

2-2009

## H. Marc Cathey

Mark P. Widrechner

*United States Department of Agriculture, isumw@iastate.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ncrpis\\_pubs](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ncrpis_pubs)

 Part of the [Agricultural Science Commons](#), [Agriculture Commons](#), and the [Horticulture Commons](#)

The complete bibliographic information for this item can be found at [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ncrpis\\_pubs/12](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ncrpis_pubs/12). For information on how to cite this item, please visit <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/howtocite.html>.

---

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NCRPIS Publications and Papers by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

---

# H. Marc Cathey

## **Abstract**

Henry Marcellus (Marc) Cathey, noted horticulturist and administrator, died on 8 Oct. 2008 in his hometown of Davidson, NC, following an extended illness and Parkinson's disease. Born in Davidson on 23 Oct. 1928, he was the son of the late Carl and Emily Cathey. He had been a member of ASHS since 1954, and, among his many high honors, received numerous awards from ASHS, including the Alex Laurie Award, the Leonard H. Vaughan Award, and the Environmental Quality Research Award. He was named an ASHS Fellow in 1972.

## **Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Horticulture | Plant Sciences

## **Comments**

This article is from *Hortscience* 44, no. 1 (February 2009): 220–221.

## **Rights**

Works produced by employees of the U.S. Government as part of their official duties are not copyrighted within the U.S. The content of this document is not copyrighted.

## Reported Deaths

### Conrad B. Link

Dr. Conrad Link died 12 Sept. 2008 at the age of 96. An honorary member of MNLA, he joined the faculty of the University of Maryland in 1948. Born in Fredonia, NY, he obtained his BS, MS, and PhD degrees at Ohio State University. He taught one year at Pennsylvania State University before accepting a position at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. In 1948 he accepted a position at the University of Maryland where he remained until his retirement in 1982.

During his tenure at the University of Maryland, he taught plant propagation, greenhouse crop production, and nursery plant production. He served as advisor to more than 2000 undergraduate students, and was major advisor to 41 students obtaining MS degrees and 15 doctoral students.

His research included breeding of poinsettia and kalanchoe, nutrition of greenhouse cut roses and carnations, and atmospheric enrichment of carbon dioxide in greenhouses in cut roses and carnation production.

Dr. Link is the one who initiated the Maryland Nurseryman's Day held at the University of Maryland in College Park. He organized and conducted these day-long training programs from 1955 until 1982. Until the Center of Education was built, the programs were held in Holzapfel Hall and at the Student Union. The programs brought in outside speakers and also allowed University of Maryland researchers to present their research findings.

The American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) just recognized Dr. Link as having celebrated 75 years of membership. Dr. Link was honored as a Fellow in 1971 for his dedicated service to the horticulture industry and to ASHS. Shortly after his retirement from the University of Maryland he became the first archivist/historian of the



Society. This was no simple task because he organized 85 years of documents that the Society had accumulated.

For those of us who worked with Dr. Link, we had a tremendous respect for this man. He was never one to jump to conclusions; he was always a gentleman, a scholar, and always had an open-door policy. He always wore a shirt and tie when classes were in session.

I was honored by his family when they asked me to represent the University of Maryland at his memorial service. Dr. Link leaves behind a wonderful wife of 59 years, Katheleen Barber Link; daughters Helen and Leora; and son, the Rev. Conrad O. Link. There are also nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

FRANK GOUIN

Professor Emeritus  
AGNR—Plant Science & Landscape Architecture  
University of Maryland, College Park

### H. Marc Cathey

Henry Marcellus (Marc) Cathey, noted horticulturist and administrator, died on 8 Oct. 2008 in his hometown of Davidson, NC, following an extended illness and Parkinson's disease. Born in Davidson on 23 Oct. 1928, he was the son of the late Carl and Emily Cathey. He had been a member of ASHS since 1954, and, among his many high honors, received numerous awards from ASHS, including the Alex Laurie Award, the Leonard H. Vaughan Award, and the Environmental Quality Research Award. He was named an ASHS Fellow in 1972.

Marc began his academic studies at Davidson College, then transferred to North Carolina State University, where he received his BS degree in 1950. After two years of experience as a florist, he then attended Cornell University where he received both his MS and PhD in horticultural science

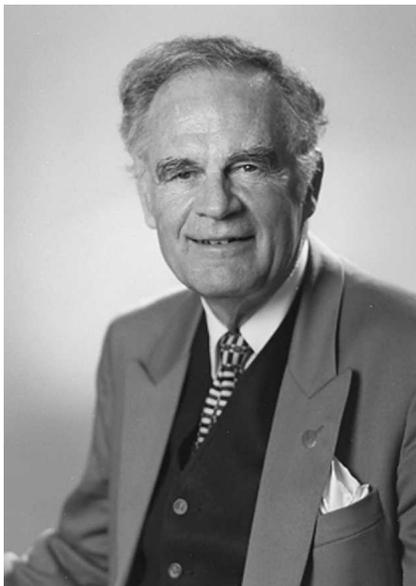


Photo courtesy of the American Horticultural Society, Alexandria, VA.

under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Post. After graduation in 1955, he became a Fulbright Scholar and studied at the Agricultural University in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

On completion of his postdoctoral studies, he returned to the United States in 1956 and joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, MD, as a research horticulturist, where he worked until 1980. Marc's research on the interrelations of light, temperature, and chemicals on the growth and development of floral and nursery crops resulted in many scholarly publications and the creation of practical guidelines that benefited both commercial growers and consumers. He became head of the Florist and Nursery Crops Lab at Beltsville in 1959, and also served as an adjunct professor of plant physiology at George Washington University, Washington, DC, from 1958 to 1967.

For the 1980-81 academic year, Dr. Cathey relocated to the Ohio State University to become a visiting professor and fill the first D.C. Kiplinger Chair in Floriculture, where he conceived the idea of an Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center as part of an assessment of floricultural research needs. Later in 1981, he was appointed as the fourth director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, where he would serve skillfully until 1991, when he was named National Chair for Florist and Nursery Crops Review for the Agricultural Research Service. Under his leadership, many new gardens and exhibits were developed at the National Arboretum through close collaboration with the Friends of the National Arboretum, National Bonsai Foundation, National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, and many other organizations. During this time, he also spearheaded a revision of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, resulting in the widely used map published in 1990.

After his retirement from a distinguished career in federal service in 1993, at an age when many step back from the working world, Marc began a second term as president of the American Horticultural Society (AHS) (a post he first held from 1974 to 1978). During his tenure, he coordinated the release of AHS's Plant Heat Zone Map and co-authored a book on heat zone gardening. In addition, he served as co-editor-in-chief of the AHS *A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*. He continued his affiliation with the organization by serving as its president emeritus from 1997 until 2005, when he and his wife returned to North Carolina.

Marc is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Jackson Cathey; their daughter, Marcy E. Cathey, and her husband, Aaron Frank; their son, Henry M. Cathey, Jr., and his wife, Jodi; and four granddaughters.

Marc was a very effective communicator, not only as a respected and widely cited author, but, for many years, in great demand as a dynamic lecturer and radio and television personality. Within the discipline of horticultural science, he also used his communication skills and shared his expertise to inspire and

mentor many students and young scientists. His devotion to making the world a finer and more beautiful place through the transformative power of plants was unmatched. He truly lived by his words: "Green is the color of hope, and in the color of plants is our hope for the future."

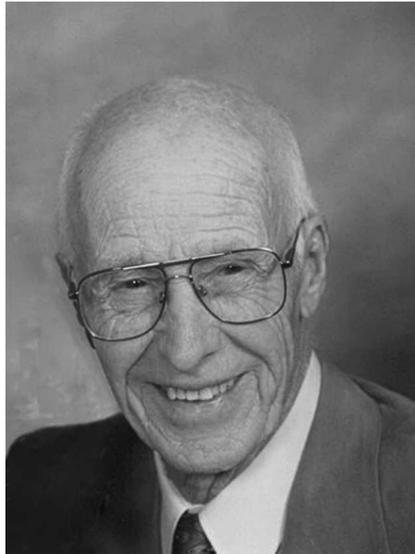
MARK P. WIDRLECHNER  
USDA-ARS North Central Regional Plant  
Introduction Station  
Ames, IA

### Donald Henry Dewey

Dr. Donald Henry Dewey passed away on 4 Apr. 2008. Don was emeritus professor and a long-time member of the faculty at Michigan State University (MSU), having been appointed professor of horticulture at MSU in July 1960.

A native of New York State, Dr. Dewey worked at the Cornell Geneva Experiment Station during his high school years. He had been raised on the family farm in Geneva and felt there was limited opportunity for small truck farmers, so he sought education as the answer for his future. Consequently, his early work experience at the Geneva campus led to his undergraduate and graduate studies at Cornell University. Dr. Dewey graduated from Cornell University with a BS degree in 1939. He was in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and served in India and the Marianas. Returning to Cornell, he earned a PhD in 1950 from the same institution.

Dr. Dewey came to Michigan State University in 1952 as an assistant professor. He was appointed associate professor in July 1955. His major area of concentration, aside



from teaching, was research on the handling, transportation, and storage of horticultural crops. Dr. Dewey was instrumental in the initiation of the International Controlled Atmosphere Research Conference series that began at MSU in 1969. The conference continues to engage researchers working in the storage of fruits and vegetables under modified atmospheres; in Apr. 2009, it will be held in Turkey. Dr. Dewey also helped initiate the Gordon Conference series in postharvest physiology, which also continues to convene, bringing the top researchers in this area together every four years. Don served as acting chair for the department from 1978 to 1979.

Dr. Dewey's experience includes two positions with the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture. The first was as junior olericulturist at Cheyenne Horticulture Field Station in Wyoming from 1939 to 1946. During that time he served in the U.S. Air Force for two years, including 19 months in India and Tinian. His second position was with the USDA in Fresno, CA, where he was an associate plant physiologist. The Organization for European Economic Cooperation granted him a senior visiting fellowship (Sept. 1960 to Mar. 1961) to study at the Ditton Laboratory in Kent, England. At the time of his death, he held membership in the Society of Sigma Xi, American Society for Horticultural Science (elected a Fellow to the Society in 1973), International Society for Horticultural Science, Institute of Food Technologists, and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers.

Don helped the Michigan Apple Industry to develop their controlled atmosphere capacity, which led to long-term storage of the Michigan apple crop. Don was the acting chairperson of the Horticulture Department prior to the hiring of Jack Kelley as chair. Don retired in 1983. Memorials in Don's memory can be made to Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens, in care of 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824 or to St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church, 600 La Canada Dr., Green Valley, AZ 85614. He is survived by his wife, Bethel, who lives in Green Valley, AZ.

RANDOLPH M. BEAUDRY AND FRANK DENNIS  
Department of Horticulture  
Michigan State University, East Lansing