

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



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PRESS RELEASE

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Sara Via of Maryland Receives Prestigious Award

The members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) recently honored Sara Via of Ellicott City, Maryland with their prestigious Award of Excellence, the highest award presented by NGC to a non-member. The Award of Excellence honors an individual, organization or institution that has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of goals and purposes of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland of the NGC wholeheartedly nominated Dr. Sara Via for a National Garden Clubs Award of Excellence. Sara is a distinguished scholar who has received numerous teaching awards. She received her PhD in Zoology from Duke University with a post-doc in evolutionary genetics at the University of Chicago. She has led the charge in Maryland and nationwide on the importance of climate change. Sara says it best with this quote, "Teaching Introductory Biology was what moved me toward my "second career" in climate change education. Every year, when I updated my lectures about human impacts on ecosystems, I became increasingly worried about climate change. By 2013, I was so alarmed that I knew I needed to find a meaningful way to help address it. Figuring out how to explain climate change and its impacts in plain language and talking with people about solutions available to everyone has been some of the most interesting and satisfying work I've ever done." Sara collaborates with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to work with farmers on sequestering carbon in the soil. She frequently teaches courses for Maryland's Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools. Recently, Sara created a free Climate and Sustainability webinar series, which includes topics such as regenerative gardening and landscaping, healthy soil, and key climate solutions and ideas that are spreading.

About National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. currently has over 5000 local clubs, with 145,000 members, and over 330 international affiliates. The organization provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility. **Learn more about National Garden Clubs, Inc. at gardenclub.org.**

Sincerely,

Gerianne Holzman

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National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Second Vice President