National Garden Club, Inc. Youth Poetry Contest
2022-2023
An Anthology of Poems
Kindergarten - 9th Grades

Seeds, Trees
and Bees...

Oh My
- Celebrating the Diversity of Nature
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

What a pleasure the last two years have been for us as we enjoyed compiling the creative writing of our youth. Thank you to NGC President, Mary Warshauer, for continuing the Youth Poetry Contest. We appreciate the help of the youth chairman at the local, state and regional levels. We are grateful to the garden club members who worked with our young, inspiring writers. A very special thank you to the poets for sharing their originality, thus making this a very entertaining booklet.

It has been a pleasure working as chairman for this project.

Chris Leskosky, Chairman
Barbara Bourque, Co-chairman

The following Scale of Points were used in judging:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scoring: one 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place, HM 90+ means a poem is considered on the level of the one which scored higher. Poems are judged by grade levels.

Look for the 🐝 indicating the 1st place winners!
REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Central Atlantic Region – Betty Cookendorfer
Central Region - Carol Yee
Deep South Region - Carol Hall
New England Region - Suzanne McCance
Pacific Region - Lana Finegold
Rocky Mountain Region - Margie Soileau
South Atlantic Region - Marty Bowers
South Central Region - Rose Knight

Sponsoring garden clubs and states are listed after the child’s name.

Poems are written as submitted.

Central Atlantic Region

Grade 1
Huxton Lyons
Calvert County Garden Club, Maryland

“Beautiful Bees”  HM
Seeds grow into flowers
Bees take the pollen
They feed the world!
No life without bees
**Grade 2**
Talula Anderson
Calvert County Garden Club, Maryland

“Bees”
Black               yellow
Gliding          stinging fast
Flying from flower to flower
Collecting pollen
Honey makers

**Grade 3**
Marco Regus
Pucketos Garden Club, Pennsylvania

“All About Trees”
Brown trees have leaves that fall down
Coniferous trees’ leaves are never found on the ground
All trees have stems, no mayhem
They do have seeds
And make the food they need.
Grade 4
Cassidy Phillips
Calvert County Garden Club, Maryland

“Seeds”  HM
Little black
Growing sprouting blooming
Ground stem water vine
Hanging climbing eating
Red fat
Tomato

Grade 5
Charlie Osborne
Ingomar Garden Club, Pennsylvania

“Birds and Bees and Lakes and Trees!” HM
The water winks at me
Each sparkle a gift of the light
I can see a tree
Dew glistening in its elegant branches
The birds’ sing song
The sun is warm in my face
A bee is circling me
But it has no intention to hurt me
With each breath more beauty to see
A lake, a tree, a bird, a bee
There is no end
To the beauty I see
I can hear noise all around me
But not factories
A lake, a tree, a bird, a bee
I can taste the air’s sweetness
I can smell the earth’s scent
I can feel the grass blades on my leg
I can hear the noise of all the animals
And I can see, oh I can see the beauty
A lake, a tree, a bird, a bee
Each sense brings me joy
Being in control of me
Is all I can be
So why not spend that in a place
That is as lovely as anything?
A lake, a tree, a bird, a bee

Grade 6
Sorcha O’Sullivan
Ingomar Garden Club, Pennsylvania

“A Little Seed’s Dream Comes True”
A little seed is found in the field
All alone and scared when a pond appeared
Bumping and jumping afraid to yield
Landing on a green lily pad shield
As it lay on the lily pad drifting down the stream
The seed fell asleep and had a wonderful dream
How do I travel and become great some day
I wish I had help to find the way
The seed traveled near and stayed close to home
When a branch called out and spoke, you are not alone
As the seed lay there, with nowhere to go, the wind took flight lifting it very slow
Like a bird with wings looking for somewhere to rest, it landed on a branch beside an old nest
The flowers and ivy grew on the tree tried to disguise the seed from a curious bee
This clever bee worked hard trying to release the seed, but one final pull, the seed popped up
The final journey was to pollinate
And now the seed has become great
A field of sunflowers wave in the wind looking back and wondering when did it Begin
Dreams can come true if you want them to
And any seed succeed
Grade 7
Trinity Coury
Pucketos Garden Club, Pennsylvania

“Nature’s Beauty is Everywhere”  HM

Living in the country
Plants were all around
Trees, flowers, fields and shrubs
Could always be found
There were many creatures too
Birds soaring through the sky
Turtles walking through the woods
Squirrels climbing high
Now living in the city
It would seem these things are gone
But if you take a closer look
You’ll see they were here all along
Nature’s beauty can still be seen
The birds still sing their sings
The squirrels still prepare for winter
The bees still buzz along
Nature has new surprises everyday
No matter where you go
Its diversity makes it special
Its beauty will always show
“Unreal Diversity” 3rd Place

Buzzing bees
Crafting honey,
Towering trees
Thrive when sunny
All kinds of seeds
Fall from the leaves,
Nature is somewhat
Of a busy family
Intertwined,
Yet so free,
Many lives
Came to be
The aliveness
One may see,
Creates an image
Of highest degree
Shades of green,
Shades of brown,
Shades of vibrants
And shades of dulls
A captivating illustration
Almost abstract,
Many differences,
Liberated, not trapped
The joyfulness of songbirds
The planting of seeds
The blooming of blossoms
And the hardworking bees
All is a beautiful picture
Unfiltered and free,
One of nature’s
Unreal diversity

Central Region

Grade 1

Ryan F.
Hendricks County Garden Club, Indiana

“My Apple Tree”  HM

Big, fat buzzing bees
On the flower of my tree
I know that soon there’ll be
Big, red apples just for me.
Grade 2
Charlie School
Oshkosh Garden Club, Wisconsin

“Little Bee” 2ND PLACE
Such a little bee
Oh me, oh my
He carries the pollen upon his knee
Oh me, oh my
Such tiny specks to see
Oh me, oh my
Make the wildflowers grow free
Oh me, Oh my

Grade 3
Ellie Jordan
Jardin Du Lac Garden Club, Missouri

“Trees Through the Seasons” 2ND PLACE
In the spring the flowers bloom,
The trees grow strong and dance.
Rain will fall and thunder blooms
To give the seeds a chance.
In the summer the sun is warm,
The trees grow tall in height.
Across the fields, the bees will swarm
Beneath the ray’s white light.
In the fall the trees will change,
The green leaves turn to red.  
The different colors will be strange  
As autumn plows ahead.  

In the winter the trees are bare,  
Their branches dressed with snow.  
The deer will roam without a care,  
A little buck and doe.  

The four seasons are quite great,  
They always make us smile.  
I love the magic they create.  
They always come with style.  

**Grade 4**  
Mitchell M.  
Hobart Garden Club, Indiana  

“Nature”  

Nutrients from plants for our bodies  
Ants that eat green rotten apples  
Trees that help clean our air  
Underground fresh soil to help grow plants  
Rivers that provide water  
Enjoying nature to the fullest  

HM
Grade 5
Emma B.
Hendricks County Garden Club, Indiana

“Nature is Beautiful”
Hear the buzzing bees,
Their honey is the sweetest,
Watch them make honey,
Makes the air we breathe,
The rustling of the leaves,
Trees smell like flowers,
Plant them in the ground,
Watch them grow into huge trees,
Seeds are something great.

Grade 6
Max Anderson
Grow and Glow Garden Club, Missouri

“Winter Hills”
The trees are brown, the grasses yellowed
Most life is hidden away.
The nature’s beauty is quite very mellowed
Seen cannot be a single blue jay.

Then snow starts to fall
Oh, so cold, is for all
Yet wreathing the landscape in layers of white
It brings a new beauty, ever so bright.
Many move elsewhere, or hide from the sheer cold
Yet a courageous few stay
Keeping up their life, joy shining through like gold
Out in a wonder, where they continue to play.
Now a day must end, and a night must start
Happiness, firmly mounted in many a kid’s heart.
The sleds are finally put away,
Ready to fly across the snow, when it snows another day.

Grade 7
Hadassah R.
Hendricks County Garden Club, Indiana

“The Forest” 3rd Place
In the forest where the tall oak grows,
Its limbs swaying, as the wind blows.
Poison ivy creeps up the formidable white pine
Near the stream watercress grows fine.
Willow, beach, aspen and elm;
Grow stately in this kingly realm.
Moss spreads over the trees and stones,
Blowing through the trees, the wind moans.
Poisonous, purple stemmed hemlock
Purslane hidden in the cleft of a rock.
Papaw, birch, and spruce trees:
Homes for many birds and bees.
Here grows the feathery fleabane,  
Water glistens on it after the rain.  
Goldenrod bends in the breeze  
The God of Heaven and Earth,  
specially made each one of these.

**Grade 8**
William Fleury  
Bittersweet Garden Club, Missouri

“Spreading Seeds of Kindness in the Community Garden”
Deep inside the city square, asphalt jungle,  
worse for the wear.  
Heavy smog fills the air, different cultures everywhere.  
Between the chatters and the clatters and the horns that beep,  
Hidden on an abandoned lot, plants grow as people sleep.

Tomatoes, carrots, and eggplants grow in orderly rows,  
Lavender, marigolds, and mint help repel the crows.  
Flowers, fruits, and vegetables fill my eyes with a beautiful sight, bringing all together, glowing green and growing bright.
You see seeds are sewn sown, the fruit trees are blooming,
Bee s carry the flowers’ pollen as the skyscrapers are looming.
Inside these gates our love is shared, no longer covered in wrought.
Nurturing these plants is an experience that can’t be bought.

Entering gates, grandparents and schoolchildren pitch in and wait.
Inside the walls, love is grown, and all are safe from hate.
Some of the plants creep along the ground, weaving through the soil,
While others grow up to the sky, wrap through the trellis like coils.

Flowers grow in every color, vegetables rise from the ground
Big, bright berries dot the leaves as birds sing and fly around.
What’s most beautiful isn’t the strawberries or the morning glories,
But each plant is just like us, with different lives and stories.

The garden is taking the broken city, building back and mending,
Integrating all of us, unifying and blending
When we all are united and share our
diversity, our harmony will be never-ending.

Grade 9
Isaac Kelly
Jardin Du Lac Garden Club, Missouri

“Seeds of Life”
Brown buried walnut
Winter hungry squirrel
Hunts, finds and eats!
Fluttering as trees
Helicopter seeds swirl
Sugar maple spring!
Sunflower bright ease
Summer flowers, hunting bees,
Seeds? Goldfinch say, “Please!”
Burley burr oak seeds
Smooth pin oak acorns plummet
Destiny fall trees!
Deep South Region

Kindergarten
Mackenzie Boyington
Conyers Garden Club, Georgia

“Bees and Trees” 2nd PLACE
Bees go buzz
They go in a hive
Black, yellow and striped outside.
Bees fly in the air.
Bees make honey.
Good to taste.
They are tiny.
Queen Bee loves her workers.
People go to the hives to get honey
People eat the honey
In winter they stay inside
So bears don’t find them.

Grade 1
Elijah Dykes
Gateways Garden Club, Georgia

“Plant A Seed Watch It Grow”
You plant a seed
in the ground
When it pops up,
the seed is found
Does it spin around and round
Yes, it does, it doesn’t buzz
It might even feel like fuzz
It might grow small
It might grow tall
It might grow medium
Just don’t let it fall
You can plant it in a pot
Just don’t let it get too hot
A flower needs water and sun
That’s its way to have its fun
So, you can watch it grow

Grade 2
Jace Welch
Beautiful View Garden Club, Georgia

“Cotton Seed” 3RD PLACE
Blue, hard, small.
I have some work to do after all.
Planting cotton seeds in a pretty field of soil.
I hope the cotton will grow
A beautiful field of “Georgia Snow.”
I hope, after all.
Grade 3
Caleb Gold
Hernando Civic Garden Club, Mississippi

“Nature”  
Narwhals jumping out of water  
Arctic Foxes running around  
Turtles swimming in the pond  
Uda sheep eating grass  
Road Runner racing in the desert  
Eagles flying around

Grade 4
Xavier Westfield
Aldersgate Garden Club, Tennessee

“Bees in Trees”  
You wake up in the morning, the sun is bright  
You see a small bee, as beautiful as the sky  
It lands on all of the flowers one, two, three  
The magic isn’t done yet, there’s much more to see  
What come falling out of the same tree  
A big pine cone full of seeds!
“The Lonely Bee”
The bee has no kingdom
The bee has no queen
The bee relies on no one
But the flower in its routine
This bee lives in tunnels
This bee burrows underground
This bee trims the leaves of trees
For every nest crowned
This bee gets no credit
This bee gets no fame
For everything it pollinates
Has a 95% gain
This land belongs to this bee
This bee belongs to the land
This is where the bee belongs
You have to understand
Grade 6
Jaylin Hemphill
Hernando Civic Garden Club, Mississippi

“Nature’s Friends”  2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

Close your eyes and you can see
The way the worlds supposed to be
Sunrise on a clear blue sky
Fields of daisies, soft butterflies.
Tall trees, leaves glistening with dew
Streams and rivers flowing through
Birds singing and flying high
Gentle breezes with cloudless skies.
Snow caps on the mountain tops
Valleys of green that never stop
Ocean waves and pure white sand
Animals grazing on the land.
Feel the wind in your hair
Smell the flowers, blooms everywhere
See the beauty, today is new
Enjoy nature-God’s gift to you.

Grade 7
Joseph Zaden
Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club, Florida

“Nature Will Always Provide”  2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE
It’s good to be outside
Where nature always provides
The trees, the bees, the birds
Where life has no words
The things we need to live
It continues to give
It’s always an adventure
When you go outside to venture
The things you will find Will never leave your mind
Nature Will Always Provide

Grade 8
Sasha Smith
Briarcliff Garden Club, Georgia

“The Unseen Nature” 2ND PLACE
I look up into the sky
Taking in the beauty around me.
The scent of the dew grass and the wood…
I stand realizing how nature gives and humans take.
It makes me sad how we underestimate,
The Earth Mother
How bees give us honey
Flowers beauty
And trees oxygen.
But we walk over it like what she gives is nothing.
Maybe if we opened our eyes and give a little more
We could appreciate what’s outside our front door.

I hope these words reach your heart
Because the world is in your hands.
If we do nothing, our world will break apart.
We have pollution and deforestation,
So please help our nation.
The oceans are clear, but for how long?
If we keep this up, the beauty in our lands will fall
So, think about the next time you pick up a plum,
Where did it actually come from?
Our food is limited, so be wary.
Give back so you can truly see Nature’s glory and the beauty that’s underneath.

Grade 9
Mikayla Barrett
Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club, Florida

“INTERCONNECTION” 3rd PLACE
Just listen…
What do you hear? What do you see?
Rustling of leaves,
Buzzing of Bees,
Dissemination of seeds.
Seeds, trees and bees are all different,
yet somehow connected.
What would we do without them?
The use of biodiversity supports all life on earth.
Without diversity, there would be no ecosystem.
Seeds, Trees, and bees all play a very big part in the eco system.
Without Seeds, we would have no plants.
Without Trees, we would have no oxygen.
Without Bees, we would have no pollination.
Interconnection and diversity, the circle of life.

ESOL Grade 1
Lilly Gonsalez
Odum Garden Club, Georgia

“Rainbow Flowers”
I like rainbow flowers
Fresh water from rain showers
They need light from the sun
The rainbow flowers are so fun
ESOL Grade 2
Celine Hyldgaard
Odum Garden Club, Georgia

“Beautiful Sunflowers & Birds”
A Diamante Poem
Sunflowers
Tall, Yellow
Spread out, Grow, Blossom
Sunflowers make seeds that birds like to eat
Fly, Eat, Tweet
Soft, Colorful Birds

ESOL Grade 3
Isaac Agundiz-Salinas
Odum Garden Club, Georgia

“Dragonflies”
Huge eyes, clear wings
Hovers in the sky
Zoom! Zoom!
Hunts for prey
Eats bees, flies, and mosquitoes
Munch! Munch!
Does a handstand on the clothesline
“A River’s Feelings”
Oh, I am so fast, but I’m strong.
I carry many things like animals and trees.
I don’t go far.
I am very useful.
I also can take boats to the ocean.
It’s hard work.
I go across some states, not continents.
If I did, I will have an adventure!
When it’s cold out, I will freeze into ice
Then the sun could help me go back to water.
I am also helpful when it’s hot.
People jump in my cool water to play.

“Gaia”
Caring, helpful, smart, and peaceful
Daughter of no one
Lover of the earth, nature, and animals
Who feels loving, hopeful, and sad about pollution
Who needs us to care for nature, us to clean oceans, and stop littering
Who gives peace, happiness, and care for nature
Who fears pollution, us destroying the nature, and global warming
Who would like to see earth clean, oceans clean, and air clean
Resident of the planet Earth, Mother Nature

Special Needs Kindergarten
Linlee Swartzlander
Odum Garden Club, Georgia

“All the Colors of Nature”
Yellow and white petals of honeysuckle
White fur of a snow leopard
Purple petals of a flower
Yellow eyes of a lemur
Green spine of a cactus
Black and yellow hairs of a bee
Pink feathers of a Flamingo
Orange amber from tree sap
Gold fur of a lion
Purple leaves of a succulent
Green and red trap of a Venus Fly Trap
Blue skin of a Chameleon
Yellow petals of a sunflower
Brown shell of a turtle
Gray and white skin of a hammerhead shark
Pink petals of roses
Yellow skin of a seahorse
Blue feathers of a macaw
Red arms of coral
Black arms, legs, and ears of a panda
Purple petals of pansies
White fur of a polar bear
Blue flowers of hydrangeas
Yellow wings of a butterfly

Special Needs Grade 1
Creed Brinkley
Odum Garden Club, Georgia

“What is in Nature?”
Trees are in nature
Animals are in nature
Flowers are in nature
Fruit is in nature
Water is in nature
Water lilies are in nature
Special Needs Grade 2
R. J. Presson
Odum Garden Club, Georgia
A Cinquain Poem

“Bees”
Yellow, beautiful
Give us sweet nutritious sticky liquidy honey
The bees also land on your hand when you’re still
Anthophilia

Special Needs Grade 3
Morgana Fenn
Odum Garden Club, Georgia

“The Great Poison Ivy”
A Haiku Poem
Green and green it is
Itchy, icky, itchy, ick
Poison Ivy ick
“Trees and Nature”
Trees keep us
They give us oxygen
Nature keeps the animals alive
People put trash on the ground
It kills nature
It kills animals
It kills trees
We won’t have oxygen to breathe

“Deadly Creatures”
Rattlesnakes
Vicious, Ferocious
Crawling, Biting, Breathing
Georgia, Outside, Desert, Predators
Dash, Flying, Swift
Tiny, Beautiful
Road Runner
New England Region

**Grade 1**
Owen Cloherty
Westport Garden Club, Connecticut

“Bees”

3rd Place

B - Buzzing through the flowers. Buzz!
E - Each bee makes honey. Sweet!
E - Everyday they pollinate. Yah!
S - Swat ten they sting you. Ouch!

**Grade 2**
Sean Alleyne
North Haven Garden Club, Connecticut

“The Buzzing of Bees”

Black and yellow, black and yellow, that’s me.
I am a bee
People don’t seem to like me because they think I want to sting them
They don’t know that they scare me
I try to defend myself by stinging but that means I will die
Black and yellow, black and yellow, that’s me.
I am a bee
I pollinate flowers so they can bloom then get nectar from flowers
The honey I make is good for humans
Black and yellow, black and yellow, that’s me
I am a bee

Flying high in the sky with happiness
Wearing my yellow and black striped jacket
Black and yellow, black and yellow, I am a bee

Grade 3
Tatum Breen
North Reading Garden Club, Massachusetts

“My Wide-Awake Dreamworld”
When I look at a forest, can you guess what I see?
Colorful leaves, some floating down, like falling stars in a night’s sky above me.
All around are paths of flowers, with colors like rainbows so vibrant and bright:
Yellows like the sun, waves of oceany blue and touches of cloud-like white.
The tall trees rising above, with branches reaching far and wide,
Like the arms of beanstalk giants! Are they friendly, or should I run and hide?
I see butterflies with wings colorful as sunsets fluttering by. 
They’re like fairies and pixies, impossible to capture no matter how hard I try!
I hear birds singing songs like the magical lullabies I hear as I fall asleep every night.
I see ants, bees and other bugs busy working just like fairytales elves might.
The ground is lined with seeds creating many paths I can choose.
Like the dots on a treasure map a pirate might use!
When I look at a forest, do you now know what I see?
It is my “wide awake dreamworld” filled with whatever my imagination wants it to be.

Grade 4
Madelyn Brown
North Reading Garden Club, Massachusetts

“How My Garden Grows” 2ND PLACE
Winter is gone, we’re clear of snow
Time to let my garden grow
I dig a hole and plant my seeds
And every day I’ll pick the weeds
With sun and water my plants grow tall
Soon they’ll reach the garden wall
Little buds and blossoms appear
A buzzing sound means bees are near
They pollinator, then fly away
My flowers turn to fruit this way
Zucchini, tomato, squash and peas
Now I’ll eat then as I please
It was fun to watch my garden grow
I learned what you reap is what you sow

Grade 5
Harper Breen
North Reading Garden Club, Massachusetts

“A “New-bees” First Spring Flight” 2ND PLACE

From a honey-yellow hive hanging in a sun-
warmed reviving tree,
Out pops a very shy little new-born honeybee!
Full of excitement for her very first Spring,
she quickly starts looking around,
Her senses taking in Nature’s “magical
kingdom” everywhere a new smell, sight and
sound!
Below is a path of flowing blue movement to
first catch her curious eye.
She stretches opens her wings and, in the stream’s, direction begins her very first fly. When she reaches the end of the rolling blue trail, a cascade of aromas and colors fill her head. This is what her mom softly sang songs to her about; a fresh blooming Spring flowerbed! Suddenly her very “bee-ing” is overwhelmed by a smell which brings on a most joyous mood. Excited she flies from flower to flower, gathering pollen and nectar, every bee’s favorite food! With her collection soon completed, a moment’s rest on a tree branch to again take in all the wonder around: The cool feel of a breeze, joyous sound of singing birds, watching seeds as they float to the ground. With a promise to soon return, the little “new-bee” gives her flowerbed friends a wing wave farewell. She flies back up the water courses to her hive, now with a tale of a “First Spring Flight” to tell!
Grade 6
Kaelyn Schmitt
Colchester Garden Club, Connecticut

“Oak Tree”
An oak tree stands tall.
Its seeds drop gently from high.
Growing brand new life.

Grade 7
Hannah Geller
Framingham Garden Club, Massachusetts

“The Garden”
Pink flowers
Green trees
Rain showers
Yellow bees
Weeds and dirt
Green and brown
Get on my shirt
After I sit on the ground
This is where
We all play
Out in the garden
Every day
“Explore and Decorate”
Touch and feel, look and see, make something.
I like the tree moss because it is soft and strong.
One day I made a nest out of tree moss.
A bird found it and made a home for her eggs.
When the babies hatched, they liked the nest too.
It was string, sturdy, soft and warm.
It was a perfect place for a first home!
I mixed some water with soil and made a mud pie
And decorated it with pebbles and flower petals
but the birds didn’t want any, they wanted to learn how to fly!
“Walking Nature”
Bees, trees, and nice fresh breeze.
Pretty plants and some ants.
Sunny bright skies and fluffy white clouds
I smell fresh cut grass
As I walk to my class
The garden
Roses are red
Violets are blue
Daisies are beautiful
Tulips are too.
Every flower is different,
Just like you.
Aqua
Water is good for you
To drink and to view.
All animals and nature need it,
Not just you.
Rivers and water fall
Oceans views are beautiful
Just like you.
“Nature is Changing”
The bees are buzzing
Flowers are blooming
Seeds are growing
Like the seasons, nature is changing
The weather is breezy
The sounds of the ocean waves
The sunset shimmering
The campfire sizzling
Like the seasons, nature is changing
The snow on the ground
Hot coco steaming
Weather is freezing
Like the seasons, nature is changing
The autumn leaves are falling
The weather is cooling
Tree leaves colors are changing
Like the seasons, nature is changing
As I walk down the path of nature
I spotted
The real beauty of it.
I could smell the beautiful fresh morning air.
I could see the beautiful fresh flowers bloom.
I could hear the beautiful song that the birds sing.
But most of all the beautiful big trees.
Its big leaves covered me like an umbrella.
I felt the fresh morning breeze through my skin and hair.
Now I was calm, peaceful, free and relaxed.
Now my mind was clear.
I know there was nothing to worry about.
This is truly the beauty of nature.
Every evening I go for a walk
But this walk, this particular walk,
I was depressed.
Along the pathway,
I began spotting petite little flowers.
As I continued jogging,
I saw them begin to get bigger and bigger.
After a while they got as big as my hand!
This is when I realized something.
Where could these flowers be coming from?
Seeds, little seeds.
How do they preserve this much?
Birds, rodents,
Rainstorms, haboobs,
Hurricanes, lightning strikes!
All of the forces of nature,
Fighting to destroy the tiny seeds.
We can do it too.
It’s a sign for all of us,
Never, ever stop.
Keep persevering!
We can look to these seeds as our guide.
As the bees hum their tune the bears come from the blue.
A sweet prize in store but a price will to be paid.
A sweet honeysuckle or a gruesome sting?
The honeysuckle is always chosen but the bear is never boasting because before he goes the bees come and hum a march.
The price was paid, no reward was made but still the bees hummed their working tune.
The tune passed on from the elders to the babies never missing a beat.
But still all alone the bees finally rest humming and beating their wings to the tune.
The hum of bees still.
And the bees rest their tired eyes to overcome the working days and the army attacks.
But still, no one ever really knows the humming of the bees.
**Rocky Mountain Region**

**Grade 1**

Luke Nelson  
Neighborhood Garden Club, Utah

“Green Trees”  
The tall trees are green  
Like the grass way under them  
In the hot summer.

**Grade 3**

Cree Webb  
Neighborhood Garden Club, Utah

“Nature is All Around”  
Nature’s all around you’ll see.  
Everywhere you look it will be.  
It’s on the ground, it’s in the air  
Nature just is everywhere.  
Well, go on a bike  
And look all around you’ll see it there.
“Nature What a Beautiful World” 3rd Place

A small speck can become something mighty
a seed to a tree
What a wonder to me
a very small seed can climb so far
its branches ever reaching
Perhaps up to a star
A busy little bee on a mission each day
Working hard for its hive
Work before play
At the base of the tree
bright flowers are blooming
Zipping through crisp air
Bees pollinating and zooming
A happy little stream
Feeds trees, flowers, and animals each day
doing its part in nature
and reflecting sunshine’s ray.
The horizon is gleaming
the sun starts to rest
Nature gets quiet
the meadow gave its best
What a diverse beautiful world we live in
Respect Mother Nature and you will fit in.

South Atlantic Region
Kindergarten
Madalyn Williams
Judy’s Garden Club, West Virginia

“Gardening With Mom” 3rd Place
I like flowers because they smell beautiful.
My mom helps me garden.
It makes me happy.
I see blues and greens.
My brothers and sister help me plant the seeds in the garden to grow tomatoes.
After the tomatoes grow I like to eat them.
I enjoy spending time with family when we garden together.
Grade 1
Quinn Broschart
Emma Scott Garden Club, West Virginia

“Sweet Bee”  2ND PLACE
I am a bee
I love honey
I think about nectar
I worry about stinging someone
I cry when I’m sad
I feel happy to get pollen
I get angry when people bother me
I like to fly
I can hear my buzz
I smell flowers
I see petals
I’m happiest when I make honey
I am a bee

Grade 2
Corrina Burkhart
Emma Scott Garden Club, West Virginia

“Sunny Honey”  HM
Flowers little round
Brown maple seeds need water
They grow into trees
Bees fly over fields
Find flowers and the nectar
Honey at the hive
**Grade 3**

Emma Kleintop  
The Garden Club of Aiken, South Carolina

“Trees”  
Who can be long, tall or short  
Who enjoys birds chirping  
Who feels happy when it rains!  
Who wonders how long will I live?  
Who fears fires, pollution, lightning and axes!  
Who cares about nature!  
Who dreams of being a home for animals!

**Grade 4**

Emmie Bryce  
The Garden Club of Aiken, South Carolina

“Nature’s Trees”  
Nobody can disturb them  
All the animals are playing  
Tall trees keep growing  
Unlike a yard it’s totally wild  
Running squirrels gather nuts  
Everything benefits from shade  
Soaring birds high in the sky  
Tall and beautiful bushes  
Rain drops from the leaves  
Every piece of grass is important  
Even the flowers are peaceful  
So majestic and magnificent
“Finding Nature”

Seeds they soar like leaves from trees.
How I adore the sun and the bees!
Bees how they buzz, they are strong just like trees.
From the root to the trunk,
From the branches to the leaves.
Its magic if you just believe.
Every type of nature, they’re all around you,
You just have to find them like I do!
I find seeds in the garden where they learn to grow.
I find bees in the flowers, with the lovely, scented glow.
I find trees in the forest with birds, bugs and seeds.
You look and listen, you’ll find them, yes indeed!
All of this nature. Oh my! Quite a lot!
All types that are just for you to spot.
Seeds, trees and bees, intertwined.
So much diversity for you to find!
“Birds, Bees and Squirrels Between”  
Nature is very diverse  
It has many things in store  
One of which is a tree  
That is planted at the floor  
It started as a seed  
And grew into much more  
Now it’s the home of lots of things  
Like birds and bees and squirrels  
It has nests for birds  
And hives for the bees  
And squirrels live somewhere in between  
They all have fun playing all day  
They find their food and live their day  
When it comes time for them to sleep  
They fly or buzz or run  
To their nest or hive or in between  
And when they go to sleep at night  
They have dreams that make them smile  
Not fright  
This is why nature is so diverse  
And some of what it has in store  
Hope you learned a little about the trees
And the birds and bees
And squirrels that lie in between

South Central Region

Grade 1
Ameer Farraj
A & M Garden Club, Texas

“Bees and Bunnies”

The yellow bees buzz,
While they drink their honey,
Something hops in the bushes
It’s a small, brown bunny
Nature is full of life.

Grade 3
Karlee-Dean Shanks
San Saba Garden Club, Texas

“A Unique Animal”

Butterflies are beautiful creatures
Under a tree limb they hang
Trees are full of them
They are special
Every butterfly is unique
Really shy with people so just observe
Flies everywhere just to share joy
Lays on the grass under the sun
I love the pattern in their wings
Every butterfly is so different
So, keep your eyes open for every unique butterfly.

Grade 4

Alana Fiocchi
Abilene Garden Club, Texas

“Nature Adventure”
This is for the adventure seeker,
The one who’s the treasurer keeper.
Out and about looking for things to do,
Collecting nature and finding a clue.
Animal prints lead to a creek
Then looking up to see the peak.
Just above the sky is high
With animal clouds I spy with my eye.
I like the water to bounce on my feet.
It makes me dance and get a beat.
While there, it would be my wish
That I could catch a big fish.
The sun shines bright upon the land
Making seeds sprout with God’s right hand.
I love flowers and climbing trees
Butterflies, bugs, and honey bees.
Sunflowers so tall and yellow
Attract a bee, a funny little fellow.
The bees buzz around their hive,  
Always so busy and alive!  
The bees’ amazing flying wings,  
But watch out for their stings.  
Be still like a flower stem,  
And don’t try to bother them.  
Their fitted patterns of honey comb  
Work together as a dome  
To make the bees a happy home,  
A habitat from which they roam.  
I know I am just a child,  
But I sure do like the wild.  
All creatures big and small  
Glad God made them all!

**Grade 5**

Fiza Dhosani  
A & M Garden Club, Texas  

“One With Nature”  **3RD PLACE**

Freshly planted seeds  
Slowly growing into tiny trees  
There’s buzzing everywhere  
The bees are flying high in the air  
Bright green trees swaying left and right  
Tall and small glowing in the light  
Little flowers are on the ground  
Blue, purple and pink all around
The seeds grow into beautiful flower trees
They all get pollen by the bees
Nature brings everything together
Thank God for this miraculous treasure

Grade 6
Salam Noor Farraj
A & M Garden Club, Texas

“Harmony Seeds
Fall dawns on the forest,
A fresh breath quite unlike anything else,
Reborn once again, beautiful and unique,
Into the forest.
The unheard have preparations,
For many shed their leaves,
In a beautiful carpet.
For them, letting go is a way to survive.
As trees rain down their gold,
Squirrels hurry to collect their bounty,
Foxes scavenge for berries among the trees,
Struggling to finish before the cold sets.
Every single creature knows what is ahead,
Each working to get their part done,
And the forest is now in perfect harmony.
Busy and on the verge of change.
Gracie Nichols  
ARP Garden Club, Arizona  

“Maple Tree”  

On the awakening of a Sunday morning  
I leaped to the smell of sweet honey! 
From the backyard where the grass is so green 
and the air is so fresh  
I guided my way to my special spot, 
the maple tree 
All of the backyard is so green 
Except for that maple tree! 
The reason I love this tree is because 
I grew it with my very own seeds 
The breeze was so nice 
On this beautiful day  
All I did was stare into the blinding blue sky 
I could not look away 
The flowers are so bright after the bees! 
Like the maple tree in the breeze 
Why an I so happy to see the diversity 
in the nature 
In this lovely place
Grade 8

Callie Brown
ARP Garden Club, Arizona

“Spring Harmony”  HM
Oh my,
The sound of the bees
Buzzing around the trees
Waiting for flowers to bloom from their seeds
Oh how I love the diversity of nature.

Grade 9

Laila Farraj
A & M Garden Club, Texas

“Nature’s Heartbeat”  2ND PLACE
If you’re quiet enough,
Maybe you can hear,
The steady thump thump,
Of nature’s heartbeat.
The gentle whizz of a hummingbird,
Fluttering near a flower,
The soft crashing nearby,
Of a waterfall.
If you listen closely,
The gentle thrumming
Will fill your ears,
The sound of nature’s heartbeat.  
Fat bears rumble across the dirt,  
Ready to sleep.
Angelic white flakes fall from the sky,  
Decorating the ground like confetti.  
Nature is all around us,  
Pulsating with life.
And if you listen close enough,  
You can hear nature’s heartbeat.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

To participate, please follow the guidelines on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org.