



# MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

THE GARDEN AT ELM BANK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TO HONOR DOUG TALLAMY, MATTHEW CUNNINGHAM AT 121<sup>ST</sup> HONORARY MEDALS CEREMONY

**WELLESLEY, MA** — The Board of Trustees of Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) has announced its 2024 Honorary Medals recipients. The 7 winners will be celebrated at the 121<sup>st</sup> Honorary Medals Dinner at the Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA on October 30, 2024. This year, MHS will continue a 193-year tradition of awarding medals to individuals and organizations for their contributions to excellence in horticulture for the public good.

**Douglas W. Tallamy** will be awarded the George Robert White Medal of Honor, MHS's highest honor, for eminent service in the field of horticulture, and will deliver the keynote speech during the ceremony. A New York Times Bestselling Author, his books, including *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard* (2020) and *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees* (2021), have mobilized homeowners for horticultural conservation and ecological gardening. As a professor in University of Delaware's Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, he advocates for smaller lawns, native plants, and habitats for native species. His advocacy work is echoed through his founding of Homegrown National Park, a grassroots organization that encourages everyone to grow native plants.

**Matthew Cunningham** will receive the Thomas Roland Medal for exceptional skill in horticulture and lectures. Founding Principal of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design LLC and lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Design, he is an award-winning and nationally recognized landscape architect.

Gold Medals for eminent horticultural accomplishments will be awarded to **David Barnett** (President and CEO Emeritus, *Mount Auburn Cemetery*) and **Tom Ryan** (Senior Principal and Owner, *Ryan Associates Landscape Architecture and Planning*). **Patrick Chassé** (landscape architect), **Dr. Barbara E. Millen** (Board Chair, *Center for Plant Conservation*; Trustee, *Massachusetts Horticultural Society*), and **Murphy Westwood, PhD** (Vice President of Science and Conservation, *The Morton Arboretum*) will receive Silver Medals for their noteworthy service in horticulture. More details about each awardee and their recognition is available at <https://www.masshort.org/honorary-medals/>.

The 121<sup>st</sup> Honorary Medals Dinner will take place Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 6pm at Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Garden at Elm Bank. The dinner will be preceded by a day-long symposium, featuring lectures by medal winners Doug Tallamy, Matt Cunningham, Tom Ryan, and Murphy Westwood. Tickets for the awards ceremony including dinner and drinks are \$180; symposium tickets are \$190 for General Admission and \$160 for Boston Society of Landscape Architects and MHS members. Proceeds benefit excellence in horticulture at MHS. For event information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.masshort.org/honorary-medals/>.

### About Massachusetts Horticultural Society

Massachusetts Horticultural Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that helps people change their lives and communities for the better by growing plants together. MHS disseminates information on horticulture and related sciences through its Library, educational programming, exhibitions, and community outreach initiatives. Through these, MHS engages guests with the importance of plants, gardens and natural landscapes in their lives and helps them to become active growers and gardeners themselves. As the first established horticultural society in the United States, MHS has been practicing horticulture 'for the public good' since 1829.

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