

Presented by The Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen

THE STANLEY G. SELTZ STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM

in honor of W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., 1947–2012

THE BURKHART-GERHART FAMILY AWARD

Involvement in flower exhibits since he was 6 years old, Gene Burkhart won more than 1,500 prizes, ribbons, trophies and certificates, including several best of show awards and the Artistic Sweepstakes at the Philadelphia Flower Show. He also received the 2005 Pagoda Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts awarded by the Berks Arts Council.

Well-known for his passionate service to both the community and its children, Gene retired in 2004 after 35 years of special education teaching in the Exeter School District. Soon after he retired, he moved his dried flower studio into the Goggleworks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA, where he tirelessly passed on his love of pressed flowers through classes and workshops at the center. He was also instrumental in establishing summer camps and after-school programs for local children.

Holding several board positions in the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen, Gene was the producer and host of "Your Berks Craftsmen" which aired monthly on Berks Community Television (BCTV). He played a leadership role in BCTV's annual fundraising auction and served on the Muhlenberg Township Arts Board, The Greater Reading Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Senior Arts Council, and the GoggleWorks Community Center of the Arts.

Gene loved his family above all else. The dedication of his book, "Pressed Flower Art," published in 2008 by Stackpole Books, reads in part, "...Thanks also to my parents, Warren E. Burkhart Sr., and the late Elizabeth I. Burkhart, for allowing me to pursue my interests and always being available with love, support, guidance, and help with my endeavors. It is

my great honor to dedicate this book to them."

Gene and his father, Warren, were inseparable. Ironically, Warren died only a few months before Gene himself unexpectedly passed away.



Above: Gene in his studio.

Below: An example of Gene's pressed flower art.

