

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 Ghillean 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), University of Zurich, research on systematic botany of angiosperms including study of floral microfeatures, floral development, floral evolution, and breeding systems.
- Dr. E. M. (Monty) Beekman (2011) (Deceased) to E.M. (Monty) Beekman in recognition of his translation of 17th-century Dutch naturalist Rumphius' 7-volume 7,000-page Ambon herbal [Herbarium Amboinense]
- Dr. Wade Davis (2012), an articulate and influential advocate for the world's indigenous cultures and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. A Harvard-trained anthropologist and botanist, Dr. Davis has lived with and documented indigenous peoples to document their traditional knowledge, language, and cultural practices in books, photographs, and film.
- Mr. George Argent (2013), of RBG Edinburgh, the world's leading authority on tropical Vireya rhododendrons. During his career he has studied them in the field, mainly in SE Asia, collected, propagated, conserved and published definitive accounts on their classification.
- Mr. William Richard Quentin Luke (2014), for exploration and conservation of the floras of Kenya, Tanzania and Mali in East Africa.
- Dr. Paul Smith (2015), Director of the BGCI and previously head of the Millennium Seed Bank, for on his extensive field collecting experiences, commitment to conservation, expertise in plant genetic resource collecting.
- Mr. Larry Schokman (2016), Director Emeritus of The Kampong, for plant exploration and collecting following in the footsteps of David Fairchild.
- Dr. Alan W. Meerow (2017), Senior Research Geneticist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service at the National Germplasm Repository in Miami, Florida, for taxonomic and genetic research and conservation of palms and tropical ornamentals including Amaryllidaceae.
- Dr. Michael J. Balick (2018), Vice President for Botanical Science, Director and Philecology Curator, Institute of Economic Botany, The New York Botanical Garden, for understanding and preserving knowledge of traditional plant use in tropical America and Micronesia.
- 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.
- Dr. Sandra Knapp (2022) of the Natural History Museum (London), taxonomy, ethnobotany, and indigenous crop diversity of Solanaceae with fieldwork in the Central and South America, president of Linnean Society of London (2018-2022).