

The National Garden Clubs Awards Committee is pleased to present National Garden Clubs Awards 2024, recognizing the accomplishments of our clubs during 2023. The winners are receiving the Certificate of Merit for the award indicated and, in most cases, \$100 to recognize their efforts. Exceptions will be noted throughout the program.

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## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

**CE1, Community Gardens**, is given for a garden project in a community or on religious grounds providing greenspace that gives opportunities for various types of outdoor activities.

First Place Winners in this category are:

- Greensboro Garden Club (Alabama)
- Oakdale Garden Club (California)
- Roswell Garden Club (Georgia)
- Townview Garden Club (Georgia)
- Rome Federated Garden Clubs (Georgia)
- DuQuoin Garden Club (Illinois)
- Cross Creek Garden Club (Illinois)
- Laurel Garden Club of Springfield Burke (National Capital Area)
- Southern Butler County Garden Club (Pennsylvania)

The overall winner is

**Rome Federated Garden Clubs of Georgia**

This Federation recognized the benefits of having a peaceful, welcoming environment for those individuals in the Child Advocacy Program. Harbor House, the homes donated to the program years ago were much in need of an uplift. The Harbor House Board secured funds for building renovation. The Rome Council selected the landscaping as their two-year project and won a Plant America Grant to assist with the cost of materials.

**CE 2, Permanent Community Improvements**, is awarded for the most distinguished civic or conservation work furthering NGC objectives and providing a permanent improvement for public benefit in the community.

First place winners include:

- Greensboro Garden Club (Alabama)
- Holliston Garden Club (Massachusetts)
- Roanoke Island Garden Club (North Carolina)

The overall winner is

**Holliston Garden Club** of Massachusetts

As part of their efforts to bring awareness of the benefits of trees to their community, and to encourage their community to become a “Tree City USA”, this club created a survey of the 60 trees planted in the community by the club over the last 60 years. They published this survey on their website, and it was promoted through local news media as well as through a library display. They were able to link their website with that of the city. Several other activities for awareness were held and in the end the city met all the requirements to become a “Tree City USA.”

**CE 3, Food Bank Donations** is awarded for the largest donation of freshly grown food to a food bank, pantry, or other organization providing food to those in need in a community.

Our First Place winners are:

- Guada Coma Garden Club (Texas)
- O’Fallon Garden Club (Illinois)
- Springfield Garden Club (Illinois)

The overall winner is

**O’Fallon Garden Club** of Illinois

O’Fallon Garden Club has worked for several years to provide fresh produce to their local food pantry. The extensive system of raised beds constructed over the last few years by this club has once again proven to increase the harvest this club is able to

provide to their community. During the 2023 growing season, they provided lettuce, kale, tomatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, and many other vegetables. Deliveries were made twice weekly during the growing season for a total of 5,350 lbs. of fresh produce.

The Roadside Plantings Award, **CE 4A**, is presented for outstanding, permanent roadside beautification.

The First Place winners in each category are:

- League City Garden Club (Texas)
- Butler Garden Club (Pennsylvania)
- Wesson Garden Club (Mississippi)

The overall winner is

**Wesson Garden Club** in Mississippi

Refurbishing and replanting 8 brick planters along the main highway into town, adding hanging baskets and welcome banners, and beautifying the Fountain Garden have combined to create a special feeling of welcome to the town of Wesson and give its citizens a renewed pride in their community.

Award **CE 4B** expands on Roadside Plantings to focus on environmental preservation and enhancement using wildflowers and native plants.

The winner of this award along with a check for \$1000 is

**League City Garden Club from the lone star state of Texas.**

Working between high tension power lines, industrial buildings and warehouses, and along a main artery leading into a beautiful residential section of town, the League City Garden Club this year doubled the size of the pollinator garden established here. Their success also led to the city adding a new pollinator garden on the opposite side of the intersection. This club measures their success not only in the continuous beauty of the blossoms, but even more so in the soft buzzing of the pollinators joyfully visiting each bloom.

The Beautification Project Award , **CE5**, is given for the most outstanding beautification project in a city, town, or neighborhood done on a continuous basis or as a special one-time event.

Receiving recognition for first place in the various categories are:

- Greensboro Garden Club (Alabama)
- Country Garden Club (Massachusetts)
- Columbus Garden Club (Texas)
- Dogwood Garden Club (Washington)
- Wauconda Garden Club (Illinois)
- Garden Club of Rogers (Arkansas)

And the overall winner of the Certificate of Merit is

**Wauconda Garden Club** from Illinois

The Village of Wauconda honors veterans and service members with a Memorial Park and pays tribute to the victims of 9/11 with a Memorial. At the request of the mayor, the Garden Club created a beautiful flower garden and “Path of Honor” to connect the two areas. The club chose to make this a pollinator garden to also support pollinators in the area.

Our **International Affiliates** also present awards for outstanding projects within their communities. These projects may involve community plantings, public gardening areas, cultivation projects, or horticulture workshops.

Gold Certificates are awarded to these clubs.

From Peru, the Winner of **CE 5** Beautification Project is

**Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #321.**

And also with a winning Beautification Project from Peru is

**Casuarines Club de Jardines #364.**

The Community Project with Native Plants or Wildflowers, **CE 6**, is given for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on plant material native to the region.

First place winners are:

- Gates Mill Garden Club (Ohio)
- Gateway Garden Club (Kentucky)
- Fort Bragg Garden Club (California)

The winner, receiving the Certificate of Merit along with \$1000 is

**Gates Mills Garden Club** from Ohio

After several years of work on restoring buildings and gardens on a 5-acre plot of land donated to the club a few years ago, the club members turned their attention last year to the restoration of a woodland area adjoining their property with the banks of the Chagrin River. Members worked hard to remove invasives, replant deer resistant native plants, and make the woodlands accessible with a trail to the river.

Award **CE 7** is given for the best landscaping project for a Blue Star and/or Gold Star Marker.

The first place winners for their landscaping projects are

- Club Estates Garden Club (Georgia)
- Two Creeks Garden Club (Kentucky)
- Hibiscus Garden Club (Texas)
- Lincolnshire Garden Club (Illinois)
- Thomasville Garden Clubs, Inc. (Georgia)
- Garden Club of Illinois, Inc. (Illinois)

The winner is

**Club Estates Garden Club** in Georgia

Located within metro Atlanta, this club worked with their Historic Neighborhood Association to install the first Blue Star Marker in their city. Their plans included a

surrounding landscape of a mix of perennial and annual plantings with regular maintenance and seasonal updating.

The Award for Landscaping of Public or Religious Grounds, **CE 8**, involves design, planning, and carrying out a significant project.

First place winners in each category are:

- First Saturday Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Hernando Civic Garden Club (Mississippi)
- Arlington Heights Garden Club (Illinois)

The winner of Best in this Group is

**Hernando Civic Garden Club** from Mississippi.

Mississippi's Desoto County Museum is home to a new donation of memorial stones for local blues musicians. To help bring a focus to this memorial area, the Hernando Civic Garden Club created a "Blues Garden" highlighted by the placement of a blue bottle tree. The museum is visited by 26,000 each year with 14,000 vehicles driving by daily.

The **International Clubs** honored for their work in Landscaping Public or Religious Grounds are

**Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #321** in Peru for Botanical Garden,  
Parque de las Leyendas

Also

**Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #321** for Convento y Santuario Basílica de Santa Rosa maintenance.

And from Uruguay

**South Carrasco Garden Club #555** for Unión, Valor y Fe en los Andes.

Award **CE9** is awarded for the most outstanding historic landscaping preservation project.

Those clubs receiving first place honors in this category are:

- New Neighbors Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Shaker Farms Garden Club (Ohio)
- Garden Lovers Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Mesquite Garden Club (Texas)
- Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. (Georgia)

The Certificate of Merit winner is

**Garden Lovers Garden Club of Tennessee**

Since 2001 the Garden Lovers Garden Club has provided support to the Oaklands Mansion, the oldest preserved home open to the public in Murfreesboro. They have restored and maintain the kitchen garden in the mid-1800's tradition. Recently they have improved the pathways and added seating to make this garden area more accessible to visitors, including those who participated in a Tri-refresher during the 2023 state convention.



**ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**

**EC 1** honors overall excellent and well-balanced conservation activities.

The first place winners are

- West Hartford Garden Club (Connecticut)
- Eastside Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Chippewa Garden Club (Ohio)
- Cherokee Council of Garden Clubs (Georgia)
- And Joel Haussen from Eastside Garden Club in Tennessee

This winner is

**West Hartford Garden Club** of Connecticut

The Club has undertaken a long-term project to restore, preserve, and achieve sustainability for the 33-acre Spicebush Swamp Park, an area dedicated to being kept in its natural condition for those who love nature at its finest.

The **EC 2 Conservation Education** award is given for the most comprehensive work and/or study in conservation education.

The first place winners for each category are

- Lafayette Garden Club (Louisiana)
- Bentonville Garden Club of Arkansas
- Kimberly Atkins from Illinois and
- Oklahoma Garden Clubs

Our winner is

**Bentonville Garden Club** of Arkansas.

The Bentonville Garden Club has completely revived the Learning Garden at a local junior high school. Working with a teacher advisor and a group of students in the priority gardening program, the group not only revived the Learning Garden with pollinator plants, but also improved the school entrance by placing appropriate pollinator plants in the raised beds there.

**EC 3 Wildlife Survival** is given for the most comprehensive and effective project for pollinator, bird, or wildlife protection and welfare.

Winners of first place awards are

- Poplar Estates Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Lookout Mountain Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Hunt Garden Club (Texas)
- Marietta Council of Garden Clubs (Georgia)



This top award goes to

**Hunt Garden Club** from Texas

The Beehive Project originally started by this club in 2014 had to be completely restarted after a 2021 weather issue caused the loss of the hive. Since then the Project has expanded to 3 hives and the club has purchased a mobile hive which allows one frame of bees to be removed from the hive for a short period of time. This hive has allowed club members to not only demonstrate the work of these pollinators at the hive, but also to safely transport the single frame to the local school where the science teacher uses it with her instruction and the librarian uses it when reading books about bees to the students.

**EC 4** is the award given for water conservation or clean-up activities.

The section winners for this award are:

- Seasons IV Garden Club (Virginia)
- Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs (Colorado)

The Overall winner for this award, is

**Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club** (Tennessee)

Recognizing the high level of E. Coli in the local watershed, this club reached out to mywaterways.org for help and entered into a friendly competition between the communities of Lookout Mountain and Signal Mountain to see who could earn the most RainSmart yards by capturing and retaining stormwater in their yards. Through a wide variety of local publicity and education, Lookout Mountain won the competition with the most certified yards.

Creating the best establishment of a venue which emphasizes native plants and wildflowers and which is designed to expose and educate the public as to the importance of these plants to conservation and the environment is the focus for **EC 5**, the Native Plants and Wildflower Venue award.

In the various categories for this award, the winners are

- From Louisiana, the New Iberia Garden Club
- Bluebonnet Garden Club (Texas)

The winner and recipient of the \$800.00 prize money is

**Bluebonnet Garden Club** of Brenham, Texas

Upon moving the local elementary school to a new location, an Outdoor Learning Center was designated on unused land on one side of campus. Several local groups came together to establish gardens in the space. The Bluebonnet club worked with a local student working on his Eagle Scout project to establish one area as a butterfly garden. On a monthly basis during appropriate months, the club hosts their junior garden club there to learn about the plants and their needs and to work in the garden to keep it maintained.

The **EC 6 Award for Organic Practices** is given for the most outstanding project or educational activity emphasizing and employing the use of organic materials and methods in gardening.

First place winners are

- Greensboro Garden Club (Alabama)
- Mesquite Garden Club (Texas)

The winner is

**Mesquite Garden Club** from Mesquite, Texas

Residents of Mesquite are educated and encouraged by the organic gardening practices of Diana Loring, a certified nursery landscape professional and president of this garden club. Using practices such as scattering compost and Texas green sand to improve soil aeration and nutrient availability, spreading corn gluten meal to prevent seed germination, and applying dried molasses to combat grub worms and cinch bugs are just a few of the unique steps Diana takes to protect her family, pets, and the surrounding community from harmful chemicals.

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FLORAL DESIGN

The Calendar Arranger of the Year and winner of \$100 is

Dyanna Madro from California

This year's International Designer of the Year, also receiving a Certificate of Merit and winning \$100, is

Felicity Holmes, hailing from Bermuda

The award for Floral Design Program is given for the most outstanding program or workshop teaching floral design.

First place winners are

- Woodlands Garden Club (Illinois)
- Springfield Civic Garden Club (Illinois)
- Mesquite Garden Club (Texas)
- District 1 Garden Club Federation (Pennsylvania)

The award goes to

Springfield Civic Garden Club of Illinois

It took over 30 volunteer hours to decorate the historic Dana Thomas House (a Frank Lloyd Wright home) with 41 designs. Twenty-eight designers were involved in the project that will remain in place for the year. All designs were constructed to enhance the architecture of the home with its many levels and interesting alcoves features, niches, ledges and windows.

FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Are earned by meeting specific criteria for each type of show. The following are the awards and ribbons earned in each type of show.

The Club Standard Flower Show Award

- **Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club** invited everyone to "Tea Time"
- **Granada Garden Club in Mississippi** went to "Play Outdoors at Granada Lake"
- **Shady Garden Club of Tennessee** offered their "Viewpoints"
- **Garden Club of Forest Hills in Pennsylvania** explored "Tracing Our Roots"
- **Gates Mill Garden Club of Ohio** found "Jewels of the Garden"
- **Hiawassee Garden Club in Georgia** called out "Hey, Grandma!"
- **Friendly Flower Garden Club from Washington** skipped along to "Follow the Yellow Brick Road"
- **Manatee Garden Club from Florida** read "ObSEUSSed, a Seussical Celebration"
- **The Springfield Garden Club in Massachusetts** presented a "Welcome to the Park"
- **Nathan Hale Garden Club in New York** gave a "Welcome Aboard"
- **Hop Ground Garden Club also in New York** shouted "AND AWAY WE GO"
- **In Florida, The Garden Club of Stuart** played a "Symphony of Beauty"
- **Olympia Garden Club from Washington** enjoyed "A Day at the Beach"
- **The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Garden Club** had a taste at "Café La Fleur"
- **Great Meadows Garden Club in Pennsylvania** visited with "Alice in Wonderland"
- **Greenville Garden Club of South Carolina** hosted "A Spring Garden Party"
- **In Louisiana, Covington Garden Club** visited "Louisiana Fairs and Festivals"
- **Tri Cities Garden Club from Michigan** found that "Gardens Inspire Us"
- **Mason County Garden Club, also in Michigan,** spent "A Day in the Garden"
- **Holland Garden Club, again from Michigan** flew away with "Birds, Bees and Butterflies"
- **Florida's Miami Beach Garden Club** found that "Birds of a Feather Flock Together"
- **The Town of Ontario Garden Club in New York** celebrated "Summer Solstice"
- **Venice Area Garden Club from Florida** relaxed "By the Beach"
- **Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs, also in Florida,** served "Cocktails & Mocktails"
- **Schuylerville Garden Club from New York** took a "Road Trip, New York"
- **Columbia Garden Club of Missouri** hosted a "Summer Camp"

- **Punta Gorda Garden Club in Florida** presented “A Salute to Broadway”
- **New York’s Germantown Garden Club** gave a hug “And a Thing Called Love”

The **Plant Society Award** this year is presented to

- **The American Daffodil Society of Georgia** for their presentation of “The Southeast Daffodil Trail-Drifting Down Daffodil Lane”

Receiving the ribbon for **Petite Standard Flower Show** is

- Rachel Jackson Garden Club in Tennessee for “Itty-Bitty Fall Splendor”

Putting on a **Club Small Standard Show** and receiving a ribbon for their achievement are

- **Hughes Town & Country Garden Club in Arkansas** exclaimed “Here’s the Dirt”
- **Coastal Garden Club of North Carolina** hosted “A Wedding”
- **The Garden Guild from Missouri** found “Fall is in the Air”
- **Designers and Diggers Garden Study Club in Texas** stitched “A Quilter’s Garden Folly”
- **Trevase Horticultural Society of Pennsylvania** explored “THS Rooted in History”

A ribbon for a **Holiday Small Standard Flower Show** is awarded to

- **The Garden Club of Fair Haven, New Jersey** for “Seasonal Splendor”

The **Patriotic Small Standard Flower Show** ribbon goes to

- **Martha Washington Garden Club in Pennsylvania** for “Red, White and Bloom”

Club groups hosting **Near Club Standard Flower Shows** and receiving ribbons are

- **Emerald Necklace and West Shore Arrangers in Ohio** for “Jazz It Up”

- **Azalea and New Iberia Garden Clubs in Louisiana** for “A Cultural Journey throughout Iberia Parish”
- **Aldersgate, Dayton and Sunset Garden Clubs in Tennessee** for “Scopes Summer”

Council Standard Flower Show achievement award ribbon is received by

- **Thomasville Garden Clubs in Georgia** for teaching how to be “Gracefully Southern”

The Judges’ Council Standard Flower Show ribbon is awarded to

- **The Kentucky Council of Flower Show Judges** for their classical presentation of “It’s a Flower Show, Literally”

District Standard Flower Shows Achieving Excellence are

- **Georgia’s Redbud District** celebrating “Decades of Daisy”
- **Magnolia & Camellia Districts in Georgia** for “A Mosaic of Autumn”
- **Tidewater District of Virginia Beach in Virginia** who presented “Fall Reflections”
- **East Lake Washington District Garden Club** with “Fall in Love with Flower Shows”
- **The Rocky Mountain District** presenting Utah’s Rose Show, “Roses for All Seasons”
- **Tennessee’s District One** for “The Cowboy Way”
- **District IV Clubs in Michigan** for “Celebrating Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park”
- **Madison District of Garden Clubs from Wisconsin** for “Captivating Color”
- **First District of New York** for “Vive la France”

The award for Youth Division of an Adult Flower Show goes to

Gates Mills Garden Club in Ohio for the Youth Division V, “Sparkle”

Horticulture Specialty Shows winning top ribbons are

- **Tulsa Garden Club from Oklahoma** with “Growing for Tulsa”
- **Ellington Garden Club in Florida** for “Earth Day—Every Day”

The **Design Specialty Shows** receiving top awards are

- **Kentucky’s Cardinal Council of Garden Clubs** featuring “Celebrate! Festival Holiday Designs”
- **Mississippi’s McComb Garden Club** who served from “The Artisans Table”
- **The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.** for “GALLARIA—Living Artfully”

The **Petite Design Specialty Flower Show** award is presented to

- **The Garden Club of Frankfort, Kentucky** for showing off “10 Decades of Community Service”

The Sunburst Rosette is given for an International Affiliates **Standard Flower Show**. For 2023 this ribbon is awarded to:

- **Grupo Hurlingham #381 (Argentina)**
“ Volver a Volar”
- **Club de Jardinería Círculo Floral #159 (Panama)**
“Expoflora – Naturalez, Arte y Música Unidas”
- **Kantu Club de Jardines Cusco #321 (Peru)**
“Hermano sol, Hermana luna”

- **Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #571 (Peru)**
 “ Recuerdos y vivencias, celebrando neustras Bodas de Oro”
- **Car Flor Garden Club #606 (Uruguay)**
 “Tiempo de Celebrar”

The **Certificate of Merit Award** for **IAFS2 Holiday Standard Flower Show** is given to

- **Club Rosathé #308 (Ecuador)**
 “Gloria a Dios, rey del amor”

The **IAFS-5 Club Small Standard Show**, with a Certificate of Merit is awarded to

- **Floralíes Chimbote Club de Jardines #660 (Peru)**
 “Amor eterno”
- **Club de Jardines Los Pensamientos (Peru)**
 “Enamorada de mi País”

IAFS 15, Horticulture Specialty Show awards a Certificate of Merit to

Garden Club Las Margaritas #618 in Argentina
 “Que Siga el Verano”

For IAFS 16, a **Design Specialty Show**, the Certificate of Merit goes to

- **Corporacion Club de Jardinería de Ibagué #280 (Colombia)**
 “Entre Acordes y Flores”

- **Club de Jardines Flor Imperial Del Cusco #462 (Peru)**

“Taytachaq Tikakuna, flores para el Taytacha”



GARDENING AWARDS

The **G1** Container Gardening Award is given for the most outstanding container or containers of fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, or any combination of these .

The first place section winners are

- Margaret Watkins, California
- Charleston’s Magnolia Garden Club in Mississippi
- Woodlands Garden Club of Lake Forest Illinois
- Garden Club of Rogers in Arkansas

The overall winner is

Margaret Watkins from Hopkins, California

For over 30 years Margaret has worked to create a patio oasis with all plants in containers. The plants range from trees to flowers to vegetables and herbs. They are all on rolling dollies to ease movement of the containers as needed. Many of her plants are 10 or more years old, with the oldest being 31. She uses only organic gardening practices and has carefully added pollinator attracting plants over the years.

The **International Winner** for Container Gardening is

Floralíes Chimbote Club de Jardines #660 from Peru

G2 is given for the most outstanding garden of edibles—fruits, vegetables, and/or edible flowers.

The five section winners for this award are

- Kay Rex from California
- Alice Hubbert (Mississippi)

- Greensboro Garden Club (Alabama)
- O'Fallon Garden Club of Illinois

Winning this award is

O'Fallon Garden Club from Illinois

The O'Fallon club uses raised beds and succession gardening to provide fruits and vegetables to their local food pantry, to train Master Gardener interns, and to teach students how to garden successfully while giving back to their community.

Therapy Gardens benefit the physically or mentally challenged as well as residents in low-income housing, schools, nursing homes, prisons, and other facilities. Projects that establish or restore gardens for this benefit are considered for **G 3**.

Recognition for section winners goes to

- Conyers Garden Club (Georgia)
- Gardenia Circle Gainesville Garden Club (Florida)
- Kent Garden Club (Michigan)
- Four Seasons Garden Club (Maryland)
- Dekalb Federation of Garden Clubs in Georgia

The winner for the best Therapy Garden project is

Four Seasons Garden Club from Princess Anne, Maryland

Working with the Blind Industries of Maryland, this club has worked for the last five years to provide raised bed gardening experiences for the day care residents at the local facility. Working one-on-one with the residents, club members have learned to appreciate the challenges faced and the techniques employed by each individual resident to overcome their personal challenges.

Award **G 4** is given to the garden club establishing a wildlife garden at a public place or places including signage to educate the public on how to garden for wildlife and the benefits of doing so. Those clubs recognized as top in their division are

- Eastside Garden Club in Tennessee and

- Garden Club of Rogers in Arkansas

And the best in this group is

Garden Club of Rogers in Arkansas

The Garden Club of Rogers initiated new education outreach in their Butterfly Park by creating a PowerPoint presentation about the park and distributing it to local schools. A new sign was installed at the park showing 8 different butterflies and giving educational information about each. They also added over 100 new plants to the park to attract a wider variety of butterflies.



MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND EDUCATION

MAE 1 is given for activities to increase community visibility and awareness of garden clubs and their work.

Special recognition goes to section winners

- Terrytown Garden Club (South Carolina)
- Hendricks County Garden Club (Indiana)
- Naples Island Garden Club from California
- Mountain Garden Club of New Hampshire
- Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

The winner is

Naples Island Garden Club, California

How many of the rest of us can say we have sailed in a boat parade to bring recognition to our club?!

MAE 2 awards an outstanding social media or website page which promotes the sponsoring organization and NGC objectives. 2a is given for a website designed and managed by club members.

The group winners for this award are

- Texas Garden Clubs District IV
- Mountain Garden Club of New Hampshire
- Garden Clubs of Alabama, Inc.

The overall winner is

Mountain Garden Club, from Mount Washington Valley, New Hampshire

This website was designed to work with smartphone, tablet, or desktop. While the smartphone or tablet versions have a streamlined view, the user has the capability to toggle back and forth to the full website. The club member who designed and maintains the site makes additions or changes as warranted on a continuous basis using Dreamweaver and Adobe Photoshop.

Award **MAE 2b** is given for an outstanding Social Media page designed and managed by members.

The winners of each division are

- Abbeville Garden Club of Louisiana
- Darien Garden Club of Illinois
- Alaska Garden Clubs
- Garden Clubs of Alabama, Inc.

The overall winner is

Abbeville Garden Club from Louisiana

The Facebook crew from Abbeville Garden Club updates their page at least weekly and sometimes as often as every 3 days. Their goal is to keep their club members and the community aware of and involved in gardening activities. Their frequent postings certainly give credence to the accomplishment of this goal.

MAE 2c is awarded for a website professionally designed. The section winners here are

- El Dedon Verde Garden Club of Texas
- Redbud District in Georgia

The Overall winner of the Certificate of Merit and \$50 is

El Dedon Verde Garden Club of Texas

The club utilizes their website as a communication tool for both past and present members. Recently they have added the ability for members to RSVP for meetings and pay dues via the website, a timesaver for their treasurer and the meeting hostesses.

The Social Media Certificate of Merit for **International Affiliates** is awarded to

Garden Club Argentino #274

The Certificate of Merit for an International Affiliate Website is awarded to

Garden Club Argentino #274

Award **MAE 3** is given for the best presentation recorded and submitted on any type of digital media and supporting NGC objectives.

The honors for category winners here go to

- Paint Branch Barden Club from the National Capital Area Garden Clubs
- Jardin du Lac garden Club in Missouri

Receiving the top award in this area is
Jardin du Lac Garden Club in Missouri

The club president created a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Pick Your Passion and Share it With Your Friends". The program features club activities as well as NGC

opportunities. Members were encouraged to decide on their personal “passion” and sign up to work on that passion during the year.

Also receiving the Digital Media award from our **International Affiliates** is

Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #321

For “Coricancha, historia y mitos”

Consejo Peruano de Jueces para Exposiciones Florales #330

For “Designing with manipulated fresh plant material”

Floralíes Chimbote Club de Jardines #660

For “How to organize a NGC, Inc. Standard Flower Show” and “Design Types: Differences Between Traditional, Creative and Abstract design”.

Garden Clubs of Uruguay #338

For several Zoom presentations

Award **MAE 4A** is given for Newsletters of 1-2 pages in length.

The recipient of the Certificate of Merit is

A & M Garden Club of Texas

Award **MAE 4B** is given for Newsletters of 3-12 pages long.

The Certificate of Merit goes to

The Garden Club of Newton in Connecticut

For newsletters 13 to 24 pages in length, Award **MAE 4C** is given.

The Certificate of Merit winner is

The Garden Clubs of Illinois

Award **MAE 4D**, recognizing Newsletters, Magazines or Bulletins over 24 pages
Goes to the

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Receiving the Certificate of Merit for Manuals or Handbooks, **MAE 4E**, is

Hill & Dale Garden Club in Washington

Award **MAE 4F** for Educational Materials is given to

Gates Mill Garden Club of Ohio

for their Hummingbird Fact Sheet and how to create a hummingbird haven in your own yard.

The Certificate of Merit for Other Publications, **MAE 4G**, is given to

Groton Garden Club of Massachusetts

for their centennial history.

International Affiliates also earn certificates of Merit for their Yearbooks. Those achieving the honor this year are:

- **Consejo Peruano de Jueces para Exposiciones Florales #330**
- **Floralíes Chimbote Club de Jardines #660**
- **Club de Jardines Los Pensamientos #479**
- **Cosmos Club de Jardines #320**
- **Casuarinas Club de Jardines #364**
- **Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #321**

MAE 5 honors the garden clubs that go above-and-beyond celebrating National Garden Week in June. Honored for their activities during this special week are

- Hilliard Garden Club from Virginia
- Abington Garden Club, also from Virginia
- Shaler Garden Club in Pennsylvania
- Corbin Garden Club from Kentucky
- Shamrock Garden Club and Fort Benjamin's Blossom Garden Club in Indiana
- Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont
- Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Overall Winner of the Certificate of Merit is

Corbin Garden Club from Kentucky

Corbin club members certainly made their presence known throughout their community on this special week. Each day featured a different activity. Copies of the National Garden Week flyer, along with a signed proclamation from the mayor were placed in a number of prominent locations around town. Thirty-one businesses were recipients of floral arrangement. Containers were planted at the local library where members read NGC books during the story hour. A flower arranging workshop was held for the public and members were encouraged to plant native Kentucky plants in their own gardens.

The State with the Greatest Increase in Overall Membership for 2023, receiving the Certificate of Merit and \$100 is

Texas

Receiving a Certificate of Merit and \$100 for the greatest per capita increase in membership during 2023 is

Associated Garden Clubs of Utah

The award for the largest increase in NGC Life Memberships goes to

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

And the award for the largest per capita increase in NGC Life Memberships, belongs to

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs

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**Service and Recognition**

From Colorado we honor **Mr. Jim Fricke with the Award of Excellence for Non-Members**. Mr. Fricke serves as the Executive Director of the Colorado Garden Foundation where is he responsible for, among many duties, the coordination of the Home & Garden Show each year, exposing over 45,000 visitors to the delights of gardening and landscape design. Proceeds from the show and other fund raising activities provide scholarships to horticulture students each year. Fifteen students to date have graduated from college debt free with all expenses paid by the Foundation's Scholarships. Other students have also benefitted at lower levels of support. Over 550 organizations throughout the state have also benefitted from the philanthropic arm of this foundation, including the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs which has received more than \$171,000 in grant funds over their 30- year association with the Foundation. A dramatic increase in revenue during Mr. Fricke's tenure with the foundation has allowed numerous programs throughout the state to benefit from horticultural projects as well as food donations, especially during the recent pandemic when over \$200,000 was given to support direct food distributions.

The **Award of Excellence for Non-Members** is also presented to

**Channing Harris** from Connecticut

As a Landscape Architect, Channing Harris is highly regarded in the areas around New York, Connecticut and beyond. Recently retired, he has worked through the decades with architects and institutions to improve urban and pastoral campuses, healthcare facilities and community centers. Some of his notable work includes a recent transformation converting Wall and High Streets into pedestrian exclusive walkways near Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, master plans for Smith College, Wesleyan University, Allegheny College, the University of Kentucky Medical College and Yale University's Hillhouse Avenue renovation along with many others. He completed the site designs for Healing Gardens at a number of medical venues in

Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky and New York. He restored the work of Frederick Law Olmstead on the campuses of Smith College and St. Joseph College among a list of historic landscape restorations. As a friend to garden clubs, he has supported Federation members working to establish Grove Street Cemetery as a Nationally recognized Level 1 Arboretum. He leads Landscape Design Council members on tours of historic landscapes and provides guidance and support to the Landscape Design courses. Recently retired, Mr. Harris continues to support the work of garden clubs, earning this well-deserved award.

And the **Award of Excellence for Non-Members** is also presented to

**Dr. Sara Via from Maryland**

After a 35-year career in research and higher education Dr. Via has turned her passion into advocacy for climate change. She now sees herself as a Climate Change Educator and Evolutionary Geneticist. She has used her background in teaching introductory biology students about human impacts on ecosystems to figure out how to explain climate change and its impacts in plain language and talking with people about solutions available to everyone. Becoming a Trained Climate Reality Leader in 2013, she has worked through the Maryland Extension agency giving hundreds of talks to community groups and conducting many webinars on various topics in climate change and sustainability. Dr. Via has taught for NGC Schools in the areas of gardening, environmental and landscape design. She has presented three major talks for the Maryland Federation on Climate Change: *Already in a Neighborhood near you*; *Human Impacts on Insects & Native Plants – How to Manage the biodiversity Crisis*; and *Biodiversity: why we need it, evidence that we are losing it, how to rebuild it, and the role of gardeners in that process*. Through ongoing webinars, Dr. Via continues to exert with enthusiasm and passion that **“You Can make a Difference.”**

The **Award of Excellence for States** is awarded to

**Wisconsin Garden Club Federation**

Garden Club members in Wisconsin coordinated a unique, educational, day-long symposium titled *“Your Garden—A Bird’s Paradise*. The focus was on environmental concerns and climate change impacting the bird population. One hundred six garden club and other community members appreciated the opportunity to learn in a single

day setting as they heard from four experts in the field and toured three private gardens as examples. Participants received a wealth of handouts, native plants, and seeds.

The **International Affiliates** recognize the following for Excellence in the Number of Educational Activities offered:

**Flor Perú Federación de Clubes de Jardines #321**

**Consejo Peruano de Jueces para Exposiciones Florales #330**

**Regional Award of Honor** recipients include

From the **Central Region**, **Wanda Zahrt** from Iris-Elm Garden Club in Indiana

In the **Central Atlantic Region**, **Nancy Percival** of the Crofton Village Garden Club in Maryland

The **Deep South Region** honors **Elizabeth McDougald** from the River Ridge Garden Club in Louisiana

**National Area Garden Clubs** presents this honor to **Noreen Linneman** from Virginia's Five Hills Garden Club

The honor for the **New England Region** goes to **Jan DeSarno** from Burlington Garden Club in Vermont

The **Pacific Region** honors **Winifred Archibald**, a member of Petaluma Garden Club in California.

The **Rocky Mountain Region** recognizes **Leah Bratton**, a member of Prairie Garden Club in Wyoming as their Member of Honor.

From the **South Central Region**, **Janet Nevil** of Designers with Flair Study Club in Texas is honored

The Member of Honor for the **South Atlantic Region** goes to **Charline Sims**, a member of Mooresville Garden Club in North Carolina.

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Youth Work

YW 1 is awarded to the Outstanding Sponsor Club for their work with Youth Clubs. The winner is

Pine Forest Garden Club in Georgia

YW 2 is awarded to the club sponsor of a youth club for the most outstanding Horticulture Activity. This winner is

From Arkansas, the **Garden Club of Rogers**

The club with the most outstanding Youth Garden Club Outdoor Planting project, award **YW 3**, is

Mesquite Garden Club from Texas

The NGC Member club with the most outstanding Environmental Activity with Youth receives the **YW 4** award. The winner is

Lutherville Garden Club (Maryland)

The High School Garden Club Outstanding Sponsor, Award **YW 6**, is given to the sponsor club that has carried out the best all-around gardening project. The winner this year is

North Cobb Garden Warriors from Kennesaw, Georgia

Horticulture Education for Youth, award **YW 8**, is given for the best promotion of gardening for youth. The first place category winners are

- Hobart Garden Club in Indiana
- Derry Garden Club in New Hampshire

The winner is

Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)

YW 9 is given to the club with the most outstanding project in the field of environmental education involving youth.

Top clubs in their categories are

- Garden Club of Lake Ridge from Virginia
- Green Hills Garden Club, also from Virginia

The winner of the Certificate of Merit is

Green Hills Garden Club (Virginia)

YW 10 honors the Individual with the most Outstanding Services to Youth.

The winner of this Junior Leadership award is

June Harrison from the **Garden Club of Ellijay** in Georgia

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**SCHOLARSHIPS** – National Garden Clubs, Inc. is pleased to award scholarships to the following students.

**Central Region:**

- Illinois – Etienne Sirois
- Indiana – Rachel Zelt
- Iowa – Isaiah Bates
- Minnesota – Sophia Schmidt
- Missouri – Madeline Weber
- Wisconsin – Elayna Stirn

Central Atlantic Region:

- Delaware – Michaela Somers
- New Jersey – Marissa Russo
- New York – Nellie Ostow
- Ohio – Julia Harmon
- Pennsylvania – Samantha Grace Schulteis

Deep South Region:

- Alabama – Landon Erbrick
- Florida – Tori Guarino
- Florida – Chase Riley
- Georgia – Lucas Brock
- Georgia – Kamren Seree Vaughn
- Mississippi – Rachel Bobo
- Tennessee – Sam Law

New England Region:

- Maine – Naomi Lynch
- Massachusetts – Seth Longey
- Massachusetts – Donovan Landry
- Rhode Island – Katherine Ruzzo
- Vermont – Jake Darling

Pacific Region:

- Alaska – Heather Swartz
- California – Mackenzie Hartley
- California – Haley Kost
- California – Arianna Blandon
- Idaho – Miles Butler
- Oregon – Trevor Hattabaugh
- Washington – Jason Roller

Rocky Mountain Region:

- Colorado – Kelly Tobin
- Montana – Eve Heely-Ray
- Nebraska – Ryleigh Grove
- North Dakota – Hunter Gallagher
- Utah – Alanna Nafriger
- Wyoming – Laura Dockery

South Atlantic Region:

- South Carolina – McClendon Geddings
- Virginia – Ashleigh Mann
- West Virginia -- Samuel William Bayne

South Central Region:

- Arkansas – Nathan Judd
- New Mexico – Nikoma Henkels Ferran
- Oklahoma – Rebekah Harmon
- Texas – Mason Marshall
- Texas – Emma Shepard

**Congratulations to each and every applicant and to each winner.**

**Thank you for your work on behalf of National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

# NGC Awards 2024