

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Herb Society of America Awards-The Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor

Kirtland, Ohio-Since 1933, The Herb Society of America (HSA) has been dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs, through educational programs, research and sharing the experience of its members with the community for the past 75 years.

Ruth Rouleau will be awarded The Herb Society of America's Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor at the Annual Educational Conference and Meeting of the Members to be held at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf, June 26-29, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. The Award is given to an Herb Society of America member who has made outstanding contributions to The Society or to the world of horticulture in general.

Ruth is a lifetime member of The Herb Society of America, Western Pennsylvania Unit. Having given countless hours to teaching and gardening classes, devoting much of her time to the Hunt Botanical Library and the Phipps Botanical Conservatory; Ruth and herbs are synonymous in the Pittsburgh region. She has been a mentor to countless Herb Society members and Master Gardeners. Ruth is committed to her community having served as the President of Edgewood Garden Club and tending the Elizabethan Garden in Mellon Park. As part of the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Ruth researched plants and helped to recreate the Lewis and Clark section of the garden. She mentored young girl scouts for over twelve years sharing her knowledge of herbal crafts. Ruth continues to develop her knowledge by always enjoying educational experiences and sharing those with The Society members and the public. Ruth has been described as; "an inspiration because of her expertise in horticulture- especially because of her ability to commit her knowledge to practice in her own gardens and community gardens."

Members from all over the United States and Canada will gather to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of HSA. The organization has its roots in the Boston area, growing from a study group of the seven originally from the New England area. They were motivated by the belief that much of the world's knowledge about useful plants had been forgotten and that herbs had declined to the level of a hobby among a few growers of old time gardens.

Membership to The Herb Society of America is open to anyone interested in herbs. Members enjoy benefits such as library access and borrowing privileges, discounts on merchandise, publications, reduced admission fees to public gardens associated with the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program, educational opportunities and networking opportunities.

For additional information about membership, please contact The Herb Society of America at (440) 256-0514 or visit www.herbsociety.org.

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