

The American GARDENER[®]

The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society

March / April 2009

Native Plants for
Water Gardens

Colorful Coreopsis

A Breeder's Passion
for Shade-Loving
Natives

Unusual Perennial
Vegetables



garden-fresh
Artichokes

LUTHER BURBANK AWARD

Recognizes extraordinary achievement in the field of plant breeding.

James R. Ault is the director of environmental horticulture at the Chicago Botanic Garden, located in Glencoe, Illinois. His research includes conventional plant breeding, propagation, evaluation, and exploration with an emphasis on North American native

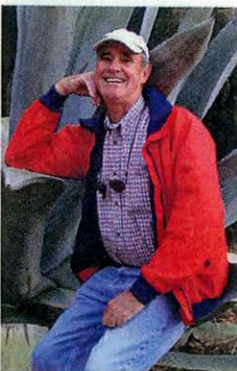


species. His focus on interspecific hybridization has produced plants with unique traits, such as the first orange coneflower, *Echinacea* Orange Meadowbrite®, and the first three-species *Echinacea* hybrid, *Pixie Meadowbrite*®. Prior to the Chicago Botanic Garden, Ault was the plant propagator-physiologist at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, where he developed new crops for conservatory displays.

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.

Ronald E. Gass is president of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery in Litchfield



Park, Arizona, which specializes in desert-adapted native and exotic plants. Since co-founding the nursery in 1969, Gass has collaborated with botanists and other nursery owners to collect and propagate water-thrifty plants throughout the Southwest and Mexico in an effort to promote their use in American gardens and landscapes. His work has resulted in the introduction of more than 150 new varieties of plants over the years, many of which have become popular landscape plants.

G. B. GUNLOGSON AWARD

Recognizes the innovative use of technology to make home gardening more productive and successful.

Soil Food Web, Inc., in Corvallis, Oregon, analyzes soil samples to determine the presence of a range of beneficial soil organisms that are key to sustainable landscapes. Led by Elaine Ingham, the president and director of research, Soil Food Web is a small business that grew out of Ingham's university research programs. Working with collaborators around the world, Soil Food Web has drawn attention to the importance of living organisms in healthy soil and fostered the use of compost, vermicompost, and compost tea as sustainable solutions to soil problems encountered by individual gardeners as well as larger public and private landscapes.



HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AWARD

Recognizes significant contributions to the field of horticultural therapy.

Karen L. Kennedy has spent 23 years using horticultural therapy to improve the lives of people with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Currently, she is the manager of wellness programs at the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio. She also



teaches introduction and programming courses in horticultural therapy for the Horticultural Therapy Institute in Denver, Colorado. She serves as a mentor for professionals and interns training in the field and speaks about horticultural therapy topics regionally and nationally. She has served on the American Horticultural Therapy Association's (AHTA) board of directors and on various committees for the organization. Kennedy received the AHTA's Rhea McCandliss Professional Services Award in 1994.

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.

Paul Comstock is the head of Comstock Studio, a landscape architecture and planning practice that is part of the ValleyCrest Design Group in Malibu, California. Formerly the director of landscape design for Walt Disney Imagineering, Comstock is known



for the natural artistry and cross-cultural creativity of his designs. Among his most significant projects is his design of Disney's Animal Kingdom, a botanically rich theme park in Orlando, Florida. In his work, he often draws inspiration from his years as a classically-trained, professional musician. Just as he would consider individual notes and rhythms when writing a song, Comstock says he considers the habit and ecological needs of each plant in order to compose landscapes that are both evocative and horticulturally sound.

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.

Carol F. Carter Morrison of Barrington, Illinois, served on the AHS Board of Directors from 1999 to 2008. During that time, she was active in several AHS committees, including serving as chair of the membership committee. A business consultant who works



with executives and managers of large international corporations and government entities, her group facilitation skills allowed her to make exceptional contributions to the Society's strategic planning processes, to the increased effectiveness of the AHS's governing Board, and fostering constructive dialogue when the Board was faced with difficult decisions.