

## 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:

- Townview Garden Club (Georgia)
- Carelton Park Garden Club (Washington)
- Northwood Garden Club (Mississippi)
- Flower Garden Club of Marietta (Georgia)
- South Butler County Garden Club (Pennsylvania)
- Fayette Garden Club (Alabama)
- League City Garden Club (Texas)
- Arlington Heights Garden Club (Illinois)

The overall winner is

### **Flower Garden Club (Georgia)**

This club partnered with NGC, local civic clubs, and the school's PTA to raise funds and provide resources and labor to develop an outdoor garden classroom at a local school.

**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:

- Gonzales Spade & Trowel Garden Club (Texas)
- Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland (Ohio)
- River Valley Garden Club (California)
- Greenville Council of Garden Clubs (South Carolina)

The overall winner is

**Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland, Ohio**

This club spearheaded the complete renovation of their 60-year old corner garden in the city park, increasing the size from 2155 to 2510 square feet. Their work involved removal of trees along with the removal, overwintering, and replanting of 406 perennials as well as 31 shrubs. They also refurbished the bandstand garden with magnolias, hostas, and 240 annuals, creating a walking path and steps.

**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:

- O'Fallon Garden Club (Illinois)
- Laurel Garden Club of West Springfield/Burke (Virginia)
- Rainesville Garden Club (Alabama)

The overall winner is

**O'Fallon Garden Club of Illinois**

O'Fallon Garden Club has operated the community garden since the club's founding in 2010 with the express purpose of providing fresh produce from the community food garden. This year they donated 4,400 lbs to the local food pantry.

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

The First Place winners in each category are:

- Fortuna Garden Club (California)
- Duneland Garden Club (Indiana)

The overall winner is

**Fortuna Garden Club (California)**

How many corner gardens do you have in your hometown? Continuing work for the past decade plus, the Fortuna Garden Club has now revitalized 31 corner flower beds within their small town. City workers and local businesses have become involved. New garden club members have joined because they see the beneficial work being done by small groups of club members who have adopted specific corners for their personal care.

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:

- Seed & Weed Garden Club (South Carolina)
- Georgetown Garden Club (South Carolina)
- Hopkinton Garden Club (Massachusetts)
- Salisbury Garden Club (Virginia)
- Chug Creek Cultivators (Wyoming)
- Anna-Jo Garden Club (Illinois)
- Oxford garden Club (Mississippi)

And the overall winner of the Certificate of Merit is

**Hopkinton Garden Club (Massachusetts)**

Hosting the starting line for the Boston Marathon adjacent to the Common in Hopkinton brings international attention to this town each year. This club celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by restoring plantings alongside the Doughboy Statue located in the Common. Their use of perennials, native plants and annual plantings has

brought much interest in and appreciation for the work of the club in continuously providing a beautiful setting in the Town Common.

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:

- Garden Club of Elizabethtown (Kentucky)
- A & M Garden Club (Texas)

The winner, receiving the Certificate of Merit along with **\$800** is

**A & M Garden Club from Texas**

The College Station Veterans Park includes a 30 foot native plant garden commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. With initial planning beginning in 2021, the A & M Garden Club has worked with many local entities through the ensuing years to create this living tribute to all of America's veterans and their families.

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

- Springfield Acres Garden Club (National Capital Area)
- Pomperaug Valley Garden Club (Connecticut)

The winner is

**Pomperaug Valley Garden Club in Connecticut**

Blooming Crabapple trees highlight the red, white and blue plantings around the new Blue Star Marker in the Town of Woodbury.

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:

- Brandon Garden Club (Mississippi)
- Carleton Garden Club (Washington)
- Magnolia Springs Garden Club (Alabama)

The winner of Best in this Group is

**Carleton Park Garden Club from Washington.**

The grounds around Fire Station 41, a designated landmark in the Magnolia neighborhood, needed landscaping to enhance the beauty of the building and to draw attention to a 1987 City of Seattle art installation. Additionally, improving the property conveyed the community's gratitude to the Station 41 firefighters. The club drew up a landscape design and selected plants appropriate for the site and that complimented the predominant colors of the fire station. The formal dedication was in September 2024.

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

Those clubs receiving first place honors in this category are:

- Grenada Garden Club (Mississippi)
- Roanoke Garden Club (North Carolina)
- Greenville Council of Garden Clubs (South Carolina)
- Greensboro Garden Club (Alabama)
- Comal Garden Club (Texas)

The Certificate of Merit winner is

**Greensboro Garden Club of Alabama**

After the removal of trees, the Club, County Planner, and a local architect worked together to create new landscaping designed to enhance the Greek revival style of the 1869 Courthouse.

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## ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

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

The first place winners are

- Byhalia Garden Club (Mississippi)
- Darien Garden Club (Illinois)
- Simpsonville Garden Club (South Carolina)
- Greenville Council of Garden Clubs (South Carolina)
- The Garden Club of Indiana
- Lynda T. Reese, Murray Hills Garden Club (Tennessee)

This winner is

### **Darien Garden Club (Illinois)**

The Darien Garden Club's goal was to provide evidence that "conservation is a multi-faceted entity". Promoting Styrofoam recycling, Tru-Earth ecofriendly items, collection of plastic tag closures from bread wrappers, sneaker recycling, plastic film waste recycling, and use of compost bins ensured the proof they needed.

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

- Cress Creek Garden Club (Illinois)
- Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club (Tennessee)
- Tuscaloosa/Northport Garden Club (Alabama)

- Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs
- Charlotte Timberlake, Aldersgate Garden Club (Tennessee)

Our winner is

**Cress Creek Garden Club of Illinois.**

Installing native plants at Veterans Memorial Park and the DuPage Children's Museum helped to develop horticultural knowledge and supported conservation efforts in their community.

**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

- Tuscaloosa/Northport Garden Club (Alabama)
- Shaler Garden Club (Pennsylvania)
- Seasons IV Garden Club (Virginia)
- Marietta Council of Garden Clubs (Georgia)

This top award goes to

**Seasons IV Garden Club (Virginia)**

This small club saw that traditional turf had very little benefit to wildlife and pollinators. Through a program for their own club, and expanded to other groups in the community, they have taught how to give meadowscaping a more polished, accepted appearance. This has made an impact on individual yards as well as putting plans in the works with the community to upgrade a local park area with pollinator friendly wildflowers.

**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)
- Hunt Garden Club (Texas)

The Overall winner for this award is

**Hunt Garden Club (Texas)**

Working with local schools, Hunt Garden Club has introduced hydroponic gardening to students in grade 5-8. The pesticide-free indoor garden provides lettuces and herbs to the school cafeteria in year-round crops. Plans are in the works to expand to climbing vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and peas.

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 Wisconsin, the Lake Wissota Garden Club
- Town & Country Gardeners of Alliance in Ohio
- Southwind Garden Club in Tennessee

The winner and recipient of the **\$1,000.00** prize money is

**Town & Country Gardeners of Alliance, Ohio**

When a local family established a memorial garden to honor their late husband and father, members of Town & Country Gardeners stepped up to provide evergreen screening, native plants, and a scattering of annuals to this peaceful pond setting.

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

- Branford Garden Club (Connecticut)
- Buckingham/Dillwyn Garden Club (Virginia)

The winner is

### **Branford Garden Club from Connecticut**

Club members revised their annual plant sale to focus on natives grown with organic practices. They grew 270 species from seed, bulbs and perennial divisions from their own gardens. An additional 350 bulbs were added to the collection. The growing focus was on using a soilless mixture of compost, coco coir and vermiculite. Members took care to wash the roots of the divided plants to avoid any transmission of jumping worms and other pathogens. Signs and educational materials distributed during the sale informed the public of how to continue organic practices with their new plants.

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## **FLORAL DESIGN**

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

**Brad Welles** from Las Floralias Garden Club and an affiliate of OFAD in Santa Barbara, California

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

**Cecilia Candiotti**, a member of the Casuarinas Club in Peru.

The award for **FD 2 Floral Design Program** is given for the most outstanding program or workshop teaching floral design.

First place winners are

- Violet Bank Garden Club (Virginia)
- Sleepy Hollow Garden Club (Virginia)
- Framingham Garfen Club (Massachusetts)
- Greater St. Louis Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges (Missouri)
- Janet Switzer, a member of Gateway Garen Club in Tennessee

The award goes to

**Framingham Garden Club from Massachusetts**

A hands-on workshop taught club members about color harmony. Members then created their own floral designs to convey various visual or emotional effects.

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## FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

**Club Standard Flower Show Award** has been earned by

- **Floral Designers of Wisconsin** treated us to the “Cream of the Crop”
- **The Designers Club of Georgia** presented “ The Greatest Show on Earth”
- **Crofton Village Garden Club of Maryland** rocked out with “60’s Flower Power”
- **Martha Washington Garden Club in Pennsylvania** decided to “Celebrate 90”
- **Thumb-R-Green Garden Club from Montana** reminded us of “Yesterday’s Vintage Gardens”
  
- **Garden Clubs of Chenango County, New York** encouraged us to “Celebrate With Flowers”

- **Boone Country Garden Club of Missouri** presented “Livin’ Missouri”
- **Tri-Cities Garden Club of Michigan** cheered for “The Garden Olympics”
- **The Junior League Gardeners of Michigan** delighted in welcoming “Celebrations of Spring”
- **The Hazelton Area Garden Club of Pennsylvania** exploded with “KaBLOOM... An Explosion of Nature and Creativity”
- **Town & Country Garden Club of Tennessee** delighted with “Southern Storytellers”
- **Derry Garden Club of New Hampshire** took us back to “School Days”
- **In Florida, Homosassa River Garden Club** played “Friends Fun & Games with Flowers”
- **Columbia Garden Club of Missouri** presented “Celebrations”
- **Illaea Garden Club in Washington** scrolled through “As the Pages Turn”
- **Four Seasons Garden Club in Maryland** visited with “The Wizard of Oz”
- **Schuylerville Garden Club of New York** became “A Little Bit Country”
- **In Louisiana, Covington Garden Club** danced around because they learned “I’ve Got the Music in Me”
- **The Year Round Garden Club from Tennessee** spent time in the “Victorian Days”
- **Naples Garden Club in Florida**, ventured through “A World of Wonders”
- **Boca Raton Garden Club, again from Florida**, was truly home to “Discover Paradise...The Florida Keys”
- **Florida’s Manatee River Garden Club** dreamed “It’s a Barbie World”
- **Miami Beach Garden Club, also in Florida**, fed us “Blooming Dessert”
- **The Artful Garden Club from New York** showed their pride in “Beloved Port Jarvis”
- **Holland Garden Club of Michigan** reminded us of the splendor of a “Victorian Garden”
- **Charleston’s Magnolia Garden Club in Mississippi**, found “Growing In Our Community” to be quite a success.

- **Chippewa Garden Club from Ohio** reminded us of the “Glimmer and Shimmer in the Garden”
- **Germantown Garden Club in New York** gave a glimpse of “The Four Seasons”

The **Holiday Standard Flower Show** ribbon goes to

- The Azalea and New Iberia Garden Clubs of Louisiana who remind us of “The Magic of the Holidays”

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

**The Georgia Daffodil Society, Dogwood District and The North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges** who joined together to give us “The Joy of Daffodils in the Garden.”

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

- **Dayton Garden Club in Tennessee** buzzed around to help us “Bee Aware”
- **DeSoto Civic Garden Club of Mississippi** reminded us to “Grow It, Sow It, Pass It Along”
- **Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club from Georgia** told us “It’s All About the B’s”
- **Westchester Garden Study Club in Virginia** laughed with “Surprise! It’s Christmas in July”
- **The Greater St. Louis Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges of Missouri** presented “Saying I Do”
- **Rutland Vermont Garden Club** challenged with “FloralOpoly”
- **Missoula Garden Club of Montana** gave us “Butterflies on Parade”
- **Plant City Garden Club in Florida** taught us to “Celebrate”
- **The Aptuxet Garden Club of Borne, Massachusetts** quoted “Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations”
- **Hughes Town and Country Garden Club in Arkansas** presented “A Garden Gala”

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

- **Hiawassee Garden Club in Georgia** for “Plant America the Beautiful”
- **Thomasville Garden Clubs of Georgia** proudly presented “This Land We Love”

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

- **Four Seasons Gardeners of Heritage Shores, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, and Heritage Shores Shoreshots photography Club from Delaware** encouraged viewers to “Fall in Love with Gardening”

**Council Standard Flower Show** achievement award ribbons are received by

- **Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs in New Mexico** danced to “The Golden Age of Jazz”
- **Cardinal Council of Garden Clubs, in Kentucky** took us back a few years with “Nursery Rhymes Remembered”
- **Millen Garden Club Council of Georgia** presented “Memories in Bloom”
- **Council of Garden Clubs of Greater Charleston in South Carolina** encouraged “Peace, Love, and Flower Power”
- **Ohio Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges** delighted in “Exploring the North Coast”

**The Judges’ Council Standard Flower Show** ribbon is awarded to

- **Kalamazoo Garden Council I Michigan** feasted on “Autumn’s Bounty”

**District/Region Standard Flower Show** ribbons are awarded to

- **Madison District Garden Clubs of Wisconsin** who reminded us to “Imagine”
- **Hill and Dale District of Garden Clubs** in the state of Washington lassoed a “Fall Roundup” AND listened at “Frogs Come Croakin”
- **Redbud District in Georgia** shined the spotlight on “Daisy’s Movie Mania”
- **District I Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland** flew high with the “Spirit of America”

The **State Standard Flower Show ribbon** is awarded to

- **Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs** who did some digging into “Our Extraordinary Earth – Celebrating the natural Beauty of the World”
- **National Capital Area of Garden Clubs** who traveled “Over the River and Through the Woods”

**Horticulture Specialty Shows** winning top ribbons are

- **Thomas Jefferson Garden Club from Virginia** delights in “Springtime Splendor”
- **Richmond Designers’ Guild of Virginia** shows “How Fair Is A Garden”
- **Flower Growers Garden Club, Garden Lovers Club and Optimistic Gardeners Club in Tennessee** said “Welcome to Peter Rabbit’s Garden”

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

- **The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.** showed off “Rhode Island In Bloom”
- **Greenwood Garden Club in Mississippi** enjoyed “Celebrating Gatherings”
- **Piedmont District Flower Show Judges Council of Virginia** grooved to “Good Vibrations..Designing the Music of The Beach Boys”
- **Knox County Council of Garden Clubs and the Judges Council District IV of Tennessee** experienced “Springtime through the Deep South”
- **The Garden Clubs of Mississippi** delved into “Lovin’the Library”

- **The Federated Garden Clubs of Macon & Middle Georgia Judges' Council** had a great time with "Our Favorite Hoidays Past, Present and Future"

The winner of the **Petite Design Specialty Show** ribbon is

- **Tulsa Garden Club in Oklahoma** for "Showing for Tulsa!"

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## **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

- Allene Crew, Fayette Garden Club (Alabama)
- Steve Butler, Fayette Garden Club (Alabama)
- Goldenrod Garden Club (Alabama)
- Blue Star Garden Club (Alabama)
- Woodlands Garden Club of Lake Forest (Illinois)
- Garden Club of Rogers (Arkansas)
- Gulf Shores Garden Club (Alabama)

The overall winner is

**Gulf Shores Garden Club in Alabama.**

The 8-container school garden provided food, flowers, and an opportunity to learn about lifelong gardenin throughout the winter and spring months for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

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

The five section winners for this award are

- Liz Hill from Burlington Garden Club in Vermont
- Bay-Waveland Garden Club in Mississippi
- Greensboro Garden Club from Alabama
- Oxford Garden Club in Mississippi
- And Beth Musselwhite from Grenada Garden Club in Mississippi

Winning this award is

**Liz Hill from Burlington Garden Club in Vermont**

This project is an example of an individual's idea that grew into an impactful project. Using conservation techniques to keep the soil enriched and able to produce larger crops, Liz Hill addresses food insecurity in her area by growing a variety of vegetables, placing them in boxes near the mailboxes in a mobile home park for residents to pick up and use as needed for their families.

**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)
- Del Norte Garden Club of North Orange County (California)
- The Garden Club of Elizabethtown in Kentucky
- Leland-Deer Creek Garden Club from Mississippi
- And Doris Van Mullen, a member of Burlington Garden Club in Vermont

The winner for the best Therapy Garden project is

**The Garden Club of Elizabethtown, Kentucky**

This club created a healing garden of colorful flowers to support the fight against breast cancer and other diseases. Each color signifies support for one or more diseases, celebrating survivors, honoring those lost, and promoting awareness by creating a place for relaxation, reflection, and rejuvenation.

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

- Driftwood Garden Club in South Carolina
- Gardening on the Cay in South Carolina

And the best in this group is

**Gardening on the Cay from South Carolina**

This project recognizes members and brings recognition to the NGC goals and accomplishments of protecting wildlife and educating the public. Original artwork created by a club member is presented to each member achieving National Wildlife Federation Certification for their yard.

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## **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 from Louisiana

- Hendricks County Garden Club of Indiana
- Tulsa Garden Club from Oklahoma
- Hill & Dale District of Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

The winner is

**Tulsa Garden Club, Oklahoma**

A Generation Green initiative engaged youth and their families with crafts and programs dealing with gardening and environmental concerns on a weekly basis March through November . Multiple community partners were involved in the hands-on, interactive activities. They raised \$30,000 at their annual garden tour to donate to their education partners. The annual culmination of the MANY membership activities throughout the year is the Magical Mystery Tour, a bus tour to an unannounced location that is historical in nature, a special garden, a unique floral shop, or an outstanding nursery.

**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

- Terrytown Garden Club of Louisiana
- Beverly Hills Garden Club from the National Capital Area
- Redbud District of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
- Barrington Garden Club, Rhode Island
- Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont
- Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs
- California Garden Clubs, Inc.

The overall winner is

**Barrington Garden Club from Rhode Island**

The vibrant and engaging website explains to the public who we are and what we do, using 6 sub-categories: how we support our mission, Gardens in our care, Membership, Conservation, Our History, and a photo gallery. The members only section provides a listing of programs, member assignments, a listing of officers and a membership directory as well as a newsletter library.

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

- The Garden Club of Madison (Connecticut)
- Emerald Necklace Garden Club from Ohio
- Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

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

**The Garden Club of Madison in Connecticut**

The attractive and comprehensive website supports the club focus of fostering a deeper connection with nature through their collective passion for gardening.

Award **MAE 3** is given for the most effective **Digital Media Presentation**. This year the award goes to

**Longfellow Garden Club in Maine**

This program showcased the history of Longfellow House with beautiful photography, music, historical footage, and narration.

Award **MAE 4A** is given for **1-2 page Newsletters**. This year the Certificate of Merit is awarded to

**Bellemere Garden Club** in Georgia.

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

The Certificate of Merit goes to

**Tulsa Garden Club** in Oklahoma

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

The Certificate of Merit winner is

**District I Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, Inc.**

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

Goes to the

**Kingwood Garden Club** in Texas

Receiving the Certificate of Merit for **Manuals or Handbooks** is

**Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont** for their Awards Manual

**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

- Corbin Garden Club in Kentucky
- Granada Garden Club from Mississippi
- Shamrock Garden Club in Indiana
- Fort Benjamin's Blossom Garden Club in Indiana
- Tulsa Garden Club from Oklahoma.

The Overall Winner of the Certificate of Merit is

**Tulsa Garden Club** from Oklahoma

The daily activities planned for National Garden Week in Tulsa encouraged all residents to carry out activities that highlighted NGC Objectives and Goals. The week kicked off with “enjoy your own garden by looking, smelling and not weeding” and continued throughout the week. This week also saw the beginning of a weekly “Tuesdays with Tulsa Garden Club in the Teaching Garden”, a hands-on workshop that continued until Thanksgiving.

The State with the **Greatest Increase in Overall Membership** for 2024, receiving the Certificate of Merit and \$100 is

**That LONG state of California!**

Receiving a Certificate of Merit and \$100 for the **Greatest Per Capita Increase in Membership** during 2024 is

**Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.**

The award for the **Largest Increase** in **NGC Life Memberships** goes to

**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

And the award for **the Largest Per Capita Increase in NGC Life Memberships**, belongs to

**Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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## **Service and Recognition**

From Maine we honor **Mr. Drew Dumsch** with the **Award of Excellence for Non-Members**. Drew is the Co-Founder and CEO of The Ecology School at River Bend Farm. Since 1998 this organization has provided ways for children to get outside to experience nature and the environment firsthand.

The Award of Excellence is also presented to

**Dr. Joseph Novak**, nominated by Texas Garden Clubs

Dr. Novak is a Faculty Lecturer of BioSciences and the Director of The Betty and Joseph Friedman Holistic Garden located on the campus of Rice university in Houston, Texas.

And the Award of Excellence is also presented to

**Carrie Tauscher**, nominated by the Garden Clubs of Indiana, Inc.

Carrie serves as a volunteer on the Board of Saluting Branches, Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance. She is also a site leader for Saluting Branches for sites that service veterans.

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

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

The state's Arbor Day project had a goal of every club planting a native tree on the same day at the same time. 82% of their clubs participated.

Also, the **Award of Excellence for States** goes to **The Garden Club of Indiana** for their "Plant a Tree for Hope", a project that resulted in the planting of 20,000 trees!

**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.** receives the **Award of Excellence** for their "Gardening With A Purpose" project which supported NGC's Plant America, Feed America. This project donated nearly 75,000 pounds of produce to food pantries throughout the state.

**The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania** earned the **Award of Excellence** for their education about England's Chelsea Flower Show which culminated in a state-wide trip to this premier gardening event.

**Award SR-3** is given in the final year of each term. This award has been earned by the **Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs** for their Youth Book Program which created information sheets, suggested activities and references related reading materials to complement the NGC Youth Books.

**Regional Award of Honor** recipients include

From the **Central Region**, **Diane Mary Powelka** from the Sun Prairie Garden Club in Wisconsin.

In the **Central Atlantic Region**, **Nancy Moats** from Ary Hill Garden Club in the National Capital Area.

The **Deep South Region** honors **Edna McClellan** from the Garden Club of Ellijay in Georgia

The honor for the **New England Region** goes to **Trish Manfredi** from Evergreen Country Gardeners in Connecticut

The **Pacific Region** honors **Ann Beinorn**, a member of Roseville Garden Club in California.

From the **South Central Region**, **Jean Joyce** of Ingleside Garden Club in Texas is honored

The Member of Honor for the **South Atlantic Region** goes to **Loy Holt**, a member of Berkeley Garden Club in Virginia.

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## Youth Work

**YW1** is awarded to the **Outstanding Sponsor Club** for their work with Youth Clubs. Clubs recognized as top in each category are:

- **Conyers Garden Club** in Georgia
- **Norcross Garden Club** in Georgia
- **The Avid Gardeners** from South Carolina
- **Gardening on the Cay** also in South Carolina
- **Pine Forest Garden Club of Baxley** in Georgia
- **Seaweeders Garden Club** of Bay Head and Mantoloking in New Jersey.

The winner is

**Norcross Garden Club** in Georgia

**YW 2** is awarded to the club sponsor of a youth club for the **Most Outstanding Horticulture Activity**. Group winners recognized here are:

- Walnut Creek Garden Club in California
- Daytime Gardeners of North Haven in Connecticut
- Hunt Garden Club of Texas
- Wesson Garden Club in Mississippi
- Two Green Thumbs Garden Club from North Carolina
- Garden Club of Rogers in Arkansas.

This overall winner is

From Mississippi, the **Wesson Garden Club**.

**Outdoor Planting with Youth Garden Clubs is Award YW3**. Four clubs received top honors in their categories within this award. They are:

- Bentonville Garden Club in Arkansas

- Anna-Jo Garden Club in Illinois
- Tri-Village Garden Club also from Illinois
- Colfax Garden Club in California

The club with the most outstanding Youth Garden Club Outdoor Planting project is **Bentonville Garden Club** from Arkansas

**YW4** recognizes the NGC Member Club with the **Most Outstanding Environmental Activities** conducted with Youth. In each sub-group, the winners are

- **Darien Garden Club** from Illinois
- **Oxford Garden Club** from Mississippi
- **Magnolia Garden Club** of John's Island, South Carolina
- **Garden Club of Rogers** in Arkansas

The NGC Member club with the Most Outstanding Environmental Activity with Youth receives the YW4 award. The winner is

**Darien Garden Club** (Illinois)

The High School Garden Club Outstanding Sponsor, **Award YW6**, is given to the sponsor club that has carried out the best all-around gardening project. The section winners are

- Brandon Garden Club in Mississippi
- And Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Garden Club in Georgia.

The winner this year is **Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Garden Club**, Georgia

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

- Seasons IV Garden Club of Virginia
- Bluebonnet Garden Club of Brenham, Texas
- The Wilton Garden Club in Connecticut

The winner is

**The Wilton Garden Club** (Connecticut)

**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

- Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club in Mississippi
- Corbin Garden Club in Kentucky, and
- Rock Springs Garden Club, from the National Capital Area

The winner of the Certificate of Merit is

**Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club** (Mississippi)

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

The winner of this Junior Leadership award is

**Vicki Canakaris**, a member of Spalding Garden Club in Georgia

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

**Central Region:** Illinois – Sarah Lindenberg  
Indiana – Daniel Foltz  
Iowa – Austin Bierl  
Michigan – Paige Hughart  
Minnesota – Moran LeBlanc  
Missouri – Rylee Brown  
Wisconsin – Henry Koerner

**Central Atlantic Region:** Maryland – Gabrielle Bonds  
National Capital Area – Dajhon Williams  
New Jersey – Alan Chausse  
New York – Maria Rumfola  
Ohio – Abigail Koman  
Pennsylvania – Joseph Romano

**Deep South Region:** Alabama – Jessica Grace Westmoreland  
Florida – Samantha Rivera  
Florida – Kalimah Muhammad  
Georgia – Lucas William Brock  
Georgia – Tyler Andrew Williamson  
Mississippi – Rachel Bobo  
Tennessee – Sophia Chaplin

**New England Region:** Connecticut – Michael Vignone  
Maine – Ashley Eugley  
Massachusetts – Marisa Gay  
Massachusetts – Zaviere Drumm  
Rhode Island – Taylor Sirois  
Vermont – Gavin Young

**Pacific Region:** California – Casey Lewis  
California – Samantha Buie  
California – Luke Duncan  
Oregon – Shelby Long  
Washington –Sasha Crawford

**Rocky Mountain Region:** Colorado – Citlali Solis  
Kansas – Harper Yingst  
Montana – Olivia Collins  
Nebraska – Ryleigh Grove  
North Dakota – Hannah Reutter  
Utah – Aiden Boyes

**South Atlantic Region:** Kentucky – Hannah Lemay  
North Carolina – Katie Pollok  
South Carolina – Stephanie Szkolnicki  
Virginia – Ashleigh Mann  
West Virginia – Isabella Herrod

**South Central Region:** Arkansas – Aaron Day  
Oklahoma – Alexandra Sparks  
Texas – Michael Cook  
Texas – Mason Marshall

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

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