



The David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration consists of a medal, a citation, and a \$5,000 cash prize. It recognizes exceptional individuals who have: explored remote areas of the world, using innovative travel itineraries, conveyances, or techniques to discover new plant species or cultivars; brought into cultivation new and important plants that hold significant promise as agricultural or horticultural varieties, or; played crucial roles in the *ex situ* cultivation of rare or endangered plant species; or helped preserve threatened and endangered habitats and natural communities. Past recipients are:

- Dr. John Dransfield (1999), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, world authority on the systematics of the palm family (Arecaceae).
- Sir Ghilleen Prance (2000), The Eden Project, UK, biology and conservation of tropical Amazonian rain forests, tropical plant systematics (Lecythidaceae, Chrysobalanaceae), and ethnobotany.
- Professor Christopher D.K. Cook (2001), Institute for Systematic Botany, University of Zurich, Switzerland, research on biology and classification of aquatic plants.
- Dr. Ruth Kiew (2002), Singapore Botanic Gardens, one of world's great experts on tropical begonias, exploration of remote areas of Malaysia.
- Dr. Vincent Lebot (2003), CIRAD (Centre International de Recherches Agronomiques pour le Developpement) a French institution working for developing countries. He is a plant geneticist with experience in kava germplasm characterization and evaluation, specializes in root crops agrobiodiversity research, the genetic improvement of their quality and chemotypes.
- Professor Francis Hallé (2004), University of Montpellier, research in tropical rain forests and tree architecture; Canopy Raft expeditions.
- Dr. Thomas Croat (2005), Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, research interests involve the systematics, floristics and ecology of the family Araceae (philodendron family), exploration and field work throughout tropical America.
- Professor Arturo Gómez-Pompa (2006), University of California, Riverside, research on tropical ecology, ethnobotany, conservation and management of tropical forests especially in Mexico.
- Dr. Scott A. Mori (2007), New York Botanical Garden, research on taxonomy and ecology of trees of the lowland New World tropics including the co-evolution between plants and their pollinators and seed dispersers.
- Dr. Peter S. Ashton (2008), Harvard University Herbaria, research on lowland forests in tropical Asia, forest conservation, and research on the systematics and ecology of the important tropical canopy tree family Dipterocarpaceae.

- Dr. Francis S. P. Ng (2009), forest ecology research primarily in Malaysia, including tropical Asian forest trees, introduction of rare and endangered species into cultivation, and conservation of Malaysian ecosystems.
- Dr. Peter K. Endress (2010), advancements in understanding of the present diversity of plants on our planet and the complex breeding systems and floral morphology.
- Professor E. Montague Beekman, posthumously (2011), dedication and perseverance in successfully undertaking the translation of the 17th-century Dutch naturalist Rumphius's 7-volume 7,000-page Ambon herbal.
- Dr. Edmund Wade Davis (2012), botanical exploration in remote areas of South America, especially in the Amazon and Andes as well as lifelong commitment to preserve cultures and languages.
- Dr. George Argent (2013), botanical exploration and research in Southeast Asia, New Guinea, and Brazil and the introduction of plants of economic and horticultural significance.
- Mr. William Richard Quentin Luke (2014), botanical exploration in many remote parts of Africa, the Red Listing of 1,600 endangered African plants, and significant contributions to the Flora of Tropical East Africa.
- Mr. Larry Schokman (2015), botanical exploration in the footsteps of Fairchild, perpetuation of The Kampong (Fairchild's home in Miami), and the publication of Plants of The Kampong which expounded on the legacy of Fairchild and Dr. Catherine Sweeney.
- Dr. Paul Smith (2016), botanical exploration in Africa, heading Kew's Millennium Seed Bank and overseeing the collection and conservation of seeds from more than 25,000 plant species.
- Dr. Alan Meerow (2017), ornamental horticulture research leading to new plant varieties introduced into local cultivation and authoring horticulture books widely used in teaching and in the landscape trade.
- Dr. Michael Balick (2018) of New York Botanical Garden, ethnobotanical exploration in the Pacific.
- Dr. Michael Dossmann (2019) of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, collecting Acer and other deciduous trees in China, Japan, and elsewhere.
- Dr. Jan Salick (2020) of Missouri Botanical Garden, ethnobotany, indigenous people, climate change in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Himalayas.