


# AWARDS PRESENTATION

## 178<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

November 15, 2005



 1827 THE PENNSYLVANIA  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



## DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

### *Dr. Richard William Lighty*

Dick Lighty is an outstanding garden leader, horticultural scientist and educator who has had a profound impact on just about everyone sitting in this room – not to mention many in the Greater Philadelphia Region and beyond.

Dick has led his life based on the belief that we should make the world better, a value that explains why and how he has generously shared his knowledge of plants and learning. Very few have his breadth of knowledge and the ability to synthesize and communicate in the way that he can. He has mentored students – from undergraduates to adults in continuing education courses – and has served on countless boards and committees of gardens and plant societies around the country.

Dick was Longwood Gardens' first plant geneticist, and traveled the globe on plant exploration trips. (Those who know Dick say he's *always* exploring for new plants, even at high rates of speed behind the wheel – an experience one friend calls “botanizing at 65 miles per hour”.) In 1967, he was appointed the first coordinator of the Longwood Graduate Program at the University of Delaware, where he helped shape future leaders in the field of public horticulture. Some of his early students are now household names: Paul Meyer, F. Otto Haas Director at the Morris Arboretum; Judy Zuk, who ran the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for more than a decade; Katy Moss Warner, president of the American Horticultural Society; and Claire Sawyers, director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College.

In 1983, Dick became the director of Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora, where he helped transform the private garden of Mr. and Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland into a public institution with a focus on research, education and display of plants native to the Piedmont of the eastern United States. Working closely with Mrs. Copeland, Dick helped create woodland gardens with some of the most spectacular displays of wildflowers under cultivation anywhere in the United States.

A true plant lover with a special affection for native species, Dick has been instrumental in introducing several plant cultivars, including *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome', *Eupatorium rugosum* 'Chocolate', and *Trillium grandiflorum* 'Quicksilver'. And his international travels have yielded garden-worthy gems like *Calamagrostis brachytricha*, a Korean feather grass, and *Aruncus aethusifolius*.

During his long and exceptional career, Dick has received a number of prestigious awards: the American Horticultural Society's Liberty Hyde Bailey Award; the Garden Club of America's Eloise Payne Lugar Medal for significant contribution to American horticulture in teaching, research, and plant exploration; the Scott Arboretum's Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal; and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's George Robert White Medal of Honor.

After Dick retired from Mt. Cuba in 1998, he remained actively involved with a number of horticultural institutions, including the Delaware Center for Horticulture, Red Clay Valley Association, and Winterthur Museum Garden and Library. Dick is also a Member at Large of The Garden Club of America. He has also led horticultural tours for the American Horticultural Society. At PHS, he served on Council and the Award Selection Committee for many years, and was one of the first members of the Gold Medal Plant Selection Committee. He is well known at the Philadelphia Flower Show as a renowned member of the "nomenclature police," a group of horticulturists always on the lookout for a misspelled botanical name or misidentified cultivar. He also continues to write for *Horticulture* magazine and other publications.

Dick and his wife, Sally, have graciously hosted visits for PHS and other organizations to their Chester County garden, where they have happily created a beautiful oasis filled with a rich and diverse palette of plants.

Dick, for all you have done to contribute to the field of horticulture and especially for PHS, we are honored to present you with the Distinguished Achievement Medal.

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

### *Lawrence L. Stier*

How fortunate for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society that Larry Stier's calling as a teacher reflects PHS's mission: to motivate people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Larry has been a wonderful, enthusiastic supporter of our programs for so many years, but beyond his enthusiasm for PHS, his contributions to the children of Philadelphia have been – and continue to be – big and generous. Larry taught special-needs students in the Philadelphia Public Schools for 36 years, where he instilled in them a sense of accomplishment in and out of the classroom. Of course for Larry and his students, the 'classroom' went beyond the four walls of Vare Middle School to include the Bonnie G. Levine Teaching Garden, which he and his students created starting in the 1980s.

The teaching garden became a source of pride for the special-needs students, who, as they became proficient in their horticultural skills, in turn taught mainstream students how to plant and tend the annuals, vegetables and perennials. Under Larry's guidance, the students turned the schoolyard plot into an award-winning garden in PHS's City Gardens Contest. Larry also encouraged the students to participate in junior classes at PHS's Harvest Show and at the Kids Grow Expo, where their artistic and horticultural entries earned them many ribbons.

Beyond the school, Larry encouraged his students to explore the great outdoors in and beyond Philadelphia, including participating in the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program, and at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum, where they cleaned up and planted the grounds, as well as helped Larry lead the ever-popular Winter Solstice program.

Larry personally is a passionate urban greening advocate. As a graduate of PHS's TreeTenders program, he often gives testimonials at training sessions. He is a committed recycler and avid bicycler who strives to live a "green" life.

Larry has served on PHS's Council and Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, and has chaired the Kids Grow Expo Committee since 1994. We are now lucky to have Larry on our staff, where he is developing the Green City Youth program in our Education Services department. Larry, it is with great pleasure and pride that we present you with PHS's Certificate of Merit.

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

### *Mary Jo Strawbridge*

It's a good thing that Mary Jo Strawbridge has been blessed with so many feet, for as quickly as the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society creates new shoes, she is there to fill them.

Mary Jo Strawbridge is one of those wonderful Flower Show volunteers: talented, thoughtful, imaginative, gracious. And because she is so much fun to be around, Mary Jo has a knack for attracting many more volunteers eager to work with her.

Once she began to run a few things around the Flower Show, she just kept on going, serving in many capacities over many years. She started in the Competitive Classes, eventually serving as Chair in 1992 and 1993, and was asked to head the Flower Show Executive Committee in 1996 and 1997 – critical years as the Show moved from the Philadelphia Civic Center to its current home at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Mary Jo then served as co-chair of the Early Morning Tour Guide Committee, where she still gives the 'inside scoop' to this special group of Flower Show visitors.

One of Mary Jo's many talents is flower arranging, and her numerous ribbons, trophies and plaques attest to her skills. She has won the Margaret Biddle Bright Award and PHS Trophy in the Niche classes at the Flower Show, as well as the Breyer Trophy, Zone Creative Leadership Award and Zone Flower Arrangement Achievement Award from the Garden Club of America. She has helped many others develop these design skills through her work with PHS's Floral Design events held during the year and at the Flower Show.

Mary Jo has distinguished herself as an energetic and enthusiastic leader at her garden club, The Garden Workers, having served as president, judge, exhibitor, and editor of an artistic newsletter. She often acts as a mentor for less-experienced members of The Garden Workers.

No matter what project Mary Jo is working on, she continues to be a wonderful ambassador for PHS. When she chaired The Garden Club of America's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Mary Jo arranged for PHS and Philadelphia Green to have a presence on the tours and at the meetings. Delegates from all 50 states returned home with information about PHS.

Mary Jo has served on PHS Council, Flower Show Competitive Classes and the Flower Show Executive Committees. PHS is grateful to you for your talents and enthusiasm – the Flower Show wouldn't be any fun if you weren't around – and we are most pleased to award you with the Certificate of Merit.





## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

### *Paul Tickle*

Philadelphia Flower Show exhibitors, volunteers and PHS staff who have been lucky enough to have worked with Paul Tickle use the same words to describe him: kind, generous, dedicated, and steady as a rock.

Paul caught the Flower Show "bug" sometime before 1972, when he started to coordinate J. Franklin Styers Nurseries' support crew for the Show set-up. Paul proved to be an invaluable asset to everyone involved on the Show floor. After Paul went into business on his own at Ticklewood Nursery in Chester County, PHS staff did not want to do a Show without him, so he was hired as "Show Foreman," a role he has more than ably filled for many years.

Paul brings calmness and an always important sense of humor that makes people feel good and want to remain involved, even when the going gets tough. He makes sure the Show goes on, whether it's checking that the floor gets marked accurately, walls get painted the correct color, the ponds are filled, or the electrical wiring is completed on time. And after the last visitor has left Sunday evening, a time when many Show staff, volunteers and exhibitors are sleep-deprived and bone-tired, Paul helps everyone get that all-important second wind for the tear-down work that lies ahead.

No job is too little or too large for Paul, who greets every challenge with enthusiasm and his trademark smile – a smile, it has been noted, that has charmed many along the way, from longtime volunteers to career union workers.

Paul is a member of the Flower Show Executive Committee, and served as an expert judge at the Harvest Show. Every member of the Flower Show family now joins us in presenting you with the Certificate of Merit.

## Awards Selection Committee

Sally N. Graham, Chair

Anna Marie Amey

Susan D. Armstrong

Martha B. Barron

Richard A. Colbert

Midge Ingersoll

Anne B. Kellett

Flossie Narducci

Claire Sawyers

R. William Thomas

Harry E. Hill, *ex-officio*