

**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Presents**

***The 2025-2026
Awards***



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Annual Awards: Recognition at State & National Levels

A cornerstone of MGC's annual calendar is its comprehensive awards program, which celebrates excellence in club projects, publications, gardening practices, and community engagement. Awards are offered at both the state level through MGC and the national level through National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), giving clubs opportunities to gain broader recognition beyond Michigan.

Michigan clubs have earned significant national recognition; for example, MGC received the NGC Award of Excellence for its "Gardening With Purpose" initiative – a project that contributed over 74,000 pounds of produce to food pantries and supported NGC's Plant America–Feed America effort.

Award Participation & Cash Prizes

MGC's awards are designed to be inclusive and rewarding for all clubs. Participation is open to clubs of all sizes in many categories – from civic beautification and community gardening to horticulture displays and photography.

To encourage involvement:

1st Place Club Awards in each size category receive \$50.

2nd Place Club Awards receive \$25.

1st Place Individual Awards also receive \$25, while second place individuals are honored with recognition.

Special youth awards – such as the Caroline Gray Award of Merit – may also include cash prizes for outstanding youth-focused projects in horticulture and conservation.

Inclusive & Rewarding for All Clubs

Whether a club focuses on community gardens, educational publications, native plant initiatives, or design displays, there's an award category that fits. The breadth of categories allows clubs across Michigan to highlight their unique contributions, learn from peers, and get inspired by statewide and national recognition. MGC winners often have the chance to advance to the Central Region or NGC national competitions, further amplifying their accomplishments.

By fostering participation at all levels and celebrating achievements with both recognition and cash awards, Michigan Garden Clubs helps cultivate pride, connection, and growth – reminding every member that their efforts make Michigan greener and their communities stronger.

Engaging Youth in Michigan Garden Clubs Contests and Projects

Kimber Nagy, Youth Gardening Activities Advisor

Involving our youth in organizations can empower and help identify needs in communities. Integration of environmental education and projects in the K-12 curriculum varies significantly across schools. Many children learn very little about Mother Nature, and numerous school systems or youths groups do not have the funding to implement programs in their districts (e.g. Kraft et. al.) Thus, garden clubs play a critical role in providing youth with educational experiences related to environmental projects.

Michigan Garden Clubs promotes three activities which encourage conversation, stewardships, and hands on experience related to civic responsibilities. Together, these three programs provide valuable opportunities for young people to develop environmental awareness, creativity, and a sense of civic responsibility while strengthening connections between garden clubs and their communities.

MGC's three youth sponsored contests are:

The **Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Garden Clubs, invites students in grades 1 through 5 to explore environmental responsibility through art. Participants create posters that highlight wildfire prevention (Smokey Bear) and conservation awareness (Woodsy Owl). Schools, youth organizations, and libraries with youth coordinators are valuable partners in promoting participation.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl/MGC Chair Cindy Eisenhart reported 19 posters were received from five garden clubs for this year's contest. The number of participating children was 942. Twelve schools/organizations were contacted which include 7 public schools, 4 private schools, and 1 library. Judging took place on February 9, 2026 by three staff members from the Krasl Art Center, St Joseph, MI. First place winning posters and publication releases are then forwarded to the Central Region Chair where further judging takes place. First place winners are then sent on to National Garden Club for final judging.

SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL YOUTH POSTER CONTEST



1ST GRADE 1st MGC - HUDSON
SNIDER, Charlevoix Area GC, District 5



4TH GRADE 1st MGC - LILLY
JOHNSON, Williamston Red
Cedar GC, District 2B



2ND GRADE 1st MGC - ETHAN DEYOUNG
Shoreline GC, District 3B

National Garden Clubs 1st Place for 2nd Grade

SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL YOUTH POSTER CONTEST



3RD GRADE 1st MGC - NORA MCVANNEL, Mason County GC, District 5



5TH GRADE 1st MGC - WILLOW FOX Williamston Red Cedar GC, District 2B

Central Region, 1st Place, 5th Grade

WINNERS			
STUDENT NAME	GRADE/PLACE	LOCAL CLUB	DISTRICT
Hudson Snider	1/1st	Charlevoix Area GC	5
Isabelle Kennedy	1/2nd	Williamston Red Cedar GC	2B
Liliana Lindbloom	1/3rd	Mason County GC	5
Ethan Deyoung	2/1st	Shoreline GC	3B
Max Kahnoski	2/2nd	Mason County GC	5
Ali Aldarwish	2/3rd	GC of Dearborn	1
Nora McVannel	3/1st	Mason County GC	5
Finn Cahoon	3/2nd	Williamston Red Cedar GC	2B
Lucas Tilley	3/3rd	GC of Dearborn	1
Lilly Johnson	4/1st	Williamston Red Cedar GC	2B
Faith Schook	4/2nd	GC of Dearborn	1
Adalyn Lamb	4/3rd	Mason County GC	5
Willow Fox	5/1st	Williamston Red Cedar GC	2B
Vayda Jaffer	5/2nd	GC of Dearborn	1
Sullivan Anderson	5/3rd	Charlevoix Area GC	5

Youth Sculpture Contest

The **Youth Sculpture Contest** encourages children in Grade levels 4th through 8th to become acquainted with recycling. This activity allows youth to expand their artistic abilities and creativity by using recycled materials to develop sculptures regarding a specific topic. The theme this year was "Encourage Youth to Keep our Planet Green". Libraries, schools and youth groups have been great collaborators with garden clubs.



Ludington Area Catholic School Students

Nathan Krause	1st	6th Grade
Nick Simone	1st	5th Grade
Cora Smith	1st	7th Grade
Corinne Jubar	1st	8th Grade

Sponsored by Mason County GC, District 5

High School Essay Contest

The third activity, the **High School Essay Contest**, invigorates teens in the 11th and 12th grade. Students are required to write a 600 to 700 word essay on a question chosen by the Michigan Garden Clubs related to environmental sustainability, which was the embraced theme chosen this year. School Counselors, English teachers, Home School Activity Coordinators or Youth groups are resources and alliances.



State Winner: Jazlyn Pattullo
Her Essay: "Fast Fashion: The Plague That Is Rapidly Killing Our Planet"

Sponsored by: Caro GC, District 6

2025 Member of Honor Central Region

The National Garden Clubs Member of Honor is given to one member in each Region whose volunteer efforts during a period of five or more years has made outstanding contributions to the Club and Community in one or more of the following areas: Civic Development, Horticultural Therapy, Youth Activities, Conservation, Landscape Design, Horticulture, Floral Design, All-around Excellence. Pat will receive an NGC certificate, pin, and recognition in *The National Gardener* newsletter.



Pat Bazany



Nominated by Tri-Cities Garden Club
District 4

2025 Member of Honor MGC Award

The MGC Member of Honor Award recognizes those members whose volunteer efforts, during a period of five or more years have made outstanding contributions to club and community in one or more of the following areas: Civic Development, Conservation, Design, Garden Therapy, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Youth Activities, All-around Excellence.



Cheryl Yelen



Nominated by Brighton Garden Club
District 2B

MGC 2025-2026 Awards

District 1

Garden City Garden Club (M)

#18 Garden Walk 2nd Place MCC*

Livonia Garden Club (L)

#1 Civic Beautification 1st District & 1st MGC

#2 Civic Beautification 1st District & 1st MGC

#9 Youth Caroline Gray 1st District & 1st MGC

- Yearbook 1st District & 2nd MGC

Pleasant Ridge Garden Club (M)

- Yearbook 1st District & 3rd MGC

Taylor Garden Club (L)

MAE4B Newsletter 1st District & 1st MGC

District 2A

Bedford Flower & Garden Club (M)

#18 Garden Walk 1st Place MCC*

Eden's Garden Club(M)

#1 Civic Beautification 1st District & 1st MGC

#16A Holiday Trees 1st District & 3rd MGC

CE1B Community Gardens 1st District & 1st MGC

CE7 Blue/Gold Star Marking 1st District & 1st MGC

Hillsdale Garden Club (M)

#9 Youth Caroline Gray 1st District & 2nd MGC

CE4A Roadside Plantings 1st District & 1st MGC

District 2B

Brighton Garden Club (L)

#7A Photography Club 1st District & 1st MGC

#7B Photography Individual

Lynn O'Shaughnessy 1st MGC

Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club (M)

#1 Civic Beautification 1st District & 2nd MGC

#9 Youth Caroline Gray 1st District & 3rd MGC

#15C Share the Harvest 1st District & 1st MGC

#16A Holiday Trees 1st District & 1st MGC

Meridian Garden Club (L)

EC5 Native Plants & Wildflowers 1st District & 1st MGC
Youth

MAE2B Website Professional 1st District & 2nd MGC

YW8 Horticulture Education 1st District & 1st MGC

* Michigan Consultants Council

MGC 2025-2026 Awards

Williamston Red Cedar (L)

- #1 Civic Beautification 1st District & 2nd MGC
- #11 Publication Educational 1st District & 2nd MGC

District 3A

Chula Vista Garden Club (M)

- MAE4A Newsletter (1-2 pages) 1st District & 1st MGC
- #7A Photography Club 2nd District & 3rd MGC
- #7B Photography Individual 3rd MGC
- Jeanette Meyer

Portage Garden Club (M)

- #4 Horticulture 1st District & 2nd MGC
- #6 Landscape Design 1st District & 1st MGC
- #7A Photography Club 1st District & 2nd MGC
- #16A Holiday Trees 1st District & 2nd MGC

Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens (S)

- Yearbook 1st District & 3rd MGC

District 3B

River Valley Garden Club (L)

- MAE4C2 Website Designed/Managed by Club Members 1st District & 2nd MGC

District 4

Belding Gardeneers (L)

- #18 Garden Walk 3rd Place MCC

District 4

- MAE4C2 Newsletter (13-24 pages) 1st MGC

Holland Garden Club (L)

- Garden Walk 1st Place MCC

Kent Garden Club (L)

- #6 Landscape Design 1st District & 2nd MGC
- #9 Youth Caroline Gray 1st District & 2nd MGC
- #15A Share the Harvest 1st District & 1st MGC
- CE8 Landscaping of Public/Religious Grounds 1st District & 1st MGC

- MAE2B Website Professionally Designed 1st District & 3rd MGC

- MAE4B Newsletter (3-12 pages) 1st District & 2nd MGC

- Yearbook 1st District & 1st MGC

Lowell Showboat Garden Club (M)

- #8 Native Trees 1st District & 1st MGC

MGC 2025-2026 Awards

Tri-Cities Garden Club (L)

- #18 Garden Walk 2nd Place MCC
- MAE2A Website Designed/Managed by Club Members 1st District & 3rd MGC

West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild (S)

- Yearbook 1st District & 1st MGC

District 5

Charlevoix Evening Garden Club (S)

- Yearbook 1st District & 2nd MGC

Mason County Garden Club (L)

- CE9 Landscaping Historical Areas 1st District & 1st MGC
- MAE2B Website Professionally Designed 1st District & 1st MGC
- MAE4C Newsletter (13-24 pages) 1st District & 1st MGC
- Yearbook 1st District & 3rd MGC

Petoskey Garden Club (L)

- #1 Civic Beautification 1st District & 3rd MGC
- #6 Landscape Design 1st District & 1st MGC
- #11 Publication Educational 1st District & 1st MGC
- #7A Photography Club 1st District & 2nd MGC
- MAE2A Website Designed/Managed by Club Member 1st District & 1st MGC

Spirit of the Woods (M)

- #9 Youth Caroline Gray 1st District & 1st MGC
- #15B Share the Harvest 1st District & 1st MGC
- G2A Edible Gardening 1st District & 1st MGC
- #7A Photography Club 1st District & 1st MGC
- #7B Photography Individual 2nd MGC
- Stephanie Nelsen

The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City (M)

- #1 Civic Beautification 1st District & 3rd MGC
- #18 Garden Walk 1st Place MCC
- CE2 Permanent Community Improvements 1st District & 1st MGC
- MAE2A Website Designed/Managed by Club Members 1st District & 1st MGC
- Yearbook 1st District & 2nd MGC

District 6

Caro Garden Club (M)

- Yearbook 1st District & 1st MGC

Great Lakes Gardeners (M)

- #4 Horticulture 1st District & 1st MGC

2025 National Awards

**NGC Certificate of Merit with Blue Ribbon Awarded
for Exemplary Accomplishment and placement as the National Winner**

**Chula Vista Garden Club - MAE4A Newsletter(1-2 pages)
Spirit of the Woods Garden Club - G2A Edible Gardening**

An **NGC Flower Show Achievement Award** is the recognition given to an NGC member organization for its sponsorship of a superior flower show. This award requires a Flower Show Book of Evidence scoring 95 or more points. A certificate and a purple ribbon are award to:

Holland Garden Club - Standard Flower Show "Gallery of Gardens"

Tri-Cities Garden Club - Standard Flower Show "The Garden Library"

The following are awarded with a Certificate of Commendation - First place category winner (Award # by Club size)

**The Friendly Garden Club of
Traverse City** - CE2 Permanent
Community Improvements, MAE2A
Website

Mason County Garden Club -
MAE2B Website

The following are awarded a Certificate of Appreciation:

Eden Garden Club - CE7, Blue/
Gold Star Landscaping; CE1B,
Community Gardens

Michigan Garden Clubs - MAE4C3 -
Newsletter "Thru the Garden Gate"

Hillsdale Garden Club - CE4A,
Roadside Plantings

Petoskey Garden Club - MAE2A,
Website

Mason County Garden Club -
MAE4C, Newsletter; CE9,
Landscaping Historical Areas

Taylor Garden Club - MAE4B,
Newsletter

Kent Garden Club - CE8,
Landscaping Public Grounds

Osa Mae Barton Scholarship Award

Sponsored by MGC

Andy Frantz

Meridian Garden Club - EC5, Native
Plants & Wildflowers

MGC District 4 - MAE4C2,
Newsletter



Special Recognition

Clubs Receiving 100 Points!

Each year, Michigan garden clubs submit award applications with detailed documentation highlighting their achievements and community contributions. These applications are carefully evaluated, and earning a perfect score of 100 points is a rare distinction achieved by only a select few clubs. The following clubs have met this exceptional standard and are recognized for their outstanding efforts and excellence. (Alpha Order)

Eden's Garden Club

NGC CE1B Civic Beautification
MGC #1 Community Gardens

Hillsdale Garden Club

NGC CE4A Roadside Plantings

Kent Garden Club

NGC CE 8 Landscaping/Public Grounds

Livonia Garden Club

MGC #9 Youth, Caroline Gray

Spirit of the Woods Garden Club

NGC G2A Edible Gardening
MGC #9 Youth, Caroline Gray

Michigan Garden Clubs has two very special awards recognizing remarkable contributions by two members of our Michigan communities.

MGC Award #9 is the **Caroline Gray Award**. Caroline was 99 years of age when she passed in 2024. She received her undergraduate degree in Horticulture and MA in Botany from Michigan State University. Caroline was an enthusiastic gardener, floral designer, and conservationist. She was very active with the Kalamazoo Garden Council serving as President 1971-1973. She served as President of MGC and was a founding member of Seedlings Garden Club in Richland, MI.

The Kalamazoo Garden Council has underwritten the Caroline Gray Working with Youth Award of Merit annually in her honor.

MGC Honorary Award **Liberty Hyde Baily** was initiated by the South Haven area Garden Clubs in honor of "The Father of Modern Horticulture", an American Horticulturalist and advocate for rural reform.

Liberty Hyde Baily was the co-founder of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He established the Cooperative Extension System, 4-H Youth development programs and the Nature study movement. He was a professor and Chair of the Horticulture and Landscape Gardening Department at Michigan State University. He founded the College of Agriculture at Cornell University and was Dean of the college from 1903-1913. He is the author of multiple books regarding Horticulture and Agriculture. He passed in Ithaca, NY in 1954.

**A special thank you to our Michigan
Garden Clubs Awards Committee for
their dedicated work this past year.**

Virginia Froehlich
Pat Hansson
Karla Labby
Cindy Eisenhart
Joyce Muz
Kimber Nagy
Pat Bazany

Life Member Achievement Award
Yearbook Awards Co-Chair
Yearbook Awards Co-Chair
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl
High School Essay Contest
Youth Sculpture Contest
Flower Show Advice and Awards

Kathy Wolverton

Awards Chair

