

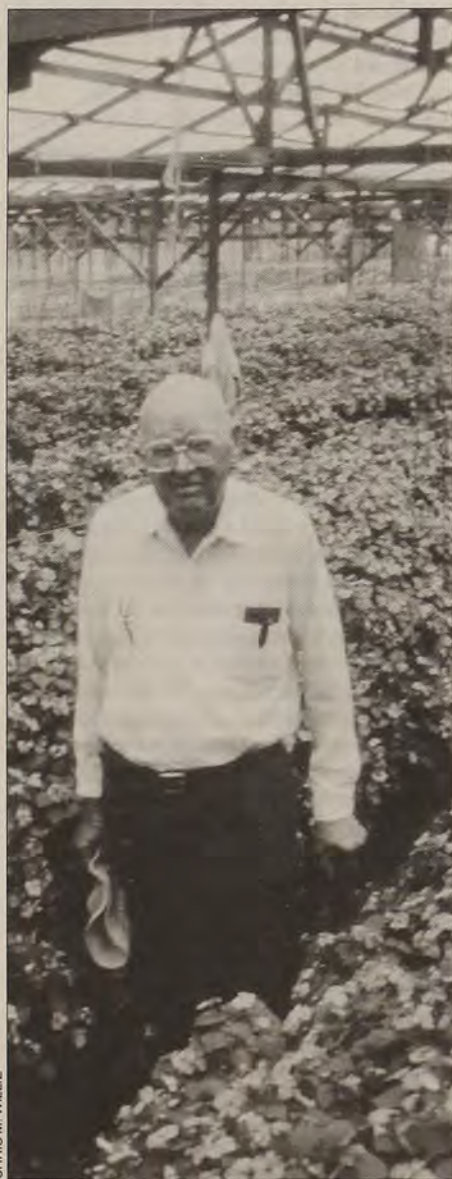
American Horticulturist

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News Edition

Horticulturus Maximus!

*Come meet the illustrious winners of the 1992 AHS Awards
during our 47th Annual Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, October 15-17.*



Claude Hope

Liberty Hyde Bailey Award

"A modern-day horticultural philosopher-king" is how writer Allen Lacy described him, comparing his Costa Rican flower-seed plantation favorably with Plato's *Republic*. The employees of his flower-seed farm call him "El Capitan" in tribute to his World War II military service. Acknowledged by his peers to be a pioneer and undisputed master in the field of hybridized flower-seed production, Claude Hope took an obscure wildflower called impatiens and conquered the American flower market. This year Hope receives the American Horticultural Society's highest honor, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, recognizing paramount horticultural excellence in three or more categories: teaching, research, writing, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

Born on a small dairy farm near Sweetwater, Texas, in 1907, Hope graduated with Texas Tech's first four-year class in 1929. He was one of only three students to enroll in an ornamental horticulture program and considered himself slightly eccentric for his dream of one day founding his own seed business. He spent several years as a junior horticulturist at a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) field station in Sacaton, Arizona, before beginning a graduate program at Michigan State University. When he had completed course work for a master's degree, he again left academia to work for the USDA, this time at the Division of Plant Exploration in Glenn Dale, Maryland.

In 1941 Hope was inducted into the U.S. Army, where, luckily, he was able to use his horticultural talents. He was given orders to care for *Cinchona ledgerana* seeds, a plant source of an

essential ingredient in quinine, the antimalarial medicine so desperately needed in the Pacific theater of the war. The germinated seedlings were transplanted to a site in Costa Rica where Hope later found the plants devastated by a phytophthora blight.

But in the Meseta Central of Costa Rica, Hope recognized a horticultural heaven, ideal for growing ornamental annuals. Because of the proximity to the equator, this rainy, fertile region varies little in temperature or day length. In 1946, in partnership with an old friend and classmate, Charles Weddle, Hope founded the PanAmerican Seed Company and by 1950 had established Linda Vista ("pretty view"), a flower-seed plantation that has become legendary in the stock seed industry.

Hope began large-scale production of hybridized flower seed at perhaps the most propitious time in U.S. history: during the postwar population explosion and suburban housing boom that generated a vast, largely untapped market of homeowners looking for attractive, ready-made flowers. PanAmerican Seed

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The American Horticultural Society seeks to promote and recognize excellence in horticulture across America.

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Company had its first great success with a red petunia hybrid, 'Comanche'. But Hope had his eye on a personal favorite, an African flower, *Impatiens wallerana*, which had widely naturalized in Costa Rica. Now impatiens are more widely planted than petunias.

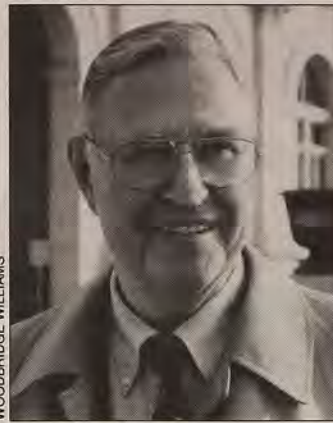
To the people of central Costa Rica, Hope is a benefactor. His farm employs more than 1,700 people from the nearby town of Dulce Nombre and the surrounding countryside, creating a flower-strewn haven of prosperity in a poor region.

G. B. Gunlogson Award

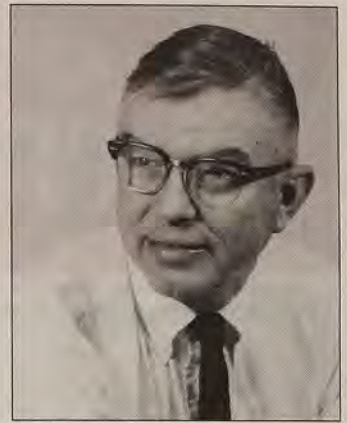
When staff and visitors at AHS's River Farm headquarters look across the Potomac River at the densely wooded swathe of Maryland on the opposite side, they see land that has changed little since George Washington owned 15,000 acres on the Virginia shore. Frederick Gutheim saw that the way to save the land was to bring it under the protective umbrella of government ownership and public usefulness. His ideas resulted in the creation of the Accokeek Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving land for educational and environmental purposes. Established in Maryland in 1957, the Accokeek Foundation administers the Piscataway National Park and the National Colonial Farm, an agricultural history museum that was the prototype for hundreds of similar historic farms throughout the country.

Gutheim's seminal groundwork in historic preservation and urban planning has transformed the way environmentally conscious Americans perceive and interact with the landscape. Landscape architects and garden designers can look to his writings on architecture and regional environmental history to define a context for their creations. Heirloom gardening, agricultural museums, and all manner of historic revivalism, horticultural or otherwise, have their genesis with visionaries like Gutheim, who foresaw a future that would have much need of a past.

Gutheim was educated at the universities of Wisconsin and Chicago, then began two careers: working for federal government agencies on urban development problems and writing on architecture and urban planning for the *Magazine of Art*, the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *Washington Post*, and many architectural and professional journals.



Frederick Gutheim



William Flemer III

As a young man he held brief apprenticeships under Lewis Mumford and Frank Lloyd Wright. His book, *The Potomac*, published in 1949, is regarded as a classic of regional history. In 1964 he served on the President's Task Force on Natural Beauty, and he was instrumental in the creation of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. Gutheim received Maryland's Calvert Prize for preservation in 1974. He helped found Sugarloaf Regional Trails, a nonprofit organization formed to preserve the cultural and scenic landscape of rural Montgomery County, Maryland, against the encroaching metropolitan sprawl of Washington, D.C.; in 1984 Sugarloaf Regional Trails received an honor award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Catherine H. Sweeney Award

If you work or live on a property that has been professionally landscaped, there's a good chance that you routinely enjoy the shade of a tree developed and patented by William Flemer III. A third-generation nurseryman and long-time president of Princeton Nurseries of New Jersey, Flemer has had a broad influence on American horticulture, most notably in plant propagation and genetics, and breeding woody landscape plants. His patented cultivars of maples, locusts, crabapples, and cherries—to name only a few—are among the most popular in use today. He will receive AHS's Catherine H. Sweeney Award, given annually to recognize extraordinary and dedicated efforts in the field of horticulture.

Flemer graduated cum laude from Yale University in 1947 with a master of science in botany and is a past president of the American Association of Nurserymen, the Eastern Nurserymen's Association, and the International Plant Propagators' Society. Currently he is the director of the National Association of Plant Patent Owners and a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. He serves as a consultant to the White House Grounds Committee and on the advisory boards of



James R. Morley



Herman R. Wallitsch



G. Ramsey Yoder



Ralph L. Snodsmith

the U.S. National Arboretum and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. He has written four books, two of which—*Shade and Ornamental Trees in Color* and *Nature's Guide to Successful Gardening and Landscaping*—were published in the same year (1965), with the latter now in its second edition. He was co-author of *Ornamental Shrubs in Hardy and Temperate Climates*. His most recent publication was a guide to careers in the nursery industry.

Flemer will add the Sweeney award to a long list of laurels that includes the Thomas Roland Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and Wayside Gardens' Gold Medal of Honor, two of gardening's highest honors.

The Frances Jones Poetker Award

One never fully appreciates the complexities of floral design until given a bunch of cut flowers to arrange. Achievements in this field involve the knowledge of color, design, space, and the unique requirements of each plant species. Recognized for almost 35 years as a peerless floral artist, James R. Morley has earned a reputation as a man of many hats: designer, speaker, educator, editor; he has also acted as commentator to floral conventions ranging from the local to the international. Among other achievements, he has created floral designs that adorned presidential trains and the White House sitting room during the administrations of Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and Nixon. The Frances Jones Poetker Award is presented to someone who, through media and public presentations, has heightened appreciation of creative floral design.

When he was a child, Jim Morley's grandmother gave him his first flower, an iris, and thereby sparked "a life-long interest in all things floral." At the time she probably didn't suspect that she was instilling an interest passionate enough to lead her grandson to "appropriate" flowers from church bouquets to use in his own arrangements.

After studying floriculture at Michigan State University, he returned to his native St. Louis and for 21 years represented half of a thriving floral business, Bozzay-Morley Florists. In 1981 he moved to American Floral Services, Inc. (AFS), a floral wire service headquartered in Oklahoma City. He is currently vice president of educational services and editor-in-chief of *The Professional Floral Designer*, AFS's popular, all-design magazine. He has taught classes at the AFS education center, compiled a film library on floral topics, and supervised the production of many AFS publications, including such books as *Flowers Say It Best*, *Flowers for Your Wedding* and *Tributes: Flowers to Express Sympathy*. Last year he was honored with the prestigious Award of Distinguished Service to the Floral Industry, given by the American Institute of Floral Designers. Jim Morley truly knows how to "say it with flowers"!

Commercial Award (Individual)

When Herman R. Wallitsch settled near Louisville, Kentucky, following World War II, he brought with him a wealth of horticultural experience as well as a willingness to test the latest innovations of the trade. Having immigrated to America at the age of four, Wallitsch got his first dose of plant lore from his father, who had worked as a forester in the Black Forest of their native Germany. On arriving in America, the Wallitsch family made its new home in Rhode Island, and while still in his teens, Herman Wallitsch began his career as a gardener on some of nearby Massachusetts' most opulent estates. There he learned garden design as practiced by the landscape architects who laid out the manorial grounds.

At the outbreak of World War II Wallitsch was sent to Fort Knox where he fell in love with both the Kentucky countryside and his future wife, Mary Bowling. After the war the Wallitsches began their own nursery business. His New England gardening experience bolstered his reputation as a virtuoso

plantsman. His forward-looking curiosity led him to pioneer such new techniques and innovations as the plastic greenhouse, which had been little used in that part of the country. He has tirelessly advocated the introduction of better varieties of perennials and annuals into his home region and has acted as a trial grower for Ball and Park seed companies. A past president of the Kentucky Nurserymen's Association, Wallitsch has in recent years developed a passion for historic gardens and has helped maintain the period authenticity of Locust Grove and Farmington Historic Gardens in Louisville. Five years ago, the National Society of Colonial Dames sought out Wallitsch to oversee the restoration of two of Kentucky's oldest gardens, the Orlando Brown House and Liberty Hall in Frankfort.

Commercial Award (Institution)

Founded in Barberton, Ohio, in 1921, Yoder Brothers, Inc. began as a small, family-run business. Now a leading producer of stock plants for the floriculture industry, Yoder Brothers, Inc., has subsidiaries and production facilities in Canada, England, Germany, and Kenya.

Yoder specializes in supplying commercial greenhouses with vegetatively propagated cuttings. The company, especially well-known for its line of exquisite chrysanthemums, also grows roses, poinsettias, carnations, azaleas, dahlias, and lilies.

The company emphasizes research and development, using the latest technology to turn out quality plants, stopping short only of genetic engineering and the indeterminate impact of tinkering with nature's designs.

Since 1977 Yoder Brothers, Inc., has been headed by the son of one of its founding fathers. G. Ramsey Yoder has worked in the company for more than 30 years, starting out as a mum propagator in 1955. In 1959 he moved west to develop the Salinas, California, facility and remained there for ten years before returning to Barberton to become vice



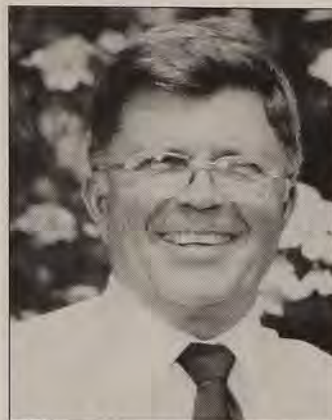
Roger B. Swain



Richard J. Hutton



Nancy C. Stevenson



Elwin R. Orton Jr.

president of marketing and sales. In 1977 he became president and chief executive officer; he now serves as chairman and CEO. Under his leadership Yoder Brothers, Inc. has expanded and thrived, and Yoder mums and other flowers are shipped throughout the world.

Communication Award

Ralph L. Snodsmith could be described as a hybrid: a lifetime gardener with a sound academic background who also happens to be a prominent media personality, disseminating his horticultural expertise to millions over the airwaves and in print. He is the gardening editor of ABC's "Good Morning America" and the host of "The Garden Hotline" on the ABC Radio Network. But he hasn't confined his work to broadcasting. A former executive director of the Queens Botanical Garden, he also has written a best-selling book, *Tips From the Garden Hotline*, produces an annual garden planner, and frequently lectures at the New York Botanical Garden. Add to this the distinction of having written the garden section for one of the *Encyclopedia Americana's* yearbooks. Small wonder that Snodsmith has won this year's Horticultural Communication Award.

Snodsmith entered the gardening workforce at the precocious age of nine, when he took a summer job on a 32-acre estate near his hometown of Mount Vernon, Illinois. After receiving his bachelor and master of science degrees in floriculture and ornamental horticulture from the University of Illinois, he launched "The Garden Hotline," now a popular syndicated gardening program, on WRKL radio in New York in 1966.

This past August he led a European tour that included a visit to Holland's Floriade, a world horticultural exhibition held once every 10 years. Among previous awards were the 1989 Garden Communicator's Award from the American Association of Nurserymen and the New York Botanical Garden's Distinguished Service Award in 1985.

Horticultural Writing Award

In his introduction to *The Practical Gardener*, Roger B. Swain writes that "among gardeners, enthusiasm and experience rarely exist in equal measures." Swain, however, belies his own generalization. Indeed, his entire gardening career has demonstrated just that balance.

With his wire-rimmed glasses, bountiful ginger beard, and trademark red suspenders, he is recognizable to millions as one of the hosts of PBS's "Victory Garden" series. But it is in his written prose that his voice comes to full fruition. For his impressive, growing corpus of nature and garden writings, Swain will receive AHS's Horticultural Writing Award.

A native of Massachusetts, Swain earned his Ph.D. in biology at Harvard University and in 1978 took a job as science editor of *Horticulture*, publishing many articles in that and other national magazines. He has published four books, the most recent of which is *Saving Graces: Sojourns of a Backyard Biologist*. Prior to that, *The Practical Gardener: A Guide to Breaking New Ground* instantly became a sine qua non for every gardening bookshelf. His other books are *Earthly Pleasures: Tales From a Biologist's Garden* and *Field Days: Notes of an Itinerant Biologist*.

Swain's prose style is avuncular, masterfully spare, and full of a warm wisdom. An affable guide, he can pleasantly shock us with a penetrating insight, such as this commonsensical reproof of nomenclatural haggling: "We can live with the loss of a variety's name, as long as we save the variety itself." Of the beautifully photographed vistas presented by seed catalogs, he observes: "'Scenes of Utopia' would be a more precise term," noting that all flowers blossom and vegetables ripen at once in the grandiose panoply of their unlikely pages. To armchair gardeners, he offers a thoughtful admonition that should be appreciated by all: "Gardening is one-hundred-percent enjoyable in anticipation. If it sometimes is only fifty-

percent enjoyable in the execution, it invariably becomes two-hundred-percent enjoyable in retrospect. You are missing out on half of your due if you content yourself with dreaming of imaginary bouquets and future harvests. The best advice that I have to give is to get out there and dig."

Meritorious Service Award

We have few leaders who help bridge segments of American horticulture by bringing their skills in gardening, business, and volunteerism to the national scene. The 1992 Meritorious Service Award, given for service to AHS, is presented to Richard J. Hutton, a well-known figure in the horticultural world, renowned for his mastery of roses. Chairman of the Conard-Pyle Company, a wholesale nursery in West Grove, Pennsylvania, he is a staunch proponent of new and better varieties of roses, as well as other flowers and shrubs. From thousands of plants considered and trialed each year, he consistently winnows out a handful of choice and proven performers. He has helped to popularize many new rose cultivars, including 'Mr. Lincoln', now widely thought to be the best red garden rose available. For his lifetime achievements in the field of ornamental horticulture, Hutton received Wayside Gardens' Gold Medal of Honor in 1991.

While he has meritoriously served the entire gardening industry, Hutton has been an especially good friend to AHS. First elected to its Board of Directors in 1978, he later became a Vice President (1984-1986) and Treasurer (1986-1991). As Chairman of the AHS Travel Committee from 1987 to 1990, he was simultaneously able to indulge his great love of traveling and to enlighten Society members by orchestrating and leading study tours to such destinations as France, Holland, New Zealand, and China.

Hutton modestly points out that his relationship with AHS has been mutually beneficial. "Through AHS," he writes, "I have developed a much greater

appreciation of garden and landscape design, appropriate use of plants, and the enthusiasm for new kinds of plants from abelia to zelkova." AHS is richer for his intensely active participation in the Society and his unflagging support of its goals, services, and activities.

Horticultural Therapy Award

Where does a "people" person with a green thumb and a master's degree in human services find work? In horticultural therapy, of course.

Nancy C. Stevenson first combined her predisposition for helping others with a knack for gardening in the late 1970s, when, as a volunteer, she conducted an indoor gardening program at Cuyahoga Hills Boys School. A registered horticultural therapist, since 1981 she has held the post of horticultural therapy coordinator at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. There she has built a model program that reaches out to the elderly and disabled both at the center and in the community. In a young profession that is still unfamiliar to many, she has quickly achieved stature among her peers.

Beyond her dedicated hands-on endeavors, she has been a one-woman crusade for horticultural therapy, promulgating its message with missionary zeal. She has worked with community agencies in developing their own horticultural therapy programs and increased public knowledge of horticultural therapy by writing articles for the *Garden Center Bulletin*, published by the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, and the journal of the Western Reserve Herb Society. Through conferences, workshops, presentations, and one-on-one tutelage, she has helped to educate thousands of professionals and volunteers in the field. From 1989 until the present, she has been president of the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA), extending her stay a year to lead the organization through difficult personnel changes. As Steven Davis, executive director of the AHTA, writes in his nominating letter, "she has been intimately involved in the shaping of the profession and the AHTA itself."

Scientific Award

We estimate that Earth has 10 million species of plants and animals. Unless we change what we are doing, we may lose up to 20 percent of this diversity by the year 2020. We do have a success story, however, for the American dogwood (*Cornus florida*), a prized native tree slowly being wiped out from the shaded, cool edges of forests by leaf-killing anthracnose. That's why gardeners responded enthusiastically when Dr. Elwin R. Orton Jr. of Rutgers University introduced six first-ever hybrids of *C. florida* and the Asiatic

National Achievement Award

The name "Ecke" means poinsettia. Forget that Joel Poinsett, the eponymous father of the plant and the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, discovered the flower south of the border in 1825. It was the Ecke family that made the poinsettia the world's most popular potted plant and an omnipresent yuletide ornament.

Having emigrated from Magdeburg, Germany, to southern California in 1902, Albert Ecke sold vegetables, fruit trees, and landscaping plants. His son Paul sold poinsettias from a stand on Hollywood's legendary Sunset Boulevard. At that time the rather fragile but striking, large shrubs with bright red bracts were a familiar sight on the West Coast but rare elsewhere.

When Albert died in 1919, Paul began looking for a sanctuary from the burgeoning development of Los Angeles. In Encinitas, near San Diego, he bought 40 acres that were a grower's dream come true: fertile, frost-free, and near water sources and railroads. In 1923 he came across a variety of poinsettia called 'Oak Leaf' and from it began developing a host of sports that would provide the genetic foundation for nearly every commercially significant poinsettia found today.

Paul Ecke and wife Magdelana and son Paul Jr. made corporate philanthropy a family tradition. Their charity often took the form of large land grants: 21 acres to the local YMCA; 35 acres for the creation of the Magdalena Ecke Gardens, a 36-acre donation to the state's parks department that has been crucial in preserving California shoreline. When Paul Sr. died in 1991 at the age of 96, memorial gifts were made to Casa de la Esperanza or "House of Hope," a Tijuana orphanage that had been Magdalena's dearest project. For extraordinary achievement in national horticulture and beautifying America in a way that goes beyond merely producing plants, the Ecke family will receive the AHS National Achievement Award.

Son and grandson, Paul Jr. and Paul III, have continued to transform Ecke Poinsettias. Chairman Paul Ecke Jr. oversees all operations at the Ecke Ranch, including propagation, hybridization, sales, and service. He was largely responsible for shifting the growing of poinsettias from fields into greenhouses. He has also assembled an expert research staff that has improved poinsettias through such developments as extending color peak and increasing the sturdiness of the stems.

Bringing the experience of a three-year stint at Hewlett-Packard with him, Paul Ecke III has helped Ecke Poinsettias adapt to the computer age. His first major task was to install an automated order entry system. Since taking over as the company's chief executive officer in March 1991, he has journeyed to Denmark to establish a poinsettia nursery there.



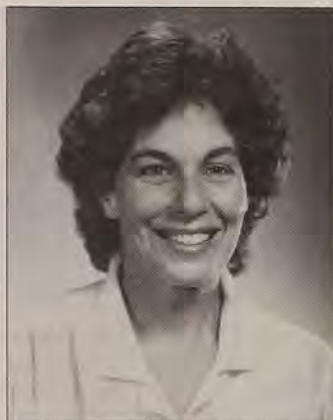
Paul Ecke III, the late Paul Ecke, and Paul Ecke Jr.



Jane G. Pepper



August De Hertogh



Nina L. Bassuk

dogwood, *C. kousa*, crosses resistant to the virulent anthracnose. After 25 years of research, he has introduced one pink and five white "Stellar" cultivars, with names such as 'Aurora' and 'Constellation'. Orton will receive the AHS Scientific Award, which honors an individual who has enriched horticulture by dint of outstanding research.

Orton has also contributed pioneering developments in the field of plant propagation. One notable contribution came as a response to the high losses that were being suffered by shade and street trees when propagated through budding. By using single-node stem cuttings to reproduce some maple cultivars, he showed growers how to avert catastrophe from graft incompatibility.

This is Orton's career in a nutshell: identify the problem, solve the problem—with a few years of hard work and painstaking research in between. Since 1960 he has applied this formula for success as a research professor in the department of horticulture at Rutgers University. During this time Orton has introduced no fewer than 26 improved cultivars of plants important to the nursery industry and the home garden, and by doing so, he has come to be recognized as one of the world's most prominent breeders of woody landscape plants.

Professional Award

Administrator, community activist, fundraiser, organizer, columnist, speaker—the many talents of Jane G. Pepper add up to make her one of the strongest leaders in the national horticultural community. First as executive director, then as president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, she has served beyond the call of duty for the past eleven years. She is the recipient of this year's Professional Award, bestowed yearly to recognize the superlative performance of a director of a botanical garden or horticultural organization.

During her tenure with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, she has seen

its staff double, its annual budget quintuple, and membership rise to an all-time high. Not the least of her accomplishments is supervision of the internationally prominent Philadelphia Flower Show, sponsored by the society and considered to be the nation's premier indoor floral exhibition. Covering six acres at the Philadelphia Civic Center, it draws a quarter of a million visitors each year as well as horticultural exhibitors from around the globe. Pepper has also written a widely read, weekly gardening column for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for more than a decade.

Pepper's professionalism is contagious and infects everyone near her—like the hundreds of devoted volunteers who are the true heart of the society and the annual flower show—with her enthusiasm and determination. She evokes dedication and admiration from her staff. Under her leadership, Philadelphia Green, a community greening and gardening program, inspires and educates increasing numbers of community gardeners. In his ebullient letter nominating her for this award, Donald Felley, chair of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, described Pepper as "a point of light in the lives of Philadelphians and beyond."

Teaching Award

When it comes to bulbs, August De Hertogh has taught even the Dutch a thing or two. Teacher and researcher extraordinaire, De Hertogh is a world-class authority on flower bulb crops. A professor of horticultural science at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, he has conducted intensive research on

the physiology of ornamental bulbous and tuberous plants, and within this concentration he has further focused his studies on plant growth regulators and environmental control of flowering, information vital to growers.

De Hertogh was educated at North Carolina State University (NCSU) and Oregon State University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1963. He has held teaching positions at Michigan State University from 1965 to 1978 and at NCSU from 1978 until the present. From 1978 to

1988 he was head of the department of horticulture at NCSU.

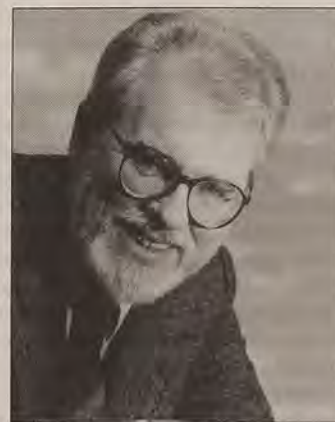
Through his work he has become a sort of international horticultural liaison. He made three lengthy study sabbaticals to the Netherlands, in 1972, 1984, and 1992. Many of his books and articles have been published in the Netherlands as well as the United States. The Dutch have awarded him some of their highest horticultural distinctions, including a Medal of Honor from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1985 and the Golden Pin Award from the Dutch Bulb Exporters Association in 1990. In 1988 he had the rare pleasure of having the 'Professor De Hertogh' hyacinth named in his honor by C. J. Ruigrok and Sons of De Zilk, the Netherlands.

Landscape Design Award

Oehme, van Sweden and Associates are in the vanguard of landscape architects who have cast off the constricting influence of English garden design to create distinctly American gardens. In counterpoint to that rigid, rectilinear formalism, the gardens of Wolfgang Oehme and James A. van Sweden are inspired by a natural, untamed spontaneity. Their work often employs the American meadow as a motif, expressing nature's energy with long ornamental grasses waving and



Wolfgang Oehme



James A. van Sweden

rippling in the wind.

Plantings grow unrestrained, without staking, pruning, or pesticides, and are cut back only at the beginning of the growing season. Gardens are planted with attention to how they will look year-round, in the sterile bleakness of winter as much as in the vibrant lushness of summer. Their gardens harmonize with the natural environment and emphasize the architectural uniqueness of surrounding buildings. Revolutionary leaders of the "new American garden style," Oehme and van Sweden will receive AHS's Landscape Design Award.

Wolfgang Oehme received his education and began his career in Germany during the 1950s. He came to the United States in 1957 and designed golf courses, parks, and playgrounds in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1977 he formed a partnership with James van Sweden and became chairman of the firm. The primary horticulturist, Oehme is always searching for new herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses to add to his palette, such as the *Senecio doria* (groundsel) he saw at a German exhibition and spent four years obtaining for use here. The Perennial Plant Association gave Oehme its Distinguished Service Award in 1987.

James van Sweden, president of the firm, was educated at the University of Michigan and the University of Delft in the Netherlands. He was assistant town planner for Amsterdam from 1961 to 1963 and then returned to the United States, where he worked for many years in landscape architecture and urban design. He is known for his keen sense of the spatial demands and local context of each individual project. In 1987 he garnered one of gardening's most coveted awards, the Thomas Roland Gold Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Oehme and van Sweden have many prestigious designs to their credit, including North Park in New York City, the German-American Friendship Garden near the Washington Monument, the Virginia Avenue Gardens of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, and the prototypic New American Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum. In 1988, the partnership won the National Landscape Award of the American Association of Nurserymen for their work on Pennsylvania Avenue. Their book, *Bold, Romantic Gardens*, an introduction to their design philosophy, won two Awards of Excellence from the Garden Writers of America Association in 1991.

Urban Beautification (Individual)

Many city dwellers have gazed at the asphalt jungle outside their windows and wished for a patch of something green and growing. For them, a hint of vegetation means an inspiring sign of life and

hope. Excluding overrun public parks, the flora in our cities dwindles on the verge of nonexistence and the term "urban horticulture" seems to be a blatant oxymoron. Now, thanks to people like Dr. Nina L. Bassuk of Cornell University, that is beginning to change. An associate professor in the department of floriculture and ornamental horticulture, her most recent work has been aimed at putting some greenery back in the scenery. She will receive AHS's Urban Beautification Award in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments in that area.

Though she has conducted significant studies on such subjects as transplanting and plant propagation, her current research, lecturing, and writing reflect her

posts as program leader of Cornell's Urban Horticulture Institute and vice-chair of the International Society for Horticultural Science's Commission for Urban Horticulture. She has become particularly adept at identifying and offering solutions to physiological problems encountered by plants growing in urban environments, from soil compaction to salt contamination, from poor drainage to root restriction.

She has developed a systematic plan for successful urban planting that emphasizes three steps: a site assessment thoroughly analyzing such factors as soil composition, climate, and underground root barriers; site modification through improving

Continued on page 24



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Gardeners' Q&A

Q: *I have a difficult time keeping my small garden tools sharpened. Are there any sharpeners available that would simplify this process? Can you offer any advice on sharpening techniques?*

A. S., Laredo, Texas

A: Keeping small garden tools sharp is a common problem. Some garden supply stores offer sharpeners for specific tools, which can simplify this process. American Arborist offers a wide variety of stones and files for all of your gardening tools. You can contact them for a free catalog at: American Arborist, 882 South Matlack Street, West Chester, PA 19382, (800) 441-8381.

Smith & Hawken carries specialty sharpeners for many kinds of garden tools. Their free catalog can be obtained by writing or calling them at: Smith & Hawken, 25 Corte Madera, Mill Valley, CA 94941, (415) 383-8070.

These companies offer such tools as ceramic sharpening stones for hand pruners, sharpening kits for pruning saws, easily portable field whetstones for scythes, and carrying cases for sharpeners.

Aubrey Glass, the AHS groundskeeper, maintains sharp tools by using a vice and a black diamond "bastard" file. Among his tips for using such a file: Press hard and sharpen away from your body and the tool handle; do not drag the file back across the tool blade, which will dull it. Keep the file tilted at the same angle during the entire process.

Tools will last and remain sharp if you care for them properly. Never leave them outside after use. Always wipe off dirt and water before storing them. And lastly, an occasional oiling of the hinge point of shearing and pruning tools will enhance their performance.

—Amy Davis
AHS 1992 Summer Intern

Q: *I have heard that there is a product that will allow me to grow seedless tomatoes. Any information on this would be appreciated.*

G. W. D., Calistoga, California

A: There is a product on the market called Blossom Set that will allow you to grow seedless tomatoes. Blossom Set is a tomato bloom spray or fruit set initiator. The active chemical ingredient is para-chlorophenoxyacetic acid. It contains a hormone that will initiate fruit set through nonsexual fertilization. It should be sprayed on blossoms as soon as they are fully open. You will get totally

seedless tomatoes or, if bees have gotten to the flowers before they have been sprayed, a few small seeds. Tomatoes that have had this treatment may be smaller and less juicy than identical varieties that have not been sprayed.

This product is made by the Dragon Company, 7033 Walround Drive, Roanoke, VA 24019, (800) 533-2488. They can answer additional questions, but do not sell the product to consumers. To order Blossom Set by mail contact: Southern States, 100 Park Street, Vienna, VA 22180, (703) 938-6767. It also can be found in many garden centers and hardware stores.

—Rebecca LaPointe
AHS 1992 Summer Intern

Q: *What summer annuals can I try to propagate during the winter to have plants ready for next spring?*

A. K., Falls Church, Virginia

A: Scented geraniums, begonias, impatiens, coleus, fuschias, and ivies would be good annual plants to propagate.

For cuttings of these you will need a healthy plant, scissors or a sharp clean knife, a sterile rooting medium, rooting hormone (optional), a large plastic bag, a misting bottle, and a bottom heat source (the top of a refrigerator will do).

Cut off the top five inches of a stem from any of these plants. Remove all of the bottom leaves, leaving only two or three on the top. Dip the bottom in the rooting hormone (follow directions on the hormone package) and place the cuttings about two inches deep in a sterile, moist rooting medium of equal parts peat moss and sand or perlite. You will want to cover the container with a plastic bag to maintain a humid environment for the cuttings; several stakes two or three inches taller than the cuttings will keep the plastic from touching them. Open the bag about three times a week to provide air circulation; water when the rooting medium becomes dry to the touch on top. An alternative to using a plastic bag is misting the cuttings several times a day, but a plastic bag helps ensure that cuttings will not dry out.

Set the container on top of a refrigerator or other warm surface. Cuttings will need light, but not direct sunlight. You can purchase bottom-heating cables made for this purpose at most garden centers. They will supply a steady, warm soil temperature, especially helpful in winter when it is difficult to keep soil temperatures in the 70- to 75-degree range optimal for most cuttings.

After a month or two, tug gently on a cutting to see if roots have developed. If

New GIS Listings

Gardeners' Information Service has several new resource bulletins:

◆ *Xeriscaping Plant List for the Western United States; Xeriscaping Plant List for the Midwest United States; and Xeriscaping Plant List for the Eastern United States.* Each includes ornamental landscape plants that are drought- or low-water-tolerant.

◆ *Sources for Organic Pesticides and Biological Control.* This is an updated version.

◆ *Sources for Organic Fertilizers.*

◆ *Sources for Horticultural Videos.*

◆ *Sources for Computer Software Programs for Gardening and Landscape Design.*

◆ *Sources for Horticultural Scholarships.* A list of national and regional sources for financial scholarships and grants for horticulture students at colleges, universities, or technical schools.

Sources for Horticultural Scholarships is free with a SASE; other lists are 50 cents each plus a SASE. To order write GIS at the AHS address.

the plant does not slip out of the medium easily and appears to have a good root structure, it can be transplanted to a larger container. Water thoroughly after transplanting, then give plants a light feeding about once a month until they are transplanted into the garden in spring. If plants become too leggy, pinch them back as they grow, and/or provide full spectrum lighting over the cuttings.

To have bedding plants ready for next spring, you can begin taking cuttings from plants in your garden as early as September, or from potted plants brought indoors as late as February. For more information on rooting each type of plant, call the AHS Gardeners' Information Service at (800) 777-7931 Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

—R. L.

Amy Davis is a senior in the landscape architecture department at the University of California-Davis. Rebecca LaPointe is a sophomore majoring in horticulture at Utah State College.

Regional Notes

California Weed Controversy

In a movement towards what critics see as biological isolationism, native plant societies and conservation organizations have been drafting or supporting state and local legislation intended to protect and promote native plants. Often the sweeping language of the bills, if enacted, would radically affect agriculture, the nursery industry, and even home gardening.

The laws seek to prohibit the introduction of plant species deemed invasive or inimical to the native plants of a specific region. In spite of the good intentions of the drafters, however, the practical effect often results in the outlawing of important agricultural and horticultural crops; in a few cases, the proposed laws would even proscribe the very native plants they seek to protect. So far, nursery associations and other groups have usually succeeded in modifying the bills or in preventing their passage.

A bill now before the appropriations committee of the California state legislature originally named as "weeds" an extensive list of plants, including all Fabaceae—alternately known as Leguminosae—a family that consists of more than 600 genera and 12,000 species, among them peas, beans, vetch, clover, lupines, and acacias. The bill was introduced by State Rep. Robert Campbell (D.-Richmond) and supported by the California Native Plant Society.

Bob Burka, legislative vice president of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), says the naming of Fabaceae was an honest mistake that "never should have been committed to paper."

The California Association of Nurserymen (CAN) has backed a compromise bill, which according to legislative director Bob Falconer effectively "gutted the original," buffering its radical language and eliminating the listing format. Falconer believes that the bill's drafters intended to restrict only a handful of truly threatening plants and other hazardous plants that might appear in the future. He also thinks the original plant list might have been designed with "built-in bargaining room" to force concerned parties to the negotiating table.

The problem with this and similar proposals seems to be a linguistic one. Such bills tend to contain poor phrasing that, if followed to the letter, would far outstrip the authors' intent.

Falconer points out that a bill drafted to protect agriculture in the state would

have halted the production of important agricultural crops. It also bifurcated the listed plants into "exotic weeds," or permissible non-natives, and "noxious weeds," or threatening non-natives, terminology that further complicated the already difficult language of the legislation.

CNPS claims the bill was meant to protect native plants and their ecosystems from invasive non-natives. In many cases, these plants originate in commercial nurseries but metastasize in the wild and supplant natives. CNPS Executive Secretary Allen Barnes uses pampas grass as an example. Two species are widely used as ornamentals in California, but

only the invasive *Cortaderia jubata* was named on the initial bill, while *C. selloana* was left off. The pampas grass is a particularly noxious example, explains Barnes, because keen-edged, lacerating blades make it dangerous and difficult to remove.

The compromise legislation will elaborate on an existing Department of Food and Agriculture law that divides weeds into A, B, C, or D lists. Plants from the A list are prohibited statewide, while plants from the B, C, and D lists are banned from only selected counties and other geographic regions. The original bill sought to move many taxa from the B, C, and D lists onto the A list.

The Latest on Loosestrife

The Eurasian purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, is a plant that environmental groups point to when they argue for laws banning exotic plants.

All *Lythrum* species and cultivars are banned in Minnesota, where the plant has taken over wetlands, displacing both native plants and the animals for which they provided food and shelter.

The nursery industry has protested the ban, arguing that the cultivars are sterile and pose no danger of spreading. However, recent studies by two University of Minnesota horticultural scientists hint that the cultivars can cross with *L.*

salicaria, and could as a result evolve into even more invasive weeds.

Researchers Peter Ascher and Neil Anderson crossed 17 loosestrife cultivars with the species and found that they set as many or more seeds than the wild species and produced fertile offspring. If by chance a garden cultivar—usually crosses of the Eurasian *L. virgatum* and the American native winged loosestrife, *L. alatum*—were to cross with *L. salicaria*, the results could be plants that are as fertile as the purple loosestrife but able to grow in drier conditions, as the winged loosestrife does.

Regional Resources

J. C. Raulston, director of the North Carolina State University Arboretum and known for bringing new and unusual ornamentals to the attention of the nursery trade, has published a source list of 7,625 ornamental plants grown in his state. Since North Carolina has become a hotbed of innovative nurseries—Raulston notes that 6,481 of the plants listed are available from only one source, and 785 from only two sources—the list should be of interest to adventurous gardeners outside that area. *North Carolina Grown* is available for \$6 (Raulston notes that it would cost \$20 to buy all the catalogs represented) by writing to the NCSU Arboretum-Source Guide, Box 7609, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609.

For herb lovers in or near New York, a free guide to the state's "herbal

enterprises and public herb gardens" is available from the Empire Herb Trail, Box 640, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Send a large, self-addressed stamped envelope.

Desert dwellers may want to order the fifth in a series of booklets from the Arizona Native Plant Society describing decorative, low-water-use plants that perform well in the Southwest. This 52-page booklet focuses on accent plants, including cacti, other succulents, and other xerophytes. It has growing instructions for all the plants recommended, and 47 color photographs. Previously published booklets described desert shrubs, wildflowers, trees, and ground covers and vines. For each booklet, send \$2 to the society at P.O. Box 41206, Sun Station, AZ 85717. Discounts are available when ordering 10 or more.

AHS Bulletin Board

Board Members and Officers Nominated

Terms have expired for two AHS Board Members: Second Vice President Richard C. Angino has served three terms; former AHS President Dr. Henry Marc Cathey has completed his second term as a Board Member. They will step down at the Annual Meeting in October. Richard L. Lower, whose biography also appeared in the July News Edition, and William F. Brinton have been nominated to the two vacant Board positions. Several other Board Members are seeking reelection.

New Nominees

◆ **William F. Brinton** is president of the Woods End Research Laboratory in Mount Vernon, Maine, an agricultural and environmental research and consulting firm, and executive director of the Woods End Institute, an environmental and agricultural education organization. He is a consultant on composting problems and has developed composting recipes for such diverse products as food processing residues, potato culls, Gulf and coastal fish scraps, blue crab scraps, woolen fibers, and agricultural wastes. The *Wall Street Journal* has called Brinton "the Julia Child of garbage."

◆ **Richard L. Lower** is associate dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has worked as a vegetable breeder and geneticist and has taught in the department of horticultural sciences at North Carolina State University and in the department of horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lower is past president and chair of the American Society of Horticultural Science.

Candidates for Reelection

◆ **George C. Ball Jr.** is chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and president of W. Atlee Burpee & Company. He also is president of the Flowerseed Group of PanAmerican Seed Company, a division of George J. Ball, Inc., in West Chicago, Illinois. He joined the AHS Board in 1989 and became President in 1990.

◆ **Dr. Sherran Blair** is president and chief executive officer of the First Community Bank in Columbus, Ohio. Blair organized the "Great Gardeners of America" lecture series in conjunction with AmeriFlora '92. She has been a Board Member since 1989.

◆ **David M. Lilly** joined the Board in 1989. For 23 years he was the chief executive of the Toro Company; he resigned in 1976 to accept a presidential appointment to the Federal Reserve Board.

◆ **Elvin McDonald** was director of special projects at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden before moving to Houston, Texas, this spring. He is an author, photographer, and editor and was co-founder of *Flower and Garden* magazine. McDonald joined the Board in 1989, has served as Secretary for the last two years, and has chaired the AHS Publications Committee.

◆ **Jane N. Scarff** is vice president of a five-generation production nursery, Scarff's Nursery, in New Carlisle, Ohio. She has served on the boards of the Horticultural Research Institute of the American Association of Nurseryman and the U.S. National Arboretum. She became a Board Member in 1989.

◆ **Helen Fulcher Walutes**, a local attorney, also joined the Board in 1989. She has served as First Vice President since 1990 and was named acting executive director of AHS this past February. She also has been president of the Alexandria Council of Garden Clubs.

Officer Nominations

New Officers also will be elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. The nominees are:

◆ **George C. Ball Jr., President.**
◆ **Sarah S. Boasberg, First Vice President.** Currently head of the AHS Annual Meeting Committee, Boasberg, of Washington, D.C., is a landscape designer and teaches courses in the history of garden design and garden preservation at George Washington University. She has been a member of AHS for 17 years and became a Board Member in 1990.

◆ **Dr. William E. Barrick, Second Vice President.** Barrick is executive vice president and director of gardens at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. He also joined the Board in 1990 and serves on the boards of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and the Longwood Gardens Visiting Committee.

◆ **David M. Lilly, Secretary.**
◆ **Gerald T. Halpin, Treasurer.** Halpin became a Board Member in 1990 and is running for his second term as AHS Treasurer. He is president of the West Company, a Washington, D.C., developer.

AHS Board of Directors Proxy

Notice of Election in conjunction with the 47th Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society. Cut out proxy and return by October 1 to: President, AHS, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308-1300.

I will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society on October 15, 1992. Please assign my proxy to AHS President, George C. Ball Jr., or to

to cast my ballot in the annual election of the Society's Board of Directors, and to cast my ballot in other matters that may be brought before the Annual Meeting with the same effect as though I were personally present.

Vote for eight:

- ☐ George C. Ball Jr.
- ☐ Dr. Sherran Blair
- ☐ William F. Brinton
- ☐ David M. Lilly
- ☐ Richard L. Lower
- ☐ Elvin McDonald
- ☐ Jane N. Scarff
- ☐ Helen Fulcher Walutes

Write-in Candidate _____

Write-in Candidate _____

Officer Nominations, vote for five:

- ☐ George C. Ball Jr., *President*
- ☐ Sarah S. Boasberg, *First Vice President*
- ☐ Dr. William E. Barrick, *Second Vice President*
- ☐ David M. Lilly, *Secretary*
- ☐ Gerald T. Halpin, *Treasurer*

Write-in Candidate _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Gardeners' Dateline

Mid-Atlantic

♦ Sept. 25-27. **Second Annual Oatlands Garden Fair.** Oatlands Plantation. Information: Melissa York, Route 2, Box 352, Leesburg, VA 22075, (703) 777-3174.

♦ Oct. 7-8. **Garden Club of Virginia 56th Annual Rose Show.** Virginia Beach, Virginia. Presented by the Princess Anne Garden Club. Information: Jane Hemingway, 1305 Bay Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (804) 496-7367.

♦ Oct. 10-11. **New Jersey State Chrysanthemum Society 39th Annual Chrysanthemum Show.** Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, New Jersey. Information: Rita Detlefsen, 427 South Feltus Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879-1508, (908) 721-4999.

♦ Oct. 20. **Perennials for the Landscape and Garden Center Industries Symposium.** Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Information: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

♦ Oct. 20-24. **Ikebana International 12th North American Regional Conference.** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Information: Ikebana International, Rural Route 2, Box 110, Sewell, NJ 08080, (609) 468-2824.

North Central

♦ Sept. 10-13. **American Ivy Society Convention.** "Ivies for Every Garden." Columbus, Ohio. Information: Sabina Sulgrove, (513) 434-7069.

♦ Sept. 26-29. **Association of Zoological Horticulture Annual Conference.** St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, Missouri. Information: Gary Wangler, St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, St. Louis, MO 63110, (314) 781-0900.

♦ Sept. 26-Nov. 15. **Mum Show.** "Exploring New Horizons." Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Information: Dennis Noak, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, (219) 427-1267.

♦ Oct. 3-4. **The 30th Annual Gourd Show.** Morrow County Fairgrounds, Mount Gilead, Ohio. Information: John Stevens, 4681 Township Road 116, Mount Gilead, OH 43338, (419) 946-3302.

♦ Oct. 6-10. **Professional Plant Growers International Conference and Trade Show.** Grand Rapids, Michigan. Information: Professional Plant Growers Association, P.O. Box 27517, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 694-7700.

Northeast

♦ Sept. 20. **Arnold Arboretum Annual Plant Sale.** Case Estates, Weston, Massachusetts. Information: Nan Sinton, (617) 524-1718.

♦ Oct. 3. **Pumpkin Weigh-Off.** Collins, New York. Sponsored by the World Pumpkin Confederation. Information: Ray Waterman, (716) 532-5995.

♦ Oct. 5. **Gardens of Whitemarsh Hall.** Illustrated lecture. Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Information: Longwood Gardens, Continuing Education, P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501, (215) 388-6741, ext. 516.

♦ Oct. 19-21. **New England Greenhouse Conference.** Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. Information: Richard J. Shaw, Department of Plant Sciences, 202 Greenhouses, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881-0804, (401) 792-5996.

South Central

♦ Oct. 9-10. **Southern Garden Symposium.** St. Francisville, Louisiana. Information: Southern Garden Symposium, P.O. Box 2075, St. Francisville, LA 70775.

Southeast

♦ Oct. 9-10. **Tennessee Gesneriad Society Show and Sale.** Cheekwood, Nashville, Tennessee. Information: Leslie Dyer, (615) 741-1931.

♦ Oct. 10-11. **Bromeliad Show and Sale.** Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida. Information: Spencer Ketchum, (813) 366-5731.

♦ Oct. 25-31. **Safeguarding the Food Supply Through Irradiation Processing Techniques.** Orlando, Florida. Information: Agricultural Research Institute, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998, (301) 530-7122.

Southwest

♦ Sept. 18-19. **American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta Inter-mountain Regional Annual Conference.** "Exploring the Human Connection in the Botanical Equation." Albuquerque, New Mexico. Information: Dale Sokkary, (505) 768-3550.

♦ Sept. 26. **The A-maizing Aztecs!** Exhibit. Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado. Information: (303) 331-4400.

♦ Oct. 24-25. **Albuquerque Chrysanthemum Society 22nd Annual Show.** Albuquerque, New Mexico. Information: Louise Leonard, (505) 298-4939.

West Coast

♦ Sept. 12, 26, and Oct. 10. **Learning to Grow Your Own: An Introduction to Plant Propagation.** Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara, California. Information: (805) 682-4726.

♦ Sept. 19. **Seducing the Butterfly.** Lecture. University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley, California. Information: (510) 642-3343.

♦ Oct. 22-23. **Sixth Annual Xeriscape Conference.** "Xeriscape '92—San Diego Style." San Diego, California. Information: Jan Tubiolo, (619) 443-1756.

International

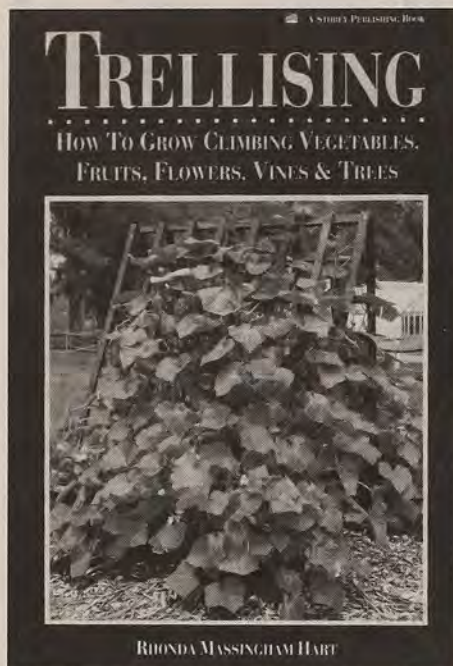
♦ Oct. 17. **Uncommon Tree Sale and Festival.** VanDusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Information: (604) 266-7194.

♦ Oct. 19-25. **Third International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress.** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Information: Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, Rua Jardim Botânico 1008, 22.460 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; phone: 21 294 6012/294 6947, Fax: 274 4897.

River Farm Events

AHS will hold an indoor plant sale and a lecture by Cindy Cotton, owner of Cityscape, Inc., on **October 3** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A new fountain will be dedicated in memory of former Board Member Mary Stuart Maury on **October 14** from 4 to 6 p.m. Admission is free to both events. Call (800) 777-7931.

Gardeners' Bookshelf



Trellising

Rhonda Massingham Hart. Storey Publishing, Pownal, Vermont, 1992. 154 pages. 6" x 9". Black-and-white illustrations. Publisher's price, softcover: \$10.95. AHS member price: \$9.50.

As urban sprawl continues to nibble away our living space, Americans are finding their gardening space similarly getting smaller. Townhouse plots seldom permit the luxury of rambunctious pumpkin patches, while quarter-acre subdevelopments are a close second in their overall limitations.

For those of us who cannot easily expand outward, the answer is to think vertically. *Trellising* is an adventurous look at all of the possibilities for "growing up," and sets out a host of trellis and support designs, from recycled materials and a rustic, frontier look to elaborate espalier frames and the grace of arches and arbors.

New gardeners—and veterans looking to get away from just another bean tepee—will get some imaginative ideas from the chapters treating clinging and ornamental vines and espaliered fruit trees. Like Mary Riley Smith's *The Front Garden* or Rosalind Creasy's crusade for the edible landscape, Hart's *Trellising* is a lesson in rethinking the traditional landscape: getting multiple benefits from the same space, however small. Privacy fences can provide support for a host of edible or ornamental vines, property lines can be set off with a living wall of

espaliered plums, pears, and apples. As for that townhouse pumpkin patch: some lumber, wire, and old panty hose for slings will help expand your vertical possibilities. The final word is simply to see your space in a new way, and start thinking vertically.

—Joseph M. Keyser, Director of Programs

Gardener's Latin

A Lexicon by Bill Neal. Workman Publishing Company, New York, 1992. 135 pages. Two-tone illustrations. 6½" x 7¼". Publisher's price, hardcover: \$14.95. AHS member price: \$12.75.

This little book is, well, pretty. The jacket is silky and eye-catching and the botanical illustrations throughout are endearingly old-fashioned. It is far from complete, but would make a wonderful present for that friend who still feels skittish about speaking in binomials.

My first reaction was that most of the Latin words defined—and the author has chosen to include only species names—were too obvious. But the meaning of Latin root words is often only apparent after the fact, especially for those who have not been schooled in this "dead" language. Of course *dentosus* means "toothed," but we're more likely to remember it after we make the mental connection, however unpleasant, to our dentist. There's only a couple of letters difference between that specific epithet and *densatus*, which—of course!—means dense or crowded.

I would not have guessed that *lagopus* meant hare-footed, or that a plant described as *ptarmicus* might cause me to sneeze. Thus we might know that the goldenrod, *Solidago speciosa*, does not cause sneezing, but is "showy, good-looking." A species called *hypnoides* won't put one to sleep, but resembles a moss. *Oreophilus* has nothing to do with cookies, but means "mountain loving."

Neal, a chef and cookbook author who died soon after writing this book, lists as his only other horticultural achievement the editing of Elizabeth Lawrence's *Charlotte Observer* garden columns into the book, *Through the Garden Gate*. Here he has collected snippets from her and other writers—folklore, myths, stories, and poems—that should strengthen our recollection of plant names. For example, it might help to remember the species name for lady-smock, *Cardamine pratensis*, which means "growing in meadows," if we recall Shakespeare describing them among flowers that "do



paint the meadows with delight."

Among minor annoyances were the odd little arrows used to connect the drawings on a page with their word definitions. A caption, however tiny, might have been preferable. And the names of many plants won't appear here because they were named for people, and have their own fascinating stories. But that would be a much bigger book. For the Latinophobe, this is a friendly beginning.

—Kathleen Fisher, Editor

Book Order Form

- ☐ *Trellising* \$ 9.50
☐ *Gardener's Latin* \$12.75

I would like to order _____ books.

Postage and handling: \$2.50, first book; \$1.50, each additional book. Virginia residents add 4½% sales tax. Please allow six weeks for delivery. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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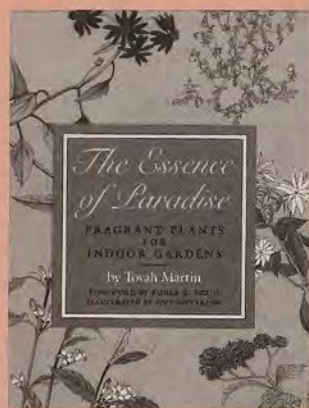
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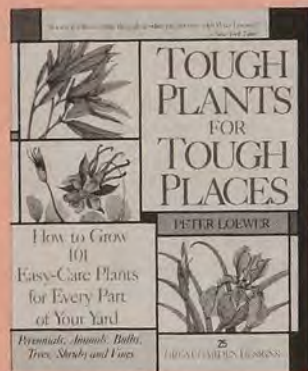
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Tough Plants for Tough Places

by Peter Loewer
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If your garden has poor soil, too much shade, a steep slope, or not enough water, you can still make it beautiful with tough plants guaranteed to flourish in tough places. Twenty-five great garden plans designed for difficult growing conditions.

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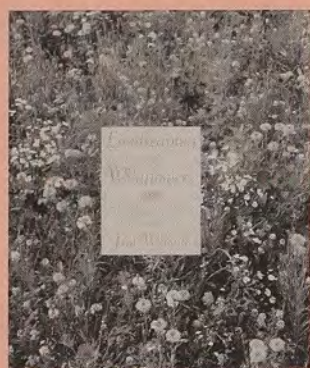
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Landscaping With Wildflowers

by Jim Wilson
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A Report to
Members
&
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of the
American
Horticultural
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1991-1992 Contributions





President's Message

It is you, our valued members, who make the programs and services of the American Horticultural Society possible through your dues and extraordinary contributions, which this year totalled \$483,800. Your interests undergo constant change, and change is taking place at AHS. We are in transition from a strictly ornamentals-oriented society to one that embraces the entire horticultural field. We are branching out into the national community with many programs that reflect and benefit our culturally and regionally diverse members and affiliated groups. We are refocusing our resources to strengthen horticultural education for members and nonmembers, to promote enlightened horticultural practices among all gardeners, and to develop an awareness of the importance of horticulture among nongardeners.

We test each new program or activity against our mission, "to acquire, develop, and disseminate horticultural information and knowledge." In this we follow the tradition established by the founders of the Society in 1922, for whom the sharing of information and knowledge was the top priority. We will do our utmost to keep you up to date with all new developments in the field, and we intend not only to maintain our high level of benefits and services in the next year, but to expand and improve member programs. These efforts will include:

■ **Awards.** Each year we fulfill our mission by identifying, recognizing, and promoting horticultural excellence. We publicize great horticultural achievement by individuals and groups in order to inspire others and to share knowledge that our award winners have developed. Beginning with this October's Annual Meeting, we will feature the award winners as the main speakers so that members will gain additional insight into the work that is being recognized.

■ **Gardeners' Information Service.** Our toll-free telephone consultation service experienced a 25 percent increase in calls this year. As a result, we will be recruiting additional volunteer gardening experts and upgrading our information database.

■ **Compost Initiative.** The return of organic matter to the soil to supply nutrients is critical to both the plants we grow and the environment in which we live. Our National Home Composting Park is a base for evaluation and demonstration, with information disseminated through our publications as well as regional symposia and lectures. We are also reaching out to businesses, government agencies, and other community groups for whom we hope to serve as a catalyst for change from chemical-dependent to more natural gardens, and from burgeoning landfills to the recycling of yard trimmings.

■ **Student and Teacher Internships.** We have four interns this summer—two students and two teachers. They are learning ornamental and vegetable gardening as well as landscape design at River Farm, nearby Mount Vernon, and other private and public gardens in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Through the teacher internships, which are new this year, the

teachers will spend part of their time on educational research into teaching horticulture to children. This is just one of many new initiatives we plan to launch relating to children and gardening. Through publicizing these programs, we will reinforce our leadership role in the promotion of horticultural education.

■ **Seed Program.** Our members-only, free seed catalog includes more than 200 varieties and species, from herbaceous and woody cultivated ornamentals to vegetables and wildflowers. This is a tangible link both to our past—AHS was founded to distribute new varieties from plant expeditions and laboratories to the U.S. horticultural and nursery communities—and to our members' gardens. We change the assortment every year to include little-known varieties of genuine interest. In 1993, there will be a special emphasis on edible plants, especially heirloom varieties.

■ **Publications.** Our publications, because of their high visibility, remain the cornerstone of AHS education efforts. They "acquire, develop, and disseminate horticultural information and knowledge" more efficiently than anything we do. While many other gardening magazines are publishing fewer issues this year, we plan to remain constant in our size and frequency while growing in scope. Next year our magazine will both present familiar features, such as the "Proven Performers" articles written by representatives of national plant societies, and broaden its contents to cover some of the environmental issues perplexing today's gardeners. Our News Edition, which was increased in size three years ago, will continue to offer lively and timely news on issues, trends, and research. We always welcome member participation in our publications, through our letters columns as well as news tips, gardening questions and ideas, or suggestions for feature articles.

Looking further ahead, we will continue to develop and expand our education programs. In the next several years we will address the needs of interested young adults and other segments of the nongardening public. We wish that everyone we affect would become a member. However, we will fulfill our mission if we inform, inspire, or educate present and future gardeners and horticulturists. This is the greatest change we've undergone: to view our constituency as including nonmembers, to fulfill our mission to raise the level of awareness of the importance of plants, gardening, and horticulture in the private and public lives of all our nation's citizens.

In conclusion, we on the Board pledge to carry out our responsibilities to lead the Society. We thank all of you whose generous contributions have made progress possible. We wish all of our members success in their gardening endeavors, and ask that they let us know what they would like to see happen in their American Horticultural Society.

George C. Ball Jr., AHS President

P.S. Elizabeth Smith, who has served the Society for more than six years, is retiring. Many of you will remember her as our Annual Meeting coordinator. In all of her capacities, she will be greatly missed.

1991-1992 Contributions

The Development Office of the American Horticultural Society is pleased to present this report of Annual Giving to the Society, which covers the fiscal year, July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Society, we gratefully acknowledge the many gifts and contributions totaling \$483,800 that enabled the Society to meet its budgetary needs for operating expenses, programs, and services during a period of national economic recession. For all these outstanding gifts of support, our sincere thanks. Your contributions have truly made a difference in our ability to fulfill AHS's mission to inform, educate, and inspire people of all ages to become successful, environmentally responsible gardeners.

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Awards *Continued from page 7*

drainage and soil quality, and making plants' space requirements an integral part of the design process; and appropriate plant selection, which involves finding a plant that is the desired size, shape, and color and still rugged enough to tolerate the rigors of city life.

Urban Beautification (Institution)

Today it seems everyone wants to hop aboard the environmental bandwagon. Politicians always keep a few greening slogans among their sound bites, and corporations have found the word "recyclable" indispensable for enhancing their public image. There are few organizations, however, that can point to a sustained effort on behalf of an environmental goal that has yielded appreciable results.

Rouge Rescue, a river reclamation project in metropolitan Detroit, is a heartening exception. Winding through 126 miles of southeastern Michigan, the Rouge River had become one of the country's most polluted waterways. Sludgy, brown, and fetid, the Rouge was choked with debris, sewage overflow, and contaminants from Michigan's once-great industrial conurbation. Since 1986 more than 15,000 volunteers in 24 communities have participated in an annual clean-up of the Rouge River. The restoration is expected to take twenty years and cost \$2.2 billion, much of which will be used to upgrade the inadequate sewage system that is a major source of pollution. Last year alone volunteers opened 107 logjams and removed 3,500 cubic yards of trash from the river, including five shopping carts, two refrigerators, and a 1950 Ford automobile.

Gradually fish, vegetation, and wildlife are returning. Tributaries that were jammed with ugly flotsam now flow freely, and the once infamous miasmal odors emanating from the river no longer bowl one over. These results have been slow and hard-won. If anything, Rouge Rescue is testament to the prolonged, laborious commitment needed to reclaim our natural environment.

Detroit television station WJBK, Channel 2, has been part of Rouge Rescue from its inception, publicizing the project through news stories and special programs, soliciting sponsors and volunteers, and providing advertising. In 1985 WJBK gave the project its name and helped form Friends of the Rouge, a collective of concerned citizens and businesses. With Friends of the Rouge, they developed educational programs associated with the clean-up and established Project GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network), an information network monitoring similar river reclamation projects worldwide.

Promotion manager **Katy Baetz Matthews** will accept AHS's Urban Beautification Award for WJBK. One of the catalysts and primary architects of Rouge Rescue, she remains a key supporter. She twice represented WJBK at White House ceremonies where the station was awarded the Department of the



Katy Baetz Matthews (second from right)

Interior's "Take Pride in America Award," presented by Presidents Reagan and Bush.

Awards will be presented at the 47th AHS Annual Meeting October 15-17 in Alexandria, Virginia. Eight of the 1992 Award winners—William Flemer III, Roger B. Swain, Jane G. Pepper, Elwin R. Orton Jr., August De Hertogh, Richard J. Hutton, Nina L. Bassuk, Nancy C. Stevenson, and James R. Morley—will also be the featured speakers at the meeting. Participants will also tour several gardens designed by Oehme, van Sweden & Associates. A complete program appeared in the July News Edition. If you'd like more information or a registration form call or write AHS Annual Meeting, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308-1300, (800) 777-7931.



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