

**Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture announces two winners of the \$2500 Fred Winter 2024 Memorial Award for Excellence in Horticulture**

**Charles Colvin**



Charles Colvin is a senior at Penn State graduating this Spring with a degree in Plant Science and a 4.0 GPA. Charles lives in Malvern and has been heavily involved in a Maize Research project at the Penn State Maize Genetics Lab. He is involved in the Penn State Student Farm Club and the Penn State Horticulture Club. He dedicated the summer of 2023 to research at the University of Florida as an intern where research was performed on ways to enhance crop water productivity.

For eight years while in High School and College Charles maintained a 1300 Sq. Ft. backyard vegetable garden from which he grew and donated hundreds of pounds of fresh organic produce to local food banks. Charles plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Plant Science following graduation. He has a fervent interest in plant breeding and sustainable agriculture and believes we can revolutionize food production methods, while at the same time reducing our environmental impact.

**Francis (Frankie) Napoli**



Frankie Napoli is a senior at Temple University graduating this Spring with a degree in Horticulture and a 4.0 GPA. Frankie grew up in Norristown and has been heavily influenced by watching the Norristown Farm Park being developed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Frankie spent the last three years working at this location in their high tunnel greenhouses. During the past year 19,000 pounds of produce were delivered to community partners such as CHOP and Creative Health Services to help fight food insecurity.

At Temple, Frankie has been involved in the Philadelphia Flower Show, the Ambler Arboretum as a student gardener, the Book Binding Club, and Tau Sigma Delta National Honors Society. Frankie has also attended the New Jersey Organic Farmers Assn. winter meetings. Upon graduation Frankie plans to become a full-time employee of the Green Resource Center managing perennial ornamental plantings and conducting workshops on plant physiology.

The Fred Winter Memorial Award for Excellence in Horticulture is awarded yearly to two Horticulture students in their Junior or Senior year. It is given in honor of Dr. Fred Winter, a long-time member of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. Dr. Winter was a well know physician specializing in radiology. He was also a breeder of rhododendron plants and had over 200 varieties on his farm near Pottstown with several of them species he bred and developed himself.