



The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs enthusiastically nominated Jim Fricke for a National Garden Clubs Award of Excellence. Jim is the executive director of the Colorado Garden Foundation, a charitable organization that produces the Colorado Garden & Home Show in Denver, which attracts over 45,000 attendees. Since Jim joined the organization in 1997, the Colorado Garden Foundation has awarded over \$13 million in horticulture-related scholarships and grants. Projects include community gardens, school greenhouses, horticulture therapy, and keeping people fed across Colorado. The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs received grants for 30 consecutive years. The Foundation's scholarship covers the recipients' complete four-year education, including their tuition, books, housing, and a new laptop to begin their studies. Originally from Wisconsin, Jim attended Marquette University, gaining a degree in marketing. His expertise and knowledge helped the Colorado Garden Foundation to increase the organization's assets by over 2000%. In these times of need, Jim guides the Foundation's funds to leave no one hungry.



The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut proudly nominated Channing Harris for a National Garden Clubs Award of Excellence. Channing is a retired landscape architect who graduated from Hampshire College and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Channing believes in designing with nature to implement memorable places for people. He created landscape designs for urban and rural college campuses, healthcare facilities, and community centers nationwide. He recently designed a calming treelined pedestrian walkway at Yale University. Other notable projects include the Tang Center at MIT and the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola. Channing's work with hospitals spans New England and the Midwest, where he created healing gardens that promote the health and well-being of human life and the environment. A lover of historic landscapes, Channing helped to restore the works of Fredrick Law Olmstead, Beatrix Farrand, and Marion Coffin. He shares his wealth of knowledge with members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut through programs, tours, and guidance. Working closely with the Federation's Landscape Design Council, Channing provides historic tours, including the 18th-century Grove Street Cemetery and the well-preserved Hillhouse Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut.



The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland 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 with a post-doc in evolutionary genetics at the University of Chicago. She leads the charge 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. When I updated my lectures about human impacts on ecosystems, I became increasingly worried about climate change...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 hosts a free Climate and Sustainability webinar series, which includes topics such as regenerative gardening and landscaping, healthy soil, and key climate solutions.



The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation coordinated a unique, educational event, Your Garden - A Bird's Paradise. The organizers designed this intense, one-day symposium to address critical environmental issues by providing educational opportunities for members who currently cannot spend the time or resources to attend an NGC sponsored school. The goal was to advance NGC's Mission of providing education and resources to promote the love of gardening while focusing on environmental concerns and climate change. They focused on birds, their decline, habitat needs, native plants, and how to help mitigate their decline. The participants from across Wisconsin included garden club members and others. They received information and education from outstanding speakers, toured private gardens featuring native plant gardening, took home four native plants to use in their gardens, viewed education displays from the Federation and other organizations, and interacted with others with similar interests and concerns. The symposium's organizers summed up the day, "Our symposium's goal was educating WGCF members on how we as gardeners can impact our world to mitigate the decline of birds. Based on this goal and increased visibility, we had 250% more attendees than anticipated, sustained a profit, and received overwhelming approval from all. We feel this is an outstanding success and a process that other states could easily copy."