

AHS Celebrates Award Winners

DURING A CEREMONY at the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters on June 6, the AHS presented the 2008 Great American Gardeners Awards and Book Awards. The outstanding recipients represent the finest in the industry and traveled from all over the United States to receive their



Liberty Hyde Bailey Award recipient Harold Pellett with AHS Board Chair Susie Usrey during the June awards ceremony.

awards. Each recipient was recognized for their significant contributions to fields such as plant research, garden communications, landscape design, youth gardening, and conservation.

A highlight of the evening was having **Jane L. Taylor** on hand to present the award named in her honor, which is given to those who have inspired and nurtured young people through innovative children's and youth gardening programs. The 2008 recipients, **Mike Devlin** and **Valerie Frick**, co-founders of the Camden Children's Garden in Camden, New Jersey, met Taylor in 1993 at the AHS's National Children and Youth Garden Symposium. After hearing Taylor describe her experience creating the children's garden at Michigan State University, Devlin and Frick dedicated themselves to creating a safe environment for urban children to learn about and enjoy plants.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, the Society's highest honor, to Landscape Plant Development Center founder and Executive Director **Harold Pellett** for his significant lifetime achievements in horticulture. These include more than 36 years of teaching and research and the introduction of more than 25 new trees and shrubs. To learn more about the award winners and their contributions to horticulture, visit www.ahs.org and click on "Awards."

Nominations for next year's Great American Gardeners

Awards are being accepted until September 30. For more information and a nomination form, turn to page 8, or contact AHS Education Programs Coordinator **Jessica Rozmus** at (703) 768-5700 ext. 137.

River Farm Meadow Completed

INITIATED IN 2004, the André Bluemel Meadow at River Farm is now complete, after the installation of the final 20,000 plants in June. It comprises more than four acres of native grasses and colorful wildflowers that attract an abundance of birds, insects, small mammals, and other wildlife.



Above: An early morning view of the meadow planted during the first phase of installation, now coming into its own. Left: Volunteers from George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens assist with planting the final phase in June.

"Creating this meadow has been a tremendous and wonderful undertaking for the AHS," says AHS Executive Director **Tom Underwood**. "It was made possible by the support of our Board member **Kurt Bluemel**, who donated more than 100,000 plant plugs from his nursery in Maryland."

"It's got the best water feature already installed!" quipped Bluemel while surveying the view of the Potomac River from the meadow, which is named in memory of his son.