

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2023

**MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TO HONOR TONY KIRKHAM, ANDY BRAND
AT 120TH HONORARY MEDALS CEREMONY**

WELLESLEY, MA — The Board of Trustees of Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) has announced its 2023 Honorary Medals recipients. They will be celebrated at the 120th Honorary Medals Dinner at the Garden at Elm Bank on May 11, 2023. This year, MHS will continue a 192-year tradition of awarding medals to individuals and organizations for their contributions to excellence in horticulture for the public good.

Tony Kirkham, MBE, VMH will be awarded the Thomas Roland Medal for exceptional development and dissemination of horticultural knowledge. Former Head of Arboretum, Gardens & horticulture Services at Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew will be the Keynote Speaker of the evening. Tony Kirkham retired from Kew after 43 years of service, and where he was responsible for managing and curating over 14,000 trees as well as the hardy shrub and herbaceous collections. The author of four books, he is the recipient of numerous awards. Tony received the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour (VMH) in 2019. It is interesting to note that only sixty-three horticulturists can hold this award at any one time in commemoration of the sixty-three years of Victoria's reign.

Andrew Brand will receive the Jackson Dawson Memorial Medal which recognizes exceptional skill in the science or practice of hybridization or propagation of ornamental plants.

Gold Medals for eminent horticultural accomplishments or for outstanding service to MHS will be awarded to **Lucinda (Cindy) Brockway** (Managing Director of Cultural Resources, The Trustees), **Debbi Edelstein** (Executive Director, Native Plant Trust), **Jeanne Leszczynski** (Volunteer and Former Trustees Chair, Massachusetts Horticultural Society), and **Wayne Mezitt** (Volunteer and Former Trustees Chair, Massachusetts Horticultural Society).

Rodney Eason (CEO of Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve), **Christopher Grallert** (President of Green City Growers), **Robert Marzilli** (R.P. Marzilli and Company), and **Lynne MacDowell** (Owner of Stonegate Gardens) will receive a Silver Medals for their noteworthy service in horticulture. To read more details about each awardee and their recognition, please visit <https://www.masshort.org/honorary-medals/>.

The 120th Honorary Medals Dinner will take place Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Hunnewell Building, 900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA. Tickets for the event including dinner and drinks are \$150 each. Proceeds benefit excellence in horticulture at MHS. For event information, please call Elaine Lawrence, Director of Development, 617-933-4945 or visit <https://www.masshort.org/honorary-medals/>.

About Massachusetts Horticultural Society



Massachusetts Horticultural Society seeks to help people change their lives and communities for the better through growing plants together. MHS disseminates information on horticulture and related sciences through its Library, educational programming, exhibitions and community outreach initiatives. Through these, MHS seeks to engage guests with the importance of plants, gardens and natural landscapes in their lives and help them to become active growers and gardeners themselves. As America's first established horticultural society, MHS has been practicing horticulture 'for the public good' since 1829.