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AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
HONORS JOHN WOTT WITH PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Alexandria, VA (March 25, 2019). John Wott, Ph.D, a retired horticulture professor and director emeritus of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, has been named the 2019 recipient of the American Horticultural Society’s (AHS) Professional Award, which is given to a public garden administrator whose achievements throughout his or her career have cultivated widespread interest in horticulture.

The award is one of the Great American Gardeners Awards that the AHS presents annually to individuals, organizations, and businesses that represent the best in American gardening. Each of the recipients has contributed significantly to fields such as scientific research, garden communication, landscape design, youth gardening, and conservation.

As director of the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle, Wott had a significant influence on horticulture in the Pacific Northwest over the course of a distinguished career that included work in the Cooperative Extension service, teaching, and public garden administration. Wott was appointed the Arboretum’s director in 1993, becoming the first on-site director in 20 years. During his 13-year tenure at the 230-acre property, he helped plan and develop the Arboretum’s Master Plan, reconciling the interests of various stakeholders such as the university, the City of Seattle, neighbors, and state government.

At the time he joined the Arboretum, Wott was a horticulture professor at the University of Washington, where he played a major role in the development of the university’s Center for Urban Horticulture. He continues to encourage graduate students in the horticulture program through his support of the John A. Wott Fellowship.

On Friday, June 21, 2019, the AHS will honor Wott and the other award recipients during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet, held at the Society’s River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. For full descriptions of each award and brief biographies of this year’s recipients, please visit our 2019 Award Winners.

About the American Horticultural Society

The American Horticultural Society, founded in 1922, is an educational, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that recognizes and promotes excellence in American horticulture. One of the oldest and most prestigious gardening organizations, AHS is dedicated to making America a nation of gardeners, a land of gardens. Its mission is to open the eyes of all Americans to the vital connection between people and plants, to inspire all Americans to become responsible caretakers of the Earth, to celebrate America’s diversity through the art and science of horticulture, and to lead this effort by sharing the Society’s unique national resources with all Americans.

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