design and architectural firm that serves central and northern Illinois. Hoerr's vision of high-quality plants and products, innovative design, and overall excellence fostered the success of Green View Companies.

Hoerr served on the board of directors for Excellence in Creative Garden Concepts, the Illinois Nurserymen's Association, and Peoria City Beautiful. He also supported many community causes.

Following Hoerr's death in 2009, Green View continues to be operated by Hoerr's wife, Jeanette, and their children.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD

Given to an individual whose work has demonstrated and promoted the value of sound horticultural practices in the field of landscape architecture.

A landscape architect based in Bar Harbor, Maine, Bruce John Riddell is principal of



his one-person firm, LandArt. Riddell received a masters of landscape architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1986.

After graduation, Riddell worked with James van Sweden and

Wolfgang Oehme in Washington, D.C., where he participated in the design of several major public projects, including the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington and Battery Park in New York City.

Riddell's primary focus is on the design of intimate residential gardens, but he has designed three public gardens in Maine—Southwest Harbor Veteran's Park, Charlotte Rhoades Park, and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Riddell's designs typically combine native and naturalized plantings with site-specific handmade elements such as fountains and stonework.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes a past Board member or friend of the American Horticultural Society for outstanding service in support of the Society's goals, mission, and activities.

A retired registered nurse and longtime resident of Alexandria, Virginia, Betty



Smalley has dedicated more than 4,000 hours of volunteer time to the American Horticultural Society over the last 20 years at its River Farm headquarters.

In addition to helping with outdoor activities such as weeding and planting, Smalley has been an important participant in the AHS Annual Seed Exchange program, filling orders from members in the winter months. She also regularly assists at other events held at River Farm and has been a friend and mentor to countless other volunteers over the years.

B. Y. MORRISON COMMUNICATION AWARD

Recognizes effective and inspirational communication—through print, radio, television, and/or online media—that advances public interest and participation in horticulture.

An author, photographer, and a recognized authority on North American native



plants, William Cullina is director of horticulture and plant curator at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (CMBG) in Boothbay, Maine.

Cullina has written and contributed photographs to five highly

regarded books: *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada* (2000), *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (2002), *Understanding Orchids* (2004), *Native Ferns, Moss, & Grasses* (2008), and most recently, *Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite* (2009). Three of his books have received annual book awards from the American Horticultural Society. He is a sought-after speaker and contributes articles and photographs to many gardening publications.

Prior to moving to CMBG, Cullina worked at the New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, Massachusetts, from 1995 to 2006.

FRANCES JONES POETKER AWARD

Recognizes significant contributions to floral design in publications, on the platform, and to the public.

Jane Godshalk is a member of the faculty of Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square,



Pennsylvania, where she teaches floral design. She also lectures and teaches across the country.

Godshalk is an artistic judge for the Garden Club of America (GCA) and her floral designs have been featured in books and magazines, including a column on "Eco-Friendly Floral Design" for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's *Green Scene* magazine.

Among her numerous awards is the GCA Bonnyln Martin Medal for “consistently innovative floral design.” She is active in the American Institute of Floral Designers and the World Association of Flower Arrangers.

PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Given to a public garden administrator whose achievements during the course of his or her career have cultivated widespread interest in horticulture.

Eric Tschanz has been president and executive director of Powell Gardens in Kingsville, Missouri, since 1988. During that time, he has implemented the first three phases of the Gardens’ master plan. He recently completed a more than \$9-million development campaign and oversaw the construction of the new Heartland Harvest Garden—the largest edible landscape in the country.



Tschanz earned a master’s degree in Botanic Garden Management through the University of Delaware’s Longwood Graduate Program. In 1982, he became the first director of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens in Texas.

Since 1985, Tschanz has been an active member of the American Public Gardens Association, for which he has served as vice president and then president.

CATHERINE H. SWEENEY AWARD

Recognizes extraordinary and dedicated philanthropic support of the field of horticulture.

In 2006, brothers William, Daniel, and Albert Nicholas made a lead gift of \$2,150,000 to the Rockford Park District in Illinois for a centerpiece project to cel-



brate the District’s 100th anniversary in 2009. The gift is being used to create the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens in Sinnissippi Park. When it is completed in spring 2011, the conservatory will become the third largest in Illinois.

The Nicholas brothers, who grew up in Rockford in the 1940s and 1950s, elected to support the district as a way to honor their parents, William and Ruby Nicholas. The donation ties in with their ongoing efforts to champion the benefits of plants and quality of life issues.

JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD

Given to an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturists through efforts in children’s and youth gardening.

Growin’ Gardeners is a hands-on, interactive program that inspires and nurtures



young horticulturists and their families. The program is the centerpiece of the Dow Gardens Children’s Garden in Midland, Michigan.

Through the program, families are assigned a four-by-four-foot plot where they can choose, plant, and grow their own vegetables. With the aid of weekly lessons and a workbook, they learn the basics of gardening and the use of gardening tools.

Growin’ Gardeners, which began in 2003 with 10 garden plots and 34 participants, has grown under the leadership of horticulturist Melissa Butkiewicz to include 84 garden plots and 270 participants.

Nominations for 2011

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the 2011 Great American Gardeners Awards, please visit our website (www.ahs.org) and click on “Awards” for more information.

TEACHING AWARD

Given to an individual whose ability to share his or her horticultural knowledge with others has contributed to a better public understanding of the plant world and its important influence on society.

An instructor and acting coordinator of the horticulture program at Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) in Waterbury, Connecticut, Robert Herman has more than 30 years of experience in both horticulture and education.



Prior to NVCC, Herman worked at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, where he started the Master Gardener Program, trained volunteers, coordinated the adult education program, and was responsible for all interpretive signage.

Earlier in his career, while working at a perennial plant nursery in Germany, Herman trained German apprentice horticulturists and created an internship program for Americans.

In 2009, Herman received a national award for Teaching Excellence from the University of Texas.

URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Given to an individual, institution, or company for significant contributions to urban horticulture and the beautification of American cities.

An all-volunteer community organization formed in 2004 in Roslindale, a neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts, Roslindale Green & Clean (RG&C) was created by a group of residents whose goal was to create green and attractive oases within the town’s urban environment.

With the help of the City of Boston and other neighborhood groups, six projects have been completed so far. Through special events like the Green Garden Exchange—an educational program that offers participants practical information on plant selection and gardening techniques—and a planned 2010 garden tour, RG&C continues to bolster community interest and participation.



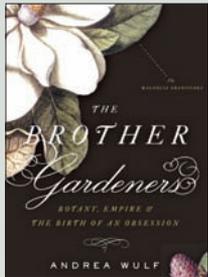
2010 AHS Book Award Winners

Each year, the American Horticultural Society recognizes 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, and physical quality. This year's four recipients, selected from books published in 2009, are listed below.

The 2010 Book Award Committee was chaired by **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. Other committee members were **Scott Calhoun**, a garden designer and author based in Tucson, Arizona; **Jane Glasby**, associate librarian for the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture in San Francisco, California; **Doug Green**, a garden writer and online media entrepreneur based in Stella, Ontario; **Doreen Howard** of Roscoe, Illinois, a former garden editor for *Woman's Day* who writes for various garden publications; **Irene Virag**, a Pulitzer-Prize-winning writer for *Newsday* who lives in Fort Salonga, New York; and **William Welch**, a professor and Extension specialist at Texas A&M University and author of several garden books.

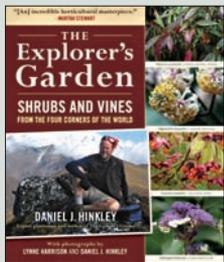
The Brother Gardeners by *Andrea Wulf*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York.

"With a well-written and compelling narrative, Andrea Wulf sheds light on a band of 18th century plant-lovers—English and American—who changed the world of gardening," says Irene Virag. "This book is an important contribution to our horticultural heritage," notes William Welch. "Lest you fear the book is set in staid drawing rooms filled with rattling tea cups and powdered wigs, the text is peppered with tales of English playboys on high seas plant adventures, Tahitian orgies, and glimpses into Benjamin Franklin's passion for horticulture," says Scott Calhoun.



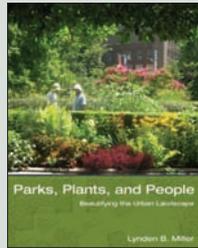
The Explorer's Garden by *Daniel J. Hinkley*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.

"This book is a wonderful education in the form of a book," says Marty Ross. "It offers an opportunity to learn about rare and interesting plants, see them beautifully photographed, and read the fascinating stories about collecting them," says William Welch. "I particularly liked the propagation and hardiness comments Hinkley provided with each plant, and I wound up with a way-too-large must-grow list after reading it," says Doug Green.



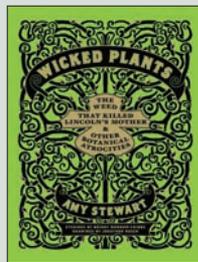
Parks, Plants, and People by *Lynden B. Miller*. W. W. Norton & Company, New York, New York.

"In an age where public and common spaces are threatened by underfunding and privatization, Lynden Miller makes a clear case for their continued importance in our lives," says Jane Glasby. "Though this intriguing narrative about the demise and restoration of some of America's best-known urban parks and gardens is New York-centered, the general principles apply anywhere," says Scott Calhoun. "The author offers a lot of great design and planting observations that worked in these public projects, but also would be beautiful in home gardens," says Marty Ross.



Wicked Plants by *Amy Stewart*. Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

"I love Stewart's criteria for inclusion of a plant in this book.....a body count! The histories of various "perps" are entertaining, educational, and spell-binding," notes Doreen Howard. "The book contains stories well told, and I love the illustrations, which are appropriately macabre," says Jane Glasby. "Stewart has uncovered a treasure trove of great plant stories, and relates them with a sense of humor," says Irene Virag.



Citation of Special Merit

The AHS Book Award is given to publishers for a single book published in a specific year. However, this year a Citation of Special Merit is being awarded in recognition of a regularly revised reference that has made significant contributions to horticultural literature over time.

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by *Michael Dirr*. Stipes Publishing L. L. C., Champaign, Illinois.

First published in 1975, this volume has become an essential reference for horticulture students, professionals, and home gardeners. The most recent 6th edition (2009) covers more than 2,000 taxa of trees and shrubs. "Dirr's updated edition, the culmination of a life's work of observations and experience, is a delight," says Marty Ross. "His book is a friendly, opinionated masterwork, and a reference I couldn't do without."