

New Jersey News

Ed and Marsha Gaventa of Logan Township, Gloucester County Honored by Gloucester County Board of Agriculture

Ed and Marsha Gaventa of Logan Township were recently presented with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for their leadership and service to their community and agriculture in Gloucester County and New Jersey. The award and special commendations from the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders and the Legislature of the State of New Jersey were presented in late October with friends, fellow agribusiness people, guests, and agricultural officials and leaders in attendance at Botto's Restaurant in Swedesboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaventa own and operate Cedarvale Winery in Logan Township, Gloucester County, and Mr Gaventa operates A.L. Gaventa and Sons agricultural business in nearby Repaupo with his cousin Roy Gaventa..

The Gaventas were read a citation of their accomplishments and presented a plaque by Agricultural Agent Jerome L. Frecon with Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension, Gloucester County. Mr. Frecon cited many Gaventa Farms production innovations, including integrated pest management, strawberry

variety evaluations, plasticulture sweet corn and low water use irrigation on peaches. "The Gaventa's newest development is a 6 acre planting of European wine grapes, and the establishment of a full scale winery and tasting room off Repaupo Road near Rt. 295 in



Left to Right. Mabel Gaventa, A.L. Gaventa Sons, Ed and Marsha Gaventa, Cedarvale Winery, and Jeff Link, President Gloucester County Board of Agriculture.

Logan Township,” said Mr Frecon.

Mr. Gaventa was recognized for his leadership as a director and President of the National Peach Council and as an officer and director in the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, New Jersey Small Fruits Council, and the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council. Mr. Gaventa also received the “Outstanding Fruit Grower Award,” from the State Horticultural Society in 2009. Mr. Frecon stated, “Ed and Marsha Gaventa have been enthusiastic and energetic leaders in the promotion and marketing of New Jersey peaches as directors and coordinators of the New Jersey Peach Festival and have played active roles in the Jersey Fruit Marketing Cooperative.”

The Gaventas were also recognized for their

leadership in Logan Township. Marsha Gaventa served on the Logan Township Council from 2004 to 2007 and was also a member of the township beautification committee and Logan Little League secretary for five years. Ed Gaventa has served on the Logan Township Planning Board, the Logan Township Open Space Committee as Chair, and for the past twenty five years been a life member and served as Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Treasurer, and Vice President of the Repaupo Volunteer Fire Company. The Gaventas have two children, Chris and Andrew.

The Gloucester County Board of Agriculture, the local unit of the New Jersey Farm Bureau represents agriculture interests and has 1600 agriculture members in Gloucester County.

2010 New Jersey State Horticultural Society Research Grant Awards

Each year the NJSHS awards research grants to support important research topics to the New Jersey Horticultural industry. A large part of these funds comes from our membership gifts made to the society for this purpose. Please consider a donation to help support research (See the Membership invoice in this issue). In times of budget cuts on the Federal, State and County Level our research grants become even more critical as means of support to our researchers.

The NJSHS awarded the following grants and dollars in February of 2010. Reports on these projects will appear in the winter issue of Horticultural News.

- Establishment of a Plant Pathology Research Apple

Orchard at the Rutgers Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Bridgeton- Dr. Norman Lalancette- \$2000

- Testing and Evaluation of Peach and Nectarine Cultivars- Jerome L. Frecon- \$2000
- Support for: 1. Tall Spindle Apple System Trial, 2. Early Fuji Cultivar Trial, 3. Plant Growth Regulator Trials for Return Bloom, 4. Late Thinning with Ethephon on Apples- Winfred P. Cowgill, Jr.- \$2000
- Using GIS Technology to Decrease Cost of Mating Disruption in Peaches- Dean Polk- \$2000



Obituary: Dr. Richard D. Ilnicki, Ph.D.

Dr. Richard D. Ilnicki, Ph.D., devoted husband, father, and grandfather, died on Friday October 8, 2010 at his home, after a long illness, with his family at his side. He was 82.



Dr. Ilnicki was born in Proctor, Vermont and has lived in South Brunswick since 1932. He graduated with a BS in Plant Science from Rutgers University in 1949, and received his MS in Agronomy and Plant Physiology in 1951 from Rutgers. He completed his doctorate in Agronomy and Weed Science in 1955 from Ohio State University. He then began his career as an agronomist with the US Army. He was hired by Rutgers University in 1958 and, after a 33 year career, retired as Research Professor of Weed Science. He was a former chairman of the Weed Science Society of America as well as former chairman and past president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. He was a professor at Rutgers University and taught many Agronomy courses at Cook College up to and following his retirement in 1997. He served on many Cook College Committees. He loved teaching and was most proud of having graduated 23 successful PhD students, 15 MS students, and 3 Post-Doctoral students who have gone on to have successful careers. Two who were most outstanding were Dr. Prasert Chitipong of Thailand, who became President of Songkhla University and later served the Senate, and Dr. Ratemo Michieka, who became Vice-Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University later working for the government and traveling to the UN on Kenya's behalf. He was honored with many awards including distinguished member of the NEWSS in 1986, Outstanding teacher award for the WSSA in 1987, Fellow for the WSSA in 1976, distinguished service award for the pesticide association of NJ in 1990, New York Farmers Award for distinguished contributions to Agriculture and Weed Science in 1966, and outstanding 4-H alumnus given by the State of NJ in 1968. He was a member of a team of scientists visiting the USSR in 1983 and China in 1990. Never refusing when asked to serve on a committee, he always gave

100%. Appointed by Gov. W. Cahill to serve on the NJ Turnpike Authority 1973-1977. He was a charter trustee and former treasurer of the NJ Museum of Agriculture, a 12 year member of the Dayton Cemetery Association, a 25 year member of Pioneer Grange No. 1, and a 23 year member of Mercer County Pomona Grange No. 5. He was a charter member, and past president of the South Brunswick Library, which he helped to build. He served on the South Brunswick Township Committee from 1966-1975 and was elected three terms as the Mayor of South Brunswick Twp. in 1969, 1970, and 1972. He held the title of Director of Public Safety and was a former member of the Industrial Commission, the Planning Board, and the Board of Trustees of the League of Municipalities of NJ from 1970-1973. He was passionate about studying the Bible, especially the Old Testament, which he read for hours at a time and could quote much of it from memory. Another interest was the Civil War and he could recite details about all the generals and battles. Upon retiring, hybridizing daylilies became his outdoor hobby; he had over 100 varieties and several crosses which he named after his daughters.

He was pre-deceased his parents, Demetry J. Ilnicki and Mary (Choma) Ilnicki, two daughters, Deanna J. Berardi in 1999, and Janet R. Adamko in 2009, and his brother-in-law, John Franek in 2010. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Helen (Franek) Ilnicki of Dayton; his daughter, Dr. Carolyn B. Ilnicki of Long Valley; two sons-in-law, Cesare J. Berardi of Chester, NJ, and Christian L. Gebbie of Barrington, Ill.; his sister, Ruth Cilo and her husband John of Belle Mead; three grandchildren, Arianna A. Berardi, David C. Gebbie, and Danielle D. Gebbie; a close family friend, Tom Cherrington of Robbinsville, and 9 nieces and nephews and 17 great neices and great nephews.

The family will receive friends and relatives at the M. David DeMarco Funeral Home 205 Rhode Hall Rd. Monroe Twp., NJ 08831, 732-521-0555, on Monday, October 11 from 7-9pm and on Tuesday October 12 from 2-4pm and 7-9pm. The funeral and interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the South Brunswick Public Library 110 Kingston Lane Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852. For directions please visit www.demarcofuneralhome.com.

Obituary: J. Wilson Hughes

J. Wilson Hughes, of Aura, on Friday, July 30, 2010. He was 90, blessed with a long, robust life, and left this world after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family.

A 1937 graduate of Glassboro High School, Wilson was a very involved lifelong servant of family, industry and community. He was a lifelong farmer, always recognized for producing the finest quality in every product he grew, especially peaches. Wilson was also a tireless advocate for improving his industry, in order to better provide for his family. He served agriculture in many varied capacities, including: The Gloucester County Board of Agriculture, Glassboro Service Association, NJ Farm Bureau, NJ Asparagus, Peach and Apple Councils, NJ Horticultural Society, Farm Credit System, NJ Governor's Rural Advisory Council and Governor's Task Force on Agricultural Funding. Wilson served Elk Township and beyond for 65 straight years, starting with joining the Aura Fire Company at age 14! He served on three Boards of Education; Elk Township, Gloucester County Vo-Tech, and was a proud founder of Delsea Regional High School. He also served Elk Township as a councilman, deputy mayor, public safety director, finance and roads committees, on the planning and zoning boards and Municipal Utilities Authority, from which he retired at the age of 79. He also

served on the Elmer Community Hospital board of directors.

He was predeceased by his devoted wife of nearly 61 years, Mildred Shaw Hughes and his daughter, Charlotte Ann. He is survived by his three children: J. (Jay) Wilson, Jr. (Jonny), Richard B. (Betty), both of Aura, and Susan (Scott) Hansen, of Glassboro. He is also survived by his siblings: Grace (Edward) Redmond, of Pitman and Ralph Jr., (Fran), of Elmer. He was predeceased by his sisters, Doris Sahms and Beatrice Nicholson, and brother, Earl F., all of Aura. He was also predeceased by two separate companions, Dorothy Morlachetta, of Woodbury, and Irene Irvin, of Pitman.

He is also survived by his seven grandchildren: Kathryn Titus, J. Wilson, III, Matthew, Caitlin, Brian and Kelly Hughes, Jason Hansen, and five great grandchildren: Alexander Titus, Caleigh and Megan Hughes, Isabella and William Hansen. He is also survived by nine nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorial contributions may be made to the J. Wilson Hughes Memorial Fund, Aura Volunteer Fire Company, 909 Aura Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028 or the J. Wilson Hughes Memorial Fund, South Jersey Healthcare Foundation, 2950 College Drive, Suite 1F, Vineland, NJ, 08360, to be used for the needs of the Emergency Department at SJH Elmer Hospital.

