

THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC  
AWARD PROGRAM INFORMATION AND AWARD DESCRIPTIONS  
Approved June 2008

The first award given by The Society was the Award of Merit in 1952. The 1956 Awards Committee, chaired by Mrs. Winslow Little, decided that a medal should be struck to honor the recipients. Mrs. Little designed the medal and had the first one struck. Upon her retirement in 1966, and in recognition of her many years of devoted service to The Society, it was named for her.

The Awards Committee selects the recipients from those names submitted for nomination by the membership. The Board of Directors approves the award recipients. The awards and certificates are presented at the Educational Conference and Annual Meeting of 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 another year 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 do not write letters of recommendation. They are not eligible for nomination for an award or certificate for three years following their term of service.
5. 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.
6. 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. All nominations remain confidential to the nominee and the general membership until formally announced by the Awards Chair. The nominator has the responsibility of notifying those writing letters of support that the nomination is to be kept confidential as stated above.
7. 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

### THE HELEN DE CONWAY LITTLE MEDAL OF HONOR

This award honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to The Society or to the world of horticulture in general.

History: Helen de Conway Little, a dedicated member of the New York Unit, first proposed that The Herb Society of America honor its outstanding members. She designed the first Medal of Honor and served as chairman of the Awards Committee beginning in 1947. In 1966 the medal was named The Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor.

### THE NANCY PUTNAM HOWARD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HORTICULTURE

This award honors an individual who perpetuates excellence in horticulture.

History: The Nancy Putnam Howard Award for Excellence in Horticulture was approved by the board in 1985. Nancy Putnam Howard, a member of the Philadelphia Unit, generously shared her vast knowledge of horticulture, collecting plant specimens and answering thousands of queries from around the world. She received The Society's Certificate of Achievement in 1978.

### THE GERTRUDE B. FOSTER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HERBAL LITERATURE

This award honors those who have published a scholarly study of herbs. 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 award is done with the assistance of the botany and horticulture chair, the communications chair, and the curator of The National Herb Garden.

History: Gertrude (Bunny) Foster was recognized in 1975 by The Society with the Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor for her extensive contributions to the knowledge of herbs and horticulture in the U.S. and abroad through research, lecturing and editorial leadership. Her exhaustive research was evident in her publications. Legions of horticulturists and herb enthusiasts worldwide honor Bunny's legacy of authoritative writings and cherish her vast generosity with plants. The Society wishes to thank the Connecticut Unit for initiating the Gertrude B. Foster Award in 1998.

### THE JOANNA McQUAIL REED AWARD FOR THE ARTISTIC USE OF HERBS

This award recognizes those who are able to express the "delight" of herbs through their artistic and creative abilities, whether it is through original needlework, painting, photography, garden design, culinary or any other art form. The nominee must be living at the time of the nomination.

History: Created in 2003 at the urging of the Philadelphia Unit, this award honors Joanna Reed, a consummate gardener and fiber artist. Her work reproduced the plants in her extensive gardens at Long View Farm. Joanna Reed served as The Society's president from 1980 – 1982. She received a Certificate of Achievement in 1979, the Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor in 1984, and the Nancy Putnam Howard Award for Excellence in Horticulture in 1995.

#### 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. 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. No more than three may be given in a year.