

Laud for volunteer Miekicki

The Memphis Horticultural Society gave its top award, the annual Award of Horticultural Excellence, to Emelia Miekicki.



Emelia Miekicki is this year's recipient of The Memphis Horticultural Society's Award of Horticultural Excellence.

Miekicki, a native Memphian, is a knowledgeable and tireless volunteer in the horticulture community.

She has served as membership and newsletter chairmen for the horticultural society for six years.

"She's invaluable to any organization she belongs to," said Paul Little, a past president of the Memphis Horticultural Society. "She's always steady, always consistent and she's the most organized person I know."

For the past four years, she and Bill Ferrell have served as co-chairmen for the Memphis Botanic Garden's spring, fall and winter plant sales.

"Everything we ask her to do she does exceedingly well whether it's devising new ways to keep track of money at the sales, decorating for Christmas or rallying volunteers for last-minute projects," said Rick Pudwell, director of horticulture for the botanic garden.

At Dixon Gallery and Gardens, she is a weekly volunteer in the potting compound and serves as head cashier at its plant sales.

She has been a Master Gardener for almost nine years and is active in the Memphis Rose Society. She is a member of two garden clubs: Designing Women and Collierville Garden Club.

She's also an accomplished gardener and flower arranger, who favors plants with pink or purple flowers.

"I learned to garden with my Italian grandmother," Miekicki said. "She could break off a stem from a chrysanthemum, put it in the ground and it would root."