



# Interiorscape Hall of Fame



*Gary Mangum*

*2005 Plantscape Professional*



There are few individuals involved in the interior landscape industry for any number of years that have not heard of our 2005 Plantscaping Professional inductee. If one were to be participating in that old time TV game program, "Match Game", what would be the most logical match for any of the following?

Co-Chair of Plants for Clean Air, Plants at Work, ALCA-IPD Director & Chairperson for several years, Greenhouse Grower Magazine's "National Greenhouse 2001 Grower of the Year", American Horticultural Society's highest award – the "Paul Ecke Jr. Award of Excellence", "Director of 1996

Olympic Affairs" in Atlanta for Rentokil Tropical Plants, co-owner Creative Plantings, co-owner of Premier Plantscapes, and co-owner of Bell Nursery.

If you answered, Gary Mangum, you are correct; and now Gary can add the Interiorscape Hall of Fame to the aforementioned list.

Gary has been one of the industry's most giving and generous individuals, contributing thousands of hours of effort on our collective behalf. Over the years his companies, Creative Plantings, Premier Plantscapes, and Bell Nurseries have not only won multiple regional and national awards but have raised the bar for interiorscape excellence everywhere.

Gary started his career in the interiorscape industry in the early 1970's in his family's business, Creative Plantings. Following the sale of this business to Rentokil in 1992, Gary stayed on for two years, during which time he served as a Rentokil Vice President and Director of Olympic Affairs for the Atlanta 1996 Olympics.

In 1994 Gary along with his brother in law, Mike McCarthy, bought Bell Nursery from his father Bob Mangum and in 1998 they established Premier Plantscapes in Burtonsville Maryland, along with Mike McCarthy and Brett Stevens. A product of hard work and talent, Premier Plantscapes now has revenues in excess of six million dollars, with over forty industry professionals on their staff. Most of the company's business is generated on a referral basis. Gary gives the credit to his "business family", employees operate across the board with the philosophy "act like you own it". Gary's production and marketing innovations at Bell Nursery and the sharing of his expertise with others led to his being

named Greenhouse Grower's Grower of the Year in 2001 and his being asked to participate in an on-camera discussion about the economy with President Bush in 2004.

An interiorscaper for over 30 years, Gary has always been on the cutting edge. One interiorscaper remembers going to Creative Plantings' greenhouse while in Maryland for an ALCA board meeting and there, sleeved and ready to go out to jobs, were a number of 8" mums. Puzzled, she asked Gary why when everyone else used the standard 6" mum, he used 8". A smile crept over his face as he explained, "Our clients want to be different and they want quality. By using supersize mums, our jobs stand out from all the rest." And that's what set Gary's jobs apart.

A staunch supporter of ALCA, he served on the board of directors for many years and when the Foliage for Clean Air idea began to get off the ground, Gary spearheaded the group; raising funds and working with the PR and office personnel on a daily basis. One of his earliest successes at promoting the clean air message was in getting NASA to publicize research done by Dr. Bill Wolverton, a senior NASA research scientist, on the use of plants as indoor air purifiers. Gary was instrumental in introducing this research to the media, notably at a National Press Club conference. As this industry movement evolved into Plants At Work, Gary continued to raise money and encourage other plantscapers to volunteer. Gary has made an indelible mark and substantially furthered the cause for both of these projects giving up hundreds of hours from his own business and personal life.

Gary was born in July 1956, resides on the Chesapeake Bay, in Kent Island, Maryland. Gary is married to Sonia and has four children, the twins Heather and Lindsay, and sons Chase and Kyle. He credits his mother and father, Bob and Shirley, for motivating him at a young age to rely on his own skills to succeed in life. He also credits his success to his business family

When many think about Gary and all he has done, they often comment on how soft spoken, how gentle he is while still staying focused and passionate. We are the lucky recipients of all this work over the years and this honor is so very well deserved.

One of Gary's favorite quotes is: "You don't get if you don't ask." He didn't have to ask, however his peers acted and we now welcome Gary Mangum into the Interiorscape Hall of Fame.

