



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The Great Gardening Weekend Celebrates Excellence **Jacques-André Rioux Wins the 2010 Henry Teuscher Award**

Montréal, May 28, 2010 – Montréal's Nature Museums take great pleasure in announcing the winner of the Henry Teuscher Award, presented during the Montréal Botanical Garden's *Great Gardening Weekend*: **Jacques-André Rioux**, agronomist and full professor with the Phytology Department of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Science at Université Laval. The award is an annual distinction saluting the winner's exceptional contribution to the advancement of horticultural knowledge in Quebec.

A prolific career

Mr. Rioux holds a PhD as an engineer in applied plant physiology, and works as a Professor at Université Laval and an educational consultant at the Roger Van den Hende Botanical Garden at that institution. He was recently named curator of the Garden. During his more than 30-year career he has directed many important research projects, particularly in plant physiology applied to ornamental woody plants cultivated in nurseries, which have had a direct impact on progress in ornamental horticulture in Quebec. As co-founder of the Réseau d'essai des plantes ligneuses ornementales du Québec (Quebec ornamental woody plant testing network - REPLOQ), he contributed to a five-volume work, ***Rusticité et croissance des plantes ligneuses ornementales au Québec***, detailing his experiments. The book quickly became a standard reference in the field.

Bringing together industry and education

Mr. Rioux is an active member of the Atelier pépinière, a MAPAQ organization that laid the groundwork for the development of ornamental nurseries in Quebec in the 1980s and 90s, and a board member of the Institut québécois du développement de l'horticulture ornementale (IQDHO). Thanks to his extensive collaboration with important players in the horticultural industry in Quebec and the rest of Canada, Mr. Rioux has managed to bring about major changes in practices and advances in the field. His work on the hardiness of certain woody plants in Quebec has led to new products being introduced in nurseries: after evaluating his data, distributors increased the variety of tree species available to consumers, and this in turn offered growers new avenues for development. The same applies for growing woody plants in containers, a technique studied in depth by Mr. Rioux, whose recommendations made it possible to considerably extend the period during which woody plants are sold, rather than limiting it to the dormancy period, as had previously been the case. His synergic approach to ornamental horticulture and the industry has created effective and productive alliances, to the benefit of Quebec consumers today.

Preparing for the future

As Director of the Agronomy program at Université Laval for nine years, Mr. Rioux has supervised more than thirty graduate or postgraduate students in ornamental horticulture. He has advised hundreds of future agronomists and helped train highly qualified professionals. His students include Marie-Fleurette Beaudoin (regular contributor to the ***Fleurs • Plantes • Jardins*** magazine), Marie-Claude Limoges and Claude Vallée, well-known figures in horticulture.

Mr. Rioux also helped create the certificate in horticulture and management of green spaces, offered by Université Laval, a very popular program among many people in the field, and he sits on the training committee of the Ordre des agronomes du Québec, to improve the training of future agronomists.

Mr. Rioux has published some thirty articles in specialized journals, contributed to some forty research reports and taken part in dozens of conferences, seminars and scientific presentations. Many of his papers are available online, including through the CRAAQ ornamental horticulture network (Agri-réseau Horticulture ornementale).

Recipients from 1999-2009

Elsie Reford and Alexander Reford (2009), Founder and Director of the Reford Gardens/Jardin de Métis; **Jean-Claude Vigor** (2008), horticulturalist, teacher and communicator; **Émile Jacqmain** (2007), horticulturist and Superintendent of the Montréal Botanical Garden, responsible for its exceptional development and its modernization between 1966 and 1996 and production co-ordinator of the outdoor gardens for the *Floralies* in 1980; **Fred Oehmichen** (2006), landscape architect and horticulturist, expert in grasses and owner of Oka fleurs (2006); **Daniel A. Séguin** (2005), agronomist, professor at the Institut de technologie agricole de Saint-Hyacinthe (ITA), initiator of the horticulture event in Saint-Hyacinthe and a pioneer in training professional horticulturists in Quebec; **Gaëtan Hamel** (2004), founder of the Centre Jardin Hamel; **Milan B. Havlin** (2003), landscape architect and professor at the ITA; **Henri and Camille Perron** (2002), horticulturists and founders of W.H. Perron; **Wilfrid Meloche** (2001), one of Mr. Teuscher's co-workers, professor at the ITA and head of the Garden's greenhouses; **Roger Van den Hende** (2000), Professor Emeritus with the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Science at Université Laval, botany and ornamental horticulture expert and founder of the Roger Van den Hende Garden; and **Tony Huber** (1999), horticulturist and iris breeder.

This event is organized in co-operation with the *Friends of the Montréal Botanical Garden* and representatives of the horticultural industry in Quebec.

Montréal's Nature Museums – the Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium – helping people enjoy nature to the fullest.

For more information: museumsnature.ca

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