Pi Alpha Xi is proud to honor Lewis Charles Chadwick as the first Fellow of the Society. This award is given in recognition of his marked service and excellence in the field of Floriculture, Ornamental and Landscape Horticulture and his meritorious service to Pi Alpha Xi.

Dr. Chadwick’s career in ornamental horticulture spans over 60 years during which he helped to develop the nursery industry. Born in Randolph Center, Vermont in 1902, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont in 1925 and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Cornell University in 1931. He began his career in 1925 as an instructor in ornamental horticulture at Cornell University and in 1976 the American Association of Nurserymen made him the first recipient of the L.C. Chadwick Educator’s Award which bears his name. The citation accurately summarized his lifetime educational “superior teaching, guidance and motivation of students in the nursery and landscape arts and sciences.” Dr. Chadwick joined the staff of Ohio State University in 1929 where he was not only a distinguished teacher, but also an outstanding researcher and administrator. He authored over 75 technical and scientific papers and numerous trade magazine articles between 1939 and 1967, he averaged 15 to 20 industry talks each year. In 1931, he co-authored with Alex Laurie “The Modern Nursery” a book that was to guide students and growers for decades. “Commercial Flower Forcing”, also co-authored with Laurie in 1934 provided the latest basic information on the production of floricultural crops. From 1953 to 1967 he was the Head of the Division of Floriculture and Landscape Horticulture at Ohio State.


His Honor Societies include: Pi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma Xi, and Pi Alpha Xi. Chadwick was President of Pi Alpha Xi in 1935-1937 and also served the the [sic] Society as Secretary (1935-37) and Treasurer (1937-39).

He has been actively involved in civic affairs serving on various plant commissions of the City of Columbus, Ohio. He has been President of the Northern Columbus Kiwanis Club, Chairperson of various District committees, Lieutenant Governor, and District Treasurer. He is a Life Member of Kiwanis International and in 1961 was honored as Kiwanis Fellow.

In recognition of outstanding service to Pi Alpha Xi and its principles and for notable achievements which have furthered the advancement of the floriculture, ornamental and landscape horticulture industries, Pi Alpha Xi finds Lewis Charles Chadwick most worthy of First Fellow of its Society.

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