

THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC
AWARD PROGRAM INFORMATION AND AWARD DESCRIPTIONS
Approved June 2008 revised and approved November 2008

The Herb Society of America is proud to present awards to individuals who have had significant levels of achievement in the world of herbs. The program began with the Award of Merit in 1952, and has expanded through the years to include the Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor, the Nancy Putnam Howard Award for Excellence in Horticulture, the Gertrude B. Foster Award for Excellence in Herbal Literature, the Joanna Mc Quail Reed Award for the Artistic Use of Herbs, and Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation.

The Awards Committee selects the recipients from those names submitted for nomination by the membership. The Board of Directors approves the list of award recipients selected by the committee. All of the awards are presented at the Educational Conference and Annual Meeting of the Members.

General requirements for selection:

1. Membership in HSA is not a requirement for any of the awards or certificates.
2. The nomination should include a letter of nomination and three letters of support. If this requirement is not met, the nominator will be advised of the situation. The letters will be retained for three years in anticipation of further support.
3. Letters of Nomination are accepted only from members of HSA. However, letters of support may be submitted by anyone.
4. Members of the board and awards committee do not write letters of recommendation or support.
5. Board members and awards committee members are not eligible for nomination for an award or certificate during their term of service.
6. As committee members review the letters of support for a nominee, they may conclude that the nomination would be more appropriate for a different award or certificate than for the one proposed. In this case, the nominator will be informed of the committee's recommendation and will be asked to allow the individual to stand for the award the committee deemed most appropriate. If the nominator does not agree with the committee's recommendation, the nominator may request that the decision for an award for the individual be deferred until the following year, and if needed will provide the committee with more information regarding the candidate.
7. In the event that a nominee is not selected in the current year, the letters will be retained for future consideration over a period of three years. The nominations remain confidential until the Board has approved the awards and the Awards chair has informed the award recipients and nominators. At this point a "News Flash" is announced from headquarters on the web site. The nominator has the responsibility of notifying those writing letters of support that the nomination is to be kept confidential.

8. All awards and certificates are given at the discretion of the Awards Committee. There is no requirement to present every award or certificate annually.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS AND BRIEF HISTORY

THE HELEN DE CONWAY LITTLE MEDAL OF HONOR

The Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor is the highest award given by The Society, and honors someone for outstanding service and dedication to The Society or the world of horticulture. It is also meant to create a challenge to achievement for members of The Society. Helen de Conway Little was a dedicated member of the New York Unit, and when serving as chairman of the awards committee in 1956 proposed that a bronze medal of honor be struck to give to outstanding members. The original Medal of Honor Award was renamed for Mrs. Little in 1966 because of her many years of devoted service as Awards Committee Chairman. The award is given to someone for "real service" to The Herb Society of America or for "outstanding ability" in the field of herbs.

THE NANCY PUTNAM HOWARD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HORTICULTURE

The Nancy Putnam Howard Award for Excellence in Horticulture was approved by the Board in 1985 to honor individuals who perpetuate excellence in horticulture. Through its name, it also honors Nancy Putnam Howard, a long time member of the Philadelphia Unit. A photographer, writer, lecturer, scholar and teacher, Nancy always demanded excellence in herself as she continued to study the culture, history and uses of plants. Nancy served The Society in many roles but the most important was as a superb horticulturist who espoused the use of correct nomenclature. Her extensive gardens and greenhouse were open for study and she was always a willing teacher. She set a high standard for those privileged enough to be considered for this award.

THE GERTRUDE B. FOSTER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HERBAL LITERATURE

The Gertrude Bates Foster Award is intended to encourage the dissemination of accurate herbal information and to recognize outstanding researchers, educators, and authors who exhibit exceptional scholarship in a published non-fiction book, which serves to inspire the "use and delight" of herbs. This award, established and funded in 1998 by the Connecticut Unit, honors Bunny (as she was known) and her pioneering role in the renaissance of herbal interest. She was known, and respected for her extensive contributions to the knowledge and interest in herbs and horticulture in this country and abroad through her generosity in sharing plant material, research, lecturing, and editorial leadership.

The author must be living at the time of the nomination and may or may not be a member of The Society. Selection of this recipient is done with the botany and horticulture chair,

the communications chair, and the curator of The National Herb Garden serving in an advisory role.

THE JOANNA Mc QUAIL REED AWARD FOR THE ARTISTIC USE OF HERBS

Upon the recommendation of the Philadelphia Unit in 2003, the Board of The Society approved this award to honor Joanna Mc Quail Reed. The award is intended to recognize those, who like Joanna Reed, are able to express the delight of herbs through their artistic and creative abilities, whether it is original needlework , painting, photography, garden design, culinary or other art forms. During her lifetime Joanna's magnificent needlework and gardens were visited by people from all over the world. Her garden designs and needlework have been documented in many books and magazines. A woman of many talents, she gave selflessly to The Society and to all those who knew her.

The nominee must be living at the time of the nomination.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Dating from 1976 the Certificate of Achievement honors those people, members of The Society or not, who have made significant contributions in various ways to the work of The Society or the world of herbs. Certificates may be given posthumously, but focus should be on the living. No more than three certificates may be given in a year.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Certificate of Appreciation, designed in 1982, recognizes those who have contributed a great deal personally to The Society or to those who have admirably completed a special assignment or project. Certificates may be given posthumously, but focus should be on the living. No more than three may be given in a year.