

# ***The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.***

## ***Awards Guide 2021***



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**Awards Guide for  
The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.**

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**Use the information in this booklet when applying for awards.**

Revised when necessary, with regular updates. Distributed via the following  
website:

**[gardenclubsofillinois.org](http://gardenclubsofillinois.org)**

## Important - Award Deadlines

(Entries **MUST** be postmarked by deadline.)

### October 1

#### **Award #25 - LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL AWARD**

**You must obtain an entry form from the Landscape Design Council president before the project begins. Your Award Application and Cover Sheet are due on October 1 to the Landscape Design Council President listed in *Garden Glories*.**

**Award #60 - YEARBOOK:** Two types of awards are given for yearbooks. They are judged separately.

- a. **DISTRICT** - Send one copy of your garden club yearbook to your District Director/Awards Chairman.
- b. **STATE / CENTRAL REGION / NATIONAL** - Send a second yearbook with the GCI Award Application Cover Sheet to the GCI Awards Chairman. The committee will select winners according to club size (conforming to NGC membership divisions). **State Yearbook winners will be forwarded to the Central Region Awards Chairman for final judging and announced at the NGC Annual Convention. See page 13 for instructions and scale of points for preparing a club yearbook.**

### November 1

**All Award Applications are due for club projects held on or before October 20. Every award application needs to include:**

- a. GCI State Award Application Cover Sheet – accompanies all awards (including #62 Club Achievement and #63 Club Horticulture)
- b. Email award PDF applications to . Exceptions to this would be: Yearbook, Club Achievement and Club Horticulture.

**REMINDER: Clubs are required to notify Awards Chairman of intent to submit awards for events held after October 20 by November 1.**

### December 15

**Award #62 – Club Achievement  
Award #63 – Club Horticulture**

Note: The forms for these awards are created by the current GCI President and mailed from headquarters. Please use current year forms. No Book of Evidence is required. Send completed forms and the GCI State Award Application cover sheet to the Awards Chairman. Fill out forms completely, adding up your club's total points. Please provide required information (where indicated).

**Award Deadlines - (Continued)**  
(Entries **MUST** be postmarked by deadline.)

**January 1**

**Award #9 – Judges Council Flower Show Schedule** - Obtain award application form and send entry to the current Illinois Judges Council Chairman.

**All other Award Applications for your club events that are held after OCTOBER 20.** See **REMINDER** comment under November 1.

**January 10**

**These GCI special flower show awards do not require a Book of Evidence. Complete the appropriate GCI award forms for the following:**

**Award #10 – Flower Show Educational Exhibit**  
**Award #12 – (A.) Flower Show Table Design or**  
**(B.) Design Excellence for Creative**  
**Design Award #13 – Staging Award for a Standard**  
**Flower Show**

**Award #80 - PUBLICITY PRESS BOOKS - NOTE: Send this application and press book to the 3rd Vice President. No limit on # of pages.**

Note: President's mailings, *Garden Glories*, and *The National Gardener* will provide further award information and updates. All applications, other than some special awards, must be sent directly to the GCIAwards Chairman.

**Note: Please do not submit awards directly to NGC, Inc. or Central Region unless specifically stated appropriate award listing.**

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements (if applicable)

1. The actual award submission could potentially become a 3-page document (sample on pages 7-9). GCI State Award Application Cover Sheet must accompany each award entry and is not included in page count. Documents may be created in any word processing program or presentation programs such as PowerPoint or Publisher, and must be saved as a PDF before emailing.
2. Applications, except Flower Show Achievement Awards, will not be returned unless postage-paid addressed return envelope is included with publication awards.
3. (NEW) ALL Applications, except Flower Show Achievement Awards (#1-8), Club Achievement (#62), Club Horticulture (#63), Yearbooks, and Publication awards (#81, #82, #83), MUST BE emailed as a PDF to [gci2020awards@gmail.com](mailto:gci2020awards@gmail.com) by the deadlines listed.

EACH AWARD APPLICATION MUST BE EMAILED SEPARATELY, PLEASE

4. For Yearbooks, Flower Show Achievement Awards, Club Achievement, Club Horticulture, and Publication Awards, mail the awards and/or forms to David Robson, GCI Awards Chair, 1515 W. Fayette Ave., Springfield, IL 62704-2306. DO NOT MAIL OTHER AWARDS.
5. Forms are available on the GCI website, [gardenclubsofillinois.org](http://gardenclubsofillinois.org) or from state office.
6. The GCI Award Application form should not be used for Flower Show Achievement Awards, Club Achievement (#62) and Club Horticulture (#63).
7. Follow the format listed on pages 8-10 of this Guide.
8. Yearbooks: Please complete the necessary information using the GCI State Award Application Coversheet. Firmly clip form to the inside front cover of your yearbook. Send 1 yearbook entry to the GCI Awards Chairman, and 1 yearbook entry to your district director/district awards chairman.
9. Publications: Submit each entry in an envelope with both the GCI State Award Application form and GCI State Award Application Cover Sheet. Submit one copy/set of requirement publications. Submit entries to the GCI Awards chairman postmarked by award deadline.

## Membership Divisions

### Garden Membership by Size

State award applications will be judged according to club size, determined by number of members for whom NGC and state dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc. **(NEW to match NGC)**

- A. **Small Club: 20 members and under**
- B. **Medium Club: 21-50 members**
- C. **Large Club: 51+ members**

NGC judges state garden clubs in accordance with size. Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. falls into “**Category iii - Large Club**” which is the 6000 members and over division.

### Helpful Hints in completing your award form:

**Presentation** – Neat, concise, includes all required information

**Achievement** – Scope of project, need and fulfillment; benefit; accomplishment; comprehensiveness of work; activities to attain goals; evaluation of goals reached; educational; prior planning; brief history if continuing project; **financial report with source of income including in-kind, expenses; other.**

**Participation** – Size of club; involvement of members including total **number of volunteer hours**, community, government agencies, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, other. *Number/percentage of club members involved is essential.* Be sure to include members in photo documentation.

**Record/Documentation** - Supporting data (as applicable), clear, well-labeled and neatly attached, before and after photographs, landscape plan, letters of appreciation, community awards, newspaper/magazine articles, radio, or TV script, etc. Photocopies permitted.

## Page GCI Award Application : Sample Document

Please review a completed “sample” Awards Application on the following pages. Notice the landscape designs and photographs which help complete the 3 pages. The Application Cover Sheet does not count as a page.

- Application is limited to three printed pages.
- Application will not be returned. (
- Please make copies (of all other award entries) for your files.
- **ONLY State Awards Chairman** is to send state winners to NGC Awards Chairmen postmarked no later than **January 15**.

### **THE 2021 GCI AWARDS COVER SHEET MUST ACCOMPANY ALL SUBMISSIONS**

(This form matches NGC’s submission, which makes it easier for GCI awards to be forwarded on.)

**Award #:** Sample 1

**Award Name:** Sample Garden Project

**Award Submitted by:** Happy Diggers Garden Club

**Number of members**

**in club:** #####

[Enter name exactly as it should appear on any award received] **Date:**

**Please complete each topic, if applicable. Use numbering as below when completing form.**

**1. New project:** Yes \_\_\_ No X **Beginning date:** 3/20/2021 **Completion date:** 8/22/2021

#### **2. Brief summary and objectives of project:**

*A Healing Garden was designed and planted in the local park. This project was Phase 3 of an on-going project. Objectives included using plants traditionally used for medicine and healing in a pleasing formal arrangement and to create a place for spiritual healing through contemplation, meditation, and reflection. By locating the garden in a local park with appropriate signage, this project also brings visibility to community projects done by garden clubs working with youth.*

#### **3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:**

*This project was planned by a committee of 4 garden club members, one city planning official, a local landscaper, and a nursery owner. The site preparation was done by the county with help from a local boy scout troop. Planting was done by our garden club as well as two local girl scout troops. A total of 37 garden club members and 23 youth were involved in the project.*

#### **4. Project expenses and means of funding:**

*We received one NGC youth projects grant of \$1000. Donations from club and community members resulted in an additional \$5,000. We also held a fund-raising design luncheon which raised an additional \$2,500 for a total of \$8,500. Club members donated 120 hours of time.*

*The county donated use of heavy-duty equipment including a Bobcat and the laborers.*

Expenses totaling \$8500 were as follows:

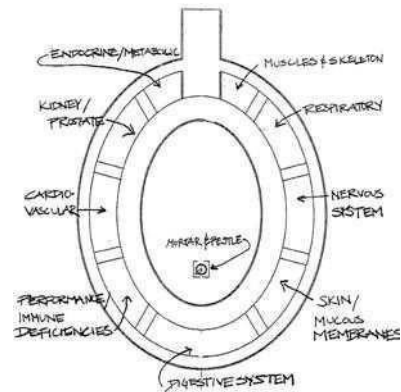
- \$1800 Soil Amendments (compost, peat moss, etc.)
- \$1000 Mulch
- \$1500 Pavers
- \$ 850 Bench
- \$1000 Shrubs - Yew (*Taxus baccata*) - 10 @ \$100 each
- \$ 350 Shrubs – Butterfly bush (*Buddleia spp.*) - 10 @ \$35 each
- \$2000 Herbs (200 @ \$10 each) such as rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), lavenders (*Lavendula spp.*) coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*), butterfly flower (*Aesclepias tuberosa*), salvias (*Salvia spp.*)

### 5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

The Happy Diggers Garden Club provides 3 volunteers each month to dead-head and weed. The county is responsible for watering and site maintenance such as leaf removal, raking, etc. This was the final phase of this project.

### 6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn).

Landscape plan showing the areas to be planted in medicinal herbs related to each system of the body



Landscape Plan for entire project. Phase 3 completed the yew hedge on the right side as well as 2 sections of the outer circle.





*The garden at the start of Phase 3 of the project in March 2021. The pavers have been placed, soil preparation completed, and herbs and shrubs planted.*



*In early summer 2021, the herbs are beginning to fill in around the bench. The pavers weave their way through the garden and signage is placed to identify the plants and their medicinal use.*



*Late summer 2021*

*, the yew hedge separates the healing garden from the rest of the park. The lavender and purple coneflowers surrounding the bench create a tranquil and fragrant spot for park visitors to sit and reflect.*



## AWARDS

### HOW DO YOU BEGIN?

Each club should have an Awards Chairman, someone who will study this Awards Guide and decide which awards fit into the club's program and projects. The Awards Chairman in turn, encourages club members and **specific chairmen** to cooperate in meeting the awards requirements.

Frequently, the clubs that win the most awards are clubs **in which one individual is responsible for award applications as a method of achieving recognition for club activities. This person may be the President, the Awards Chairman, or an assigned Project Chairman.**

Activate the club's awards program in the following ways:

1. Study the on-going and new activities of the club.
2. Consider which awards coincide with your club's programs.
3. **Plan ahead:** Begin immediately once a project is decided upon by collecting information and photos of: Goals of the project, budget, communication, publicity, photos, community, and club members participating, etc. Collecting this info along the way makes it easier to submit the award. When your project is close to completing, review your data to see if it is in accordance with the specific award. Carefully study award requirements in this Award Guide. It is advised not to wait until the last minute.
4. Many GCI (state) winners are eligible to be sent on to NGC by the GCI Awards Chairman. The GCI Awards Chairman is the **ONLY** representative to send awards on to NGC. Consider the descriptions as found in *The National Gardener*, Sept/Oct., Fall issue or issues of subsequent odd number years, or the National Garden Club website (<http://www.gardenclub.org/Awards.aspx>) when compiling your 3-page GCI Award Application or Book of Evidence required in Flower Show Awards.
5. Carefully read *GardenGlories* taking note of state award additions and corrections. The State Award Guide is listed under forms on the GCI website of: [gardenclubsofillinois.org](http://gardenclubsofillinois.org).
6. Updated information is often included in the state president's mailings, *GardenGlories*, and in the Members e-mail Bulletin. **Club presidents are also encouraged to alert their Award chairmen of any new information.**
7. **Please note the deadline dates!** Clubs fail to win an award because the deadline is missed and required materials are **not postmarked on the appropriate date.**

The state awards chairman is responsible for all State, Region and NGC awards. The chairman's name and address appear in the *GardenGlories* board roster. Contact him/her directly whenever you need assistance pertaining to awards. He/she also supplies necessary application forms. All applications for awards go to him/her, with the exception of special awards that may be handled instead by special chairmen and some Annual Youth-Related awards. Club presidents will be duly informed.

Your club and your members deserve to be recognized and The Garden Clubs of Illinois wants to see what is being done in our state clubs and recognize their efforts with an award when merited.

## STATE AWARD RULES

1. The state award year is from January 1 through December 31. For awards which include activities continuing after the stated deadline, the application should include the schedule of activities for the complete year. **Awards requiring 3-page applications should also cover the complete year.**
2. Questions regarding any award should be directed to the state award chairman or special chairman identified for a specific award.
3. Follow the rules regarding Flower Show Book of Evidence (**if required**) as outlined on pages 13-14.
4. Only individuals, garden clubs, etc. that are members in good standing of The Garden Clubs of Illinois are eligible for awards.
5. Non-members are eligible for awards or certificates when specified as eligible for a particular award.
6. Affiliates with paid memberships are eligible for Special Achievement Awards as determined by the GCI board and state award chairman.
7. Eligible applicants (club, district, councils, and individuals) may apply for more than one award if all qualifications are met.
8. If a continuing project, **the Award Application** must be based on work accomplished during the current award year.
9. In the event a project may be eligible for several awards, **the GCI Award Application form and application** submitted to support the data for each award being applied for must focus on that particular award.
10. An individual, club, district, or council that wins a top award in any category may compete for the same award the following year, unless otherwise specified.
11. Youth Garden Clubs must be sponsored by an adult club to be eligible for awards.
12. GCI Award Application Coversheet must be included with each award application. Information in the 3 Page Award Submission Format must be used; the form can be filled in or typed in the final PDF submission. The forms may be obtained from headquarters, the GCI website, or the state awards chairman.
13. The state awards chairman has the Flower Show Evaluation Forms for flower show judges. Three separate signed evaluation forms are necessary and should be obtained **at least 60 days before the show. Contact the Awards Chairman in advance to determine who will serve as a member of the Evaluation judges. Completed Judges Evaluation forms are mailed by judges directly to the state awards chairman.** The chairman includes these forms in the Flower Show Book of Evidence.
14. The state awards chairman also has the forms for Award #10 (Educational Exhibit), #12 (Design/Table Design) and Award #13 (Staging). These forms are also available from the GCI website.

## **CLUB YEARBOOKS**

### **Criteria for Preparing and Scale of Points**

State award winning yearbooks will be forwarded to the Central Region Awards chairman for both Central and National competition. Include GCI Award Application with Yearbook.

#### **FORMAT – 15 points**

1. Book Structure **(3 pts)**
  - a. Practical
  - b. Convenient Size
  - c. Durable
  - d. Neat
2. Arrangement of Content
  - a. Cover **(2 pts)** (If a 3-ring binder is used, substitute with paper cover. Include required information on cover and note accordingly.)
  - b. Name of Club (town, state, year)
  - c. Subsequent pages **(6 pts)** These may include (in any order most useful to members): club officers; club membership roster with complete mailing addresses and telephone numbers; names, themes and email contact of NGC President, Regional Director, State President, State District Director, Calendar of events
3. Options **(2 pts)**
  - a. Club's choice to include bylaws, budget, fund raising, roll call.

#### **PROGRAMS – 50 points**

Programs are judged upon quality and balance of programs. Study on a variety of NGC and GCI goals and objectives such as: Birds, Blue/Gold Star Memorials, Butterflies, Civic Achievement, Conservation, Environment, Flower Shows, Floral Design, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Horticulture Therapy, Landscape Design, Legislation, Litter Control, Roadside Beautification, US & World Gardening, Wildflowers, Youth, etc.

1. At least seven meetings a year **(3 pts)**
2. Date, location/address, time of meeting **(3 pts)**
3. Speaker's name, qualifications (brief), program title **(4 pts)**
4. Programs, workshops, tours furthering NGC goals & objectives **(40 pts)**  
Give brief word description (lecture, slides, demonstration, hands-on workshop, etc.)

#### **PROJECTS – 35 points**

Judged upon scope of project(s). Projects should involve actual membership participation that benefits the community and furthers NGC goals and objectives, not including fund raising or social activities).

1. List Continuing and New Projects **(15 pts)**
2. Description of projects **(10 pts)**  
***Briefly describe who benefits, how the community benefits, how members participate, describe what members do as part of the project, location of project, list chairman, etc.***
3. List of donations including grants, in-kind, sales, etc. **(10 points)**

#### **TOTAL POINTS – 100**

## HOW TO PREPARE A FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE

**Please remember that ONLY Flower Show Achievement Awards require a Book of Evidence. It can be the most challenging part of the award submission. Including it as the final component of your Flower Show project will make the BOE process move smoothly.**

Preparation of an acceptable award-winning Book of Evidence is an integral part of the work of the Club's award chairman. Books of Evidence for all activities, unless otherwise noted, held on or before

October 20 must be in the hands of the state awards chairman by November 1.

**Exception:** For all events held after October 20, the deadline is January 1; **however, the Awards Chairman MUST be notified by November 1 of the intent to submit an award application by January 1 for events held between October 20 and December 31.**

Award application forms may be obtained from Headquarters, the GCI website, the club president's packet, or the state awards chairman or special chairman when applicable (for example: Judges Council, Landscape Design Council, or Youth Related Awards).

Use theme or a 3-ring binder to include all required documentation. Attach envelope to inside back cover, sized to fit Flower Show Schedule and Evaluation forms. No more than 20 sides (10 pages front and back) with all contents secured. Use clear protective page covers that do not extend beyond the cover. Attach state application form to inside of front cover with paper clip. Do not glue or paste. The Book of Evidence should convey a total descriptive picture of the show in pictures and text to the awards committee in a simple concise manner. **Carefully follow the sequential order of requested information** (see #3 Contents below).

**Important:** The show must have been evaluated by three judges and scored 90 or above in order to be eligible for a state award and 95 and above for a national award. Evaluation forms are inserted by the awards chairman. Judges' evaluations count 75% and the Book of Evidence 25%.

Begin by collecting materials required for an award at the onset of the project. Maintain accurate financial records; take pictures before and after, collect letters of commendation and evidence of "networking" with other groups. Assembling your club's book will be easier and more successful if this is done. Committee members judging your project or flower show often must rely on the Book of Evidence for the information they need to make a fair decision. ***Follow the rules below carefully!***

### PRESENTATION

Use a lightweight, solid color, sturdy theme-type binder (no scrapbooks, file folders or paper pocket folders). Books of Evidence must withstand several handlings in the process of judging and, when eligible, mailing to regional and national chairman for judging.

Pictures should be of good quality and selected in a way to "tell a story". Be sure all photographs are labeled. Pictures may be digital and printed directly on the page. Added graphics, artwork, or colored paper, are unnecessary and may detract. Photocopies are permitted.

**BOOKS ARE LIMITED TO 10 PAGES (including picture pages) FRONT AND BACK FOR A TOTAL OF 20 SIDES.** Use 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Attach material to pages. May use glue stick or double-faced tape to avoid wrinkling. NO LOOSE ITEMS. May use top loading sheet protectors but do not exceed the cover size. **Information should be easy to read with at least 1" margins top/bottom/sides, double-spaced, and a minimum of 10 pt. font.** Written text should be concise and cover all requirements of the award description.

### **OUTSIDE COVER**

The outside cover should have a typed or printed label that includes 1) the number and name of state award (do **not** use the NGC award name and number); 2) the name of the applicant club(s), council, district, or individuals, and 3) complete address. Nothing else belongs on the cover.

### **PAGE ONE**

Page one should begin with the number and name of state award, the name of club/s or district applying for the award, and the number of members in the club on whom state dues are paid (regular, honorary, life, associate). The project description should follow immediately after this heading on page one.

### **APPLICATION FORM AND SUMMARY**

Clip (not stapled) to the inside of the cover a state application form and a 3-5 sentence summary typed on a separate sheet.

**A Book of Evidence is not required on the following Flower Show Awards: Award**

**#9 – Illinois Judges Council Flower Show  
Schedule Award**

**#10 – Flower Show Educational Exhibit Award**

**#12A – Table Design Award**

**#12B – Design Excellence Award**

**#13 – Staging Award for a Standard Flower Show**

## Flower Show Book of Evidence Scale of Points

1. Cover label: (1.5 points)
  - a. Award Number and Name, Name of State, Name/s of Show Sponsors (Club/s, Plant Society, Council, District, State) with Show Site (City & State)
  - b. Clean and neat, but no decorative artwork.
2. Pages: (1 point)
  - a. Uncrowded with attractive spacing (.5 points)
  - b. Legible printing and drawings (.5 points)
3. Contents: (19 points)
  - a. Title page (1.5 points) should include:
    - i. Award Number & Name (.5 points)
    - ii. Sponsoring Organization with City and State (.5 points)
    - iii. Applicant Contact & address- President, Director or Show Chairman (.5points)
  - b. Table of Contents (.5 points)
    - i. List items by page number
  - c. Description of Show (3 points)
    - i. 300 words or less
    - ii. Text should include title, size, scope, type of show, theme and division staging, and special features.
  - d. Show Data: (5 points)
    - i. **Obtain an official show data form from the state awards chairman.** (This is a required page in a flower show book of evidence and placed immediately following the show description.)
    - ii. The information requested on the show data form includes:
      - (a) List of sponsoring clubs and/or organization- if more than one (.5 points)
      - (b) Number of members in sponsor organization/s (.5points)
      - (c) Number of participating members. (.5 points)
      - (d) Percentage of participating members. (.5 points)
      - (e) Total number of exhibits in Horticulture, Design and Special Exhibits
      - (f) Divisions. (1.5 points)
      - (g) List Top Exhibitor Awards offered and awarded. (1 point)
      - (h) Source of flower show funding. (.5 points)
  - e. Schedule: **1 copy only** (4 points)
    - i. Schedule to be **placed in envelope attached to back inside cover.** (1point)
    - ii. Correctness of text and all necessary inclusions. (3 points)
  - f. Photographs: Need not be professional photos and include club members when possible. (5 pts)
    - i. Theme staging with overall views of each division's staging, (1 point)
    - ii. Top Exhibitor Awards winning exhibits. (1 point)
    - iii. **Each Picture Labeled** to include Division, Section, Class, award (if applicable) and brief description of staging. *Label Top Hort Award winners with section & class, botanical name, award received; label topdesign award winners with section & class, design description, award received and staging; label special exhibits with word descriptions and staging.* (2 points)
  - g. Publicity: (1 point) Newspaper and other publications with name and date of publication. City/County newspaper publicity preferred but not mandatory.
  - h. Distinction (2 points)

4. Evidence of creative staging and overall unity
  - a. Plus, special features.
  
5. Conformance (1.5 points)
  - a. Adherence to the sequential order
  - b. Adherence to the requirements requested.

References: Handbook for Flower Shows 2017; NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)



## **PUBLICATIONS**

(Scale of points and criteria for submitting award)

### **PRESENTATION – 5 Points**

Include separate summary indicating brief description of publication or communication, club membership, percentage of club participation. No limit on number of pages (read award details for category on page 14). Submit in an envelope.

### **ACHIEVEMENT – 65 points**

Educational, informative, accuracy, clarity of subject; quality of printing, photography, and/or graphics; voicedelivery, coverage received, general appeal.

### **PROMOTES GCI/NGC OBJECTIVES – 15**

### **PointsRECORD/DOCUMENTATION – 15**

#### **Points**

Number of copies distributed/sold, how distributed, financial information: cost of publishing, price if sold, use of profits, market seen/heard, recognition from radio/TV station.

## **BEST PRACTICES AWARD NEW (#80)**

**DEADLINE:** January 10th to State Publicity Chairman ([3rd Vice President of GCI](#)) **CONNIE KLUTNICK;**  
[connie.klutnick@comcast.net](mailto:connie.klutnick@comcast.net)

**BEST PRACTICES AWARD.** This award replaces the Publicity Press Book Award. A certificate and a \$25 cash award will be presented to the overall winning club. The 2021 award focuses on **“activities a club does well to market its club and activities.”**

(The application may include beyond the current year a summary or history of demonstrated success.)

Judging Criteria:

Clarity of award description – 25%

Measured success (data, statistics, evidence of achievement) – 25%Ability  
for other clubs to replicate – 25%

Innovation or creativity – 25%

## GCI Awards Listing

### FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

(A Book of Evidence is required for all Flower Show Achievement Awards – unless otherwise noted. Refer to pages 13-14 in this guide for directions on “How to Prepare a Flower Show Book of Evidence”)

More than one (1) award may be given in a category to any club scoring more 95 or more points on their Flower Show Books of Evidence. All books scoring 95+ points will be sent on to NGC, Inc.

Club may apply for **only one** (1) Flower Show Award.

**All Clubs scoring 95+ points will receive a Certificate.**

- 1a. Club Standard Flower Show
- 1b. Club Holiday Standard Flower Show
- 1c. Club Patriotic Standard Flower Show
- 1d. Club Petite Standard Flower Show

#### **BEST STANDARD FLOWER SHOW (1a, 1b, 1c or 1d)**

**Cash Award: First Place - \$30.00 / Second Place - \$20.00 / Third Place - \$10.00**

- 2a. Club Small-Standard Flower Show
- 2b. Club Holiday Small-Standard Flower Show
- 2c. Club Patriotic Small-Standard Flower Show
- 2d. Club Petite Small-Standard Flower Show

#### **BEST SMALL-STANDARD FLOWER SHOW (2a, 2b, 2c, or 2d)**

**Cash Award: First Place - \$30.00 / Second Place - \$20.00 / Third Place - \$10.00**

- 3. Near-Clubs (2 or more) NGC Flower Show
- 4. Council NGC Flower Show
- 5. District NGC Flower Show
- 6. Horticulture Specialty Flower Show
- 7. Design Specialty Flower Show
- 8. Plant Society Show Co-Sponsored by GCI club/council/district

- 9. **ILLINOIS JUDGES COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE AWARD.** Given for best NG flowershow schedule. ***Use Award Application Cover Sheet and send to current Judges Council Chairman by January 1.*** No other requirements. NGC Schedule Scale of Points (Handbook, page 133-136) will be used.

First Place: \$35.00 Second Place: \$20.00

- 10. **FLOWER SHOW EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD.** Certificate for the best exhibit in a standard flower show staged by an individual/s or organization. Book of Evidence NOT required. Submit award application form with pictures and descriptions of educational exhibit, date and theme of show, title of class, and any award/s won.

11. **EMILY RISING STANDARD SHOW AWARD.** \$50.00 & certificate to a sponsoring club who Staged an NGC Flower Show in 2020 but hadn't staged a show since 2015 or before **and** applied for a 2021 GCIFlower Show Award in listed above (1a-d, 2a-d, 6, 7). Submit Award Application for this Award along with your application for the GCI Flower Show Award.

**12A. TABLE DESIGN AWARD FOR INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITOR TABLE DESIGNS IN AN NGC FLOWER SHOW.**

Submit picture/s of winning design with caption/s, ribbon/s won, name and date of show, and plant material used, along with Award Application Form. Sponsored by GCI in memory of Veva Schreiber. \$25.00 to winning:

1. Functional Table
2. Exhibition Table

**12B. DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITOR DESIGN IN A STANDARD FLOWER SHOW.**

Submit picture/s of winning design with caption/s, ribbon/s won, name and date of show, and plant material used, along with Award Application Form. Sponsored by the Springfield Civic Garden Club. **\$25 to winning entry.**

13. **STAGING AWARD FOR AN NGC FLOWER SHOW.** Submit picture/s of staging with caption/s, name (theme) and date of show, and staging used, along with Award Application Form. Sponsored by GCI in memory of Veva Schreiber. **\$25.00 to winning**

- A. Club with less than 40 members
- B. Club with 41 or more members
- C. Council or group of clubs.

**CIVIC PROJECT AWARDS**

21. **BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL OR BYWAY MARKER LANDSCAPING MARKER PROJECT.** \$25.00 cash award for the design or redesign of landscaping of a Blue/Gold Star Memorial. Completed project that may have been continuous but stresses the landscaping of the marker completed in the current award year. May be part of a highway department rest area maintained by department.

22. **MYRTLE R. WALGREEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CIVIC PROJECT.** Given by her daughter Mrs. Ruth Stephen. First Prize: \$100.00, Second Prize: \$75.00, Third Prize: \$50.00 (Adjusted forties).

- 23. CIVIC CONCERN.** Certificate for continuing civic project. If a landscaping project, please include a landscape plan in addition to the 3-page application form. **Sponsored by District IX. \$25.00 to winning club in each membership division.**
- 24. RUTH Y. BENSON MEMORIAL AWARD.** \$25.00 to a club that contributes the greatest service to the Lincoln Memorial Garden, or any other nature center/preserve in Illinois during the year, emphasizing member participation and publicity. (REVISED)
- 25. LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL AWARD.** Recognition of landscape design or redesign of property for public enjoyment by club(s) affiliated with GCI. The Council offers two cash prizes each year. It is intended to be a landscape design plan that will endure and serve the public in your "hometown". **Obtain application form from the State Landscape Design Council chairman. Sites must be reviewed by the Council before and after. Book of Evidence due October 1.**
- a. \$65.00 for design of 150 or more square feet
  - b. \$25.00 for design of less than 150 square feet
- 26. MABEL M.A. FITZSIMMONS MEMORIAL AWARD FOR HOME GARDEN OR NURSING HOME GARDEN DESIGN.** Design of a club member's garden could be front, back or both. Photos can show any season. Gardens designed by professional landscape firms are not eligible.
- a. \$50.00 for club member in District I, II, III, or IV
  - b. \$50.00 for club member in District V, VI, VII, VIII, or IX
- 27. ARBOR DAY.** Certificate to club(s) for an Arbor Day project or program of exceptional merit. Member participation and publicity emphasized.  
**First Place - \$30.00 / Second Place - \$20.00 / Third Place - \$10.00**
- 28. GARDENING CONSULTANTS' COMMUNITY PROJECT.** \$50.00 to an individual or club for a garden project that benefits the community. Continuing projects are eligible, not Earth Day or Arbor Day Projects. *Sponsored by the Gardening Consultants.*
- 29. WORLD GARDENING.** \$25.00 to club(s) for most outstanding program of activity in World Gardening.
- 30. THE GARDEN CLUB OF DOWNERS GROVE MILITARY MEMORIAL AWARD.** \$100.00 and certificate to an overall winning club that designs or redesigns a garden using perennials and/or annuals at a site designated to honor the military. Must be maintained by the club, stressing member participation. Club may work in conjunction with the American Legion, VFW, or other military organization. Book of evidence must include before and after pictures. (Note: Blue Star Memorial Markers are not eligible for this award.) Sponsored by the Garden Club of Downers Grove.
- 31. GARY R. REWERTS BLUE STAR MEMORIAL AWARD.** A \$100 cash award and certificate for the placement of a new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker at an interstate rest area in Illinois. May be awarded to a single member garden club or group of member clubs. Sponsored by Kathy Rewerts.

**32. FOOD BANK/PANTRY SUPPORT (New Award based on Central Region Project) \$25 and certificate to the individual and club (per capitata) that donates the most garden produce and/or non-perishables to a local food bank/pantry. Submit receipts of items/poundage with application.**

- a. Individual**
- b. Club**

## **CONSERVATION AWARDS**

- 40. CONSERVATION.** To club for an outstanding conservation effort.  
**\$25.00 to winning club in each membership division.**
- 41. VIOLET M. DAWSON AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.** Two \$25.00 awards to clubshaving the most comprehensive environmental education program. May include Youth. Funded by Diane Dawson.
- 42. BIRD PROTECTION. (Revised)** Certificate and \$50 to club having the most influential project relating to bird protection, such as creating and maintaining or improving bird habitat, educating the public, positively affecting legislation, or financing that raises public awareness about protecting native bird populations. Sponsored by Darien Garden Club.
- 43. HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**
- a. \$50.00 to a club for tasteful, distinctive holiday decorations in a historic building, house, or mansion. Must conform to the building's period.
  - b. \$50.00 to a club for dedication to the continuing challenge of reclaiming and preserving a historic site. The site does not have to be developed but must be recognized by local, state, or national authorities.
  - c. Holiday Decorations Awards: Certificate to club/s for an outstanding effort to beautify thecommunity during a holiday Season.
- 44. NEW PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: PLANT AMERICA – STARTING AT HOME**  
**Certificate and \$25 to a club member whose planting project/s and/or beautification on private and/or public local property has made a visual impact in the community. Before and after shots required.**
- 45. WILDFLOWER AND ROADSIDE IMPROVEMENT AWARD.** Certificate to club(s) for planting wildflowers on public rights-of-way. 1st place to receive \$100 sponsored by the Garden Club of Decatur.
- 46. MARY ZGONENA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE.**  
\$100.00 to aclub(s) for comprehensive new or continuing programs relating to the environment.

#### **47. PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS**

- a. Certificate and \$25.00 given for preparing and maintaining a Butterfly Garden. Given to a garden club or youth garden club.
- b. Planting for Pollinators Certificate and \$25.00 given to a club specifically addressing Planting for Pollinators in any new or existing garden on public property including Blue/Gold Star Markers.)
- c. Certificate and \$50.00 given to a club specifically addressing the “Milkweed for Monarchs” project. Award is based on the club with the highest percentage of club members participating (need to provide actual headcount in award documentation) in all “Milkweed for Monarchs” projects. Cash award of \$50.00 sponsored by Cress Creek Garden Club.

**48. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS AWARD.** \$25.00 cash award to an individual or garden club that promotes a project in any or all of the following activities: participation, education, legislation, and/or financing that would raise the public awareness of what can be done to protect endangered species or control invasive species.

**49. JODY BAILEY AWARD FOR WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS.** Certificate and \$100 cash award for first place to a club member or members who develop and present a program that endeavors to identify local, state, and national water problems that affect their community at the present time. Certificate for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARDS

(All youth awards may apply to Junior, Intermediate or High School clubs)

50. **CARMEN AND JESSIE MCDONALD.** \$50.00 award to District sponsoring the newest youth gardenclubs based on proportionate number of district clubs.
51. **ARBOR DAY CITATION.** \$25 and certificate for garden club who hold an Arbor Day program with emphasis on youth participation. . Note member participation.
52. **YOUTH CLUB LEADERSHIP AWARD.** Certificate may be awarded to the individual who has given outstanding service as a leader of a youth club.
53. **YOUTH ACTIVITIES. Certificate and \$50** to the Club that participates with Youth in three ways – entering youth contests, submitting photos of youth to the GCI website, and participating with a group of youth in a gardening activity. Youth can include preschoolers.

## ANNUAL YOUTH-RELATED AWARDS

(Details are in the fall GCI packet, mailed to club presidents, as well as in the fall issue of *Garden Glories*) Details are on the National Garden Club Website; check the website for the specific grade levels for each contest.

**All entries are due January 10.**

**SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL.** Local entries are judged by the member garden club and winning posters mailed to GCI Youth Activities Chairman. State winning entries are submitted for Regional and National judging by the GCI Youth Activities Chairman.

**YOUTH POETRY AND SCULPTURE CONTESTS.** Various poetry and sculpture contests are offered by NGC annually.

## GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

60. **BEST YEARBOOK.** Two types of yearbook awards are given. Submit two copies: one copy to your district director and one copy to state awards chairman with a state award application form. *Criteria for preparing a yearbook and the scale of points used for judging yearbooks are on page 14 of this guide.* **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YEARBOOKS TO STATE AWARDS CHAIRMAN AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR/AWARDS CHAIRMAN IS OCTOBER 1.**
- a. District Certificate to best District yearbook. Send one copy to your District Director/District Awards Chairman.
  - b. GCI Certificate to best yearbook judged by club size. Send one copy to the State Awards Chairman. The committee will select winners according to club size. These will be sent to Central Region if merited.  
**\$25.00 to winning club in each membership division**
    - i. 1-29 members
    - ii. 30-59 members
    - iii. 60-99 members
    - iv. 100-299 members
    - v. 300+ members
61. **BEST HISTORY.** Certificate for history that includes activities up to the present time. Photographs allowed. Club history should be submitted in a manila envelope with state award application form attached with paper clip. Book of Evidence not required. No scrapbooks or oversized books.
- a. Club with 1-29 members
  - b. Club with 30-59 members
  - c. Club with 60-99 members
  - d. Club with 10-299 members
  - e. Club with 300+ members
62. **CLUB ACHIEVEMENT.** Form is revised yearly by GCI President and available on GCI website. Clubs are encouraged to use current year form (as items can be changed). Club President should complete after reviewing club's activities for the current year. No Book of Evidence is required. Points listed after each activity are the maximum allowed. Send to Awards Chairman by December 15.
- a. Blue Seal for 200+ points
  - b. Purple Seal for 300+ points
  - c. Gold Seal for 400+ points
63. **CLUB HORTICULTURE.** Form is revised yearly and available on GCI website. No Book of Evidence is required. Complete form and return to Awards Chairman by December 15.
- a. Gold Seal for 250+ points
  - b. Silver Seal for 150+ points
64. **NAPERVILLE GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP.** Two \$25.00 awards for giving the most per capita to scholarships at the college level and beyond in conservation and horticulture.
- a. Small club up to 100 members
  - b. Large club 100 members and more



- 65. MARY WALKER AWARD FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT.** \$35.00 award to club that has joined GCI within the last five years and has established an impressive record of accomplishment in all phases of club activity.
- 66. GCI GARDEN WALK.** \$25.00 cash award and a certificate for a garden walk sponsoring the objectives of GCI & NGC. Must be part of a club project and open to the public, not a program. Sponsored by South Barrington Garden Club.
- 67. GLORIA GREENE ADVANCED DESIGNER AWARD.** \$50.00 award to member clubs providing a program/ workshop on floral design. Membership participation required.
- a. Club with less than 40 members
  - b. Club with more than 41 members
  - c. Council or group of clubs
- 68. THE GARDEN CLUB OF DOWNERS GROVE NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK AWARD.** \$100.00 cash award and a certificate to an overall winning club that promotes National Garden Week in their community. Examples may include pictures, publicity, proclamations, working with local civic organizations, and/or other activities such as placing floral arrangements in public buildings, having garden tours, etc.
- 69. THE DES PLAINES GARDEN CLUB AWARD FOR BEST PROMOTION OF YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CLUB IN A PUBLIC SPACE.** A certificate and a \$25.00 cash award will be presented to an overall winning club who has effectively promoted their garden club (using a display case, exhibit booth, etc.) to present their past and present achievements, provide a bit of club history, current projects, initiatives, and having them displayed in a public location (i.e., local community center, public library, city hall building, train station, etc.) as a way of spreading the good word about their club and possibly securing new members. Award submission should include photos along with all GCI required award documentation.
- 70. GCI “GARDEN CLUB OF THE YEAR” AWARD.** A certificate and a cash award of \$25.00 (paid to winning club in each membership division). GCI will determine the winner(s) based on awards submitted. This award is contingent on a club:
- a. Submitting at least five (5) GCI Awards: specifically awards #60 Yearbook; #62 Club Achievement; #63 Club Horticulture; #83b. – Newsletter and at least one award from any one of the following categories: Flower Show, Civic, Conservation, Club, Garden Therapy or Youth (of course more than one award can be submitted).
  - b. Members attending: State Convention; Summer Meeting and GCI sponsored schools
- 71. GCI GARDEN CLUB ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. (NEW). A certificate and \$25 to the club who has promoted their club’s anniversary throughout the year with special event. Award submission should include photos along with required documentation.**

## PUBLICATION AWARDS

(See pages 17 for scale of points and rules applicable to these awards.)

**80. BEST PRACTICES AWARD for marketing your Club and Activities. Submit to 3<sup>rd</sup> GCI VicePresident. Sponsored by Connie Klutnick. See description page 16.**

**81. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR BEST GARDEN-ORIENTED PROGRAMS IN RADIO, TV, OR VIDEO.**

**82. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR BEST VIDEO/CD SUITABLE FOR CLUB PROGRAMS.**

**83. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR DISTRICT AND CLUB PUBLICATIONS.** Submit consecutive issues of each publication published in the awards year under one management. Copies may be submitted in a folder or manila envelope with state award application and a 3-5 sentence summary typed on a separate sheet. Summary should include brief description of publication, club membership, and financial information including number of copies printed/sold, how distributed, cost of publishing, price if sold, use of profits. No

Book of Evidence required.

- a. Leaflet, a single sheet, if folded not more than 4 pages
- b. Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin of 24 pages or less
  - i. 4 issues/year
  - ii. More than 4 issues/year
- c. Magazine/Bulletin over 24 pages
  - i. 4 issues/year
  - ii. More than 4 issues/year
- d. Other Publications (No periodicals, notices, or flyers with one-time events).
  - i. Cookbooks
  - ii. Manuals
  - iii. Histories
  - iv. Websites (submit URL)
  - v. Other

## GARDEN THERAPY AWARDS

**90. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR BARRIER-FREE GARDENING.** Given to a club(s) for establishing and/or financing or promoting programs or activities for barrier free gardening for the physically challenged in institutional settings.

**91. GARDEN THERAPY.**

- a. \$25.00 awarded to club with regular on-going project(s).
  - i. Must include patient/resident/student participation.
  - ii. Patient/resident/student participation not required.
- b. Certificate to individual in club who plans and conducts therapy projects on a regular basis; must include patient/resident/student participation.

## MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

**100. MEMBERSHIP DISTINCTION.** Certificate to club showing the greatest number of new members between January 1 and December 31 of awards year. **Will be determined by GCI 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and current end-of-year membership totals on file at GCI headquarters.**

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Clubs up to 29 members | 4. 100-299 members |
| b. 30-59 members          | 5. 300 + members   |
| c. 60-99 members          |                    |

**101. MARGARET TAMILLO.** Certificate to the garden club with the greatest percentage increase in membership as of December 31. Will be determined by GCI 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and current end-of-year membership totals on file at GCI headquarters.

**102. CLUB RECRUITMENT.** Certificate to clubs participating in adopt-a-club program or recruiting a club into GCI. Must sponsor and present more than one program for the new club.

**103. INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT.** Certificate to clubs for outstanding membership recruitment project.

**NOTE:** V.I.P. Award is no longer considered an award. It is a recognition of someone to be honored. Please visit our website for complete details or contact First Vice-President, Carol Ohrn. This recognition must be submitted by March 1st.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**150. REGIONAL ENTRY.** Certificate.

**151. NATIONAL ENTRY.** A single green rosette given to the club for any and all awards submitted by GCI to NGC for awards which meet the requirements for an NGC award.

**152. STEPHANIE GREENE MEMORIAL AWARD.** Certificate and a \$70.00 Class Credit for any of the GCI schools (Environmental School, Flower Show School, Garden School and Landscape Design School.) Is awarded to a club member who has represented their club well in the community for many years. A member who has received a VIP award (in the past) and continues to contribute to their club's success in its activities, mentors new club members, attends and promotes the GCI schools, has held several offices and/or chairman roles in their garden club.

## PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

May be given by the GCI President to persons who have performed outstanding service to GCI.