

**DOROTHY FALCON PLATT AWARD
PRESENTED NOVEMBER 11th, 2015**

This morning The Garden Club of Philadelphia is pleased to present the Dorothy Falcon Platt award. This award was established in 1972 in memory of one of our most distinguished and revered members. It is awarded to a Zone V member of the Garden Club of America who best exemplifies the qualities for which Mrs. Charles Platt was known.

Mrs. Platt was a serious student of horticulture, an accomplished artist and a talented flower arranger. She worked joyously in her own garden and offered both inspiration and encouragement to others. She helped to design and plant civic and historic gardens. Her interest and love of horticulture spanned her entire life both personally and as a devoted member of the Garden Club of America. Her sense of beauty, and her generosity in sharing her expertise live on in the spirit of the winner's of this award.

The winner of this year's award is an accomplished judge in both floral design and horticulture. She is a natural mentor who shares her creative talents through her warmth and cheerful encouragement to novice and experienced flower arrangers alike. Zone V members attending her workshops are given confidence and the skills to enter flower shows. A winning exhibitor at The Philadelphia Flower Show in arranging and horticulture, she is a true competitor whether it's in the pedestal class, a niche class, chairing or acting as an adviser to her club's class entries. In major GCA shows during the nineties, she won the Fenwick medal twice with a co-exhibitor, and dear friend. Her artistic side goes beyond floral design to creating quilts, making baskets, and it even spills over to the culinary side, where she was once a caterer.

Through her generous hosting of workshops, countless troughs have been created and planted, soft and hardwood cuttings propagated, seeds started and terrariums planted. Within our zone, her workshops fill up quickly as friends think of her as a "pied piper."

She is a passionate gardener. That is evident in her ever-changing garden, and in her dedication to maintaining her club's civic project,

Sharpe Park. On Sharpe Park Workdays she can be found digging out invasive plants, while teaching correct planting techniques and helping with plant identification.

She welcomes guests to her property, with its dazzling variety of beautifully grown and unusual plants. Sharing her garden with organizations, like the Shipley Secret Garden tour come naturally to her. Many a new friend she has made with her enthusiasm exuding through and beyond horticulture. The lucky recipients of her cuttings and seeds get not only the cutting and seed itself, but also her inspiration and encouragement - "You can grow this! You can do it!"

Virtually unparalleled in her leadership and selflessness, she is a team player in the gardening community. She orchestrated the first Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference in 2002, now an annual GCA three-day event held around the country. Like Mrs. Platt, she served as a GCA Horticultural Committee Chair, in addition to holding other executive GCA positions. She co-chaired the very successful GCA 2013 Centennial Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, and presently serves as the Vice Chair of GCA Awards. It is no surprise that she won the Creative Leadership award in 2008 for executive ability, judgment, and initiative in and beyond the zone.

GCA also recognized her talents by awarding her the Zone Horticulture Award and the GCA Club Medal of Merit award. It is given for her exceptional contribution in horticulture, conservation, civic achievement and leadership within her club. Within Zone V she has held major positions from Chairman, Director, Horticultural Chair to Club President and PCGCA Fertilizer Fund Chair. Leading by example she demonstrates why people love to work with her.

You can see the winner of this prestigious award is a creative person and excellent teacher, and that she is extremely kind and generous about sharing her knowledge with others. In fact she embodies the characteristics that made Mrs. Platt a special and talented woman.

And so it is with enormous pleasure and pride that the committee presents the Dorothy Falcon Platt Award to Laura Gregg, of The Garden Workers. So many of us have benefitted from working with her directly and indirectly, and from her works. Please join me in presenting the Dorothy Falcon Platt Award to Laura Gregg of The Garden Workers.