

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

## ***Awards Guide 2026***



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**AWARDS GUIDE**  
**The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.**

**TABLE of CONTENTS**

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Membership Divisions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Important Award Deadlines</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Submission Requirements</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Generic Award Scoring Rubric</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sample Award Summary Document</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>How Do You Begin?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>State Award Rules</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>How to Prepare a Flower Show Book of Evidence</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GCI Award Listing</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Flower Show Awards</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Civic Project Awards</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>Conservation Awards</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>Youth Activities</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annual Youth-Related Awards</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Garden Club Awards</b>	<b>17-18</b>
<b>Publication Awards</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Scoring Rubric for Publications</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Garden Therapy Awards</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Membership Awards</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Special Awards</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Presidential Citations</b>	<b>21</b>

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

Revised when necessary, with regular updates. Distributed via the following website:  
**[gardenclubsofillinois.org](http://gardenclubsofillinois.org)**

The GCI Awards Chairman is responsible for all State and NGC awards. The GCI Awards Chairman name and email address appear in the **GardenGlories** board roster. Contact him/her directly whenever you need assistance pertaining to awards. All necessary forms are on the GCI website. All applications for awards go to him/her, except for special awards that may be handled instead by special chairmen. Your club and members deserve to be recognized and The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. wants to see what is being done in our state clubs to recognize their efforts.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

- One submission per award category, submit your best project.
- Minimum font size is 12.
- New e-mail address to submit awards: [gci2026awards@gmail.com](mailto:gci2026awards@gmail.com)
- Forms will be updated by September of 2026. Make sure the form states 2026.

**Note:** President's mailings, **GardenGlories**, and **The National Gardener** and appropriate websites will provide further award information and updates. All applications, other than some special awards, must be sent directly to the GCI Awards Chairman. **Please do not submit awards directly to National Garden Club (NGC), Inc.**

**MEMBERSHIP DIVISIONS**

**Garden Membership by Size**

State award applications will be judged according to club size, determined by number of members for whom GCI dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.

**Small Club: 20 members and under**

**Medium Club: 21-50 members**

**Large Club: 51+ members**

## AWARD DEADLINES

### October 1

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

You must obtain an entry form from the Landscape Design Council Chairman before the project begins. Application and Award Application Coversheet are due on October 1 to the Landscape Design Council Chairman listed in *GardenGlories*.

### November 1

All Award Applications are due for club projects held on or before October 20. Every award application needs to include a GCI Award Application Coversheet except for Flower Show Achievement Awards, #62 Club Achievement, #63 Club Horticulture and #70 GCI Garden Club of the Year (due 1 November.)

All awards must be emailed as a PDF to the GCI Awards Chairperson at: [gci2026awards@gmail.com](mailto:gci2026awards@gmail.com).

**REMINDER: Clubs are required to notify the GCI Awards Chairman of intent to submit awards for events held after October 20 by November 1. This is only for activities which are held after October 20<sup>th</sup>. Please make every attempt to submit award packages upon completion of the event. Delayed award packages hold up the reviewing process which also delays the process to submit awards to NGC.**

### December 15

#### **Award #62 – Club Achievement**

#### **Award #63 – Club Horticulture**

Note: The forms for these awards are posted on the GCI Website. Fill out .pdf forms completely, adding up your club's total points. Please provide required information (where indicated). Forms must be e-mailed to the GCI Awards Chairman: [gci2026awards@gmail.com](mailto:gci2026awards@gmail.com).

### 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**

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

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

(if applicable)

1. The actual award submission could potentially become a 3-page document (sample on pages 7-9). Submit one award per category, submit your best. **Minimum font size is 12.** GCI State Award Application Coversheet must accompany each award entry and is not included in page count. Documents must both be saved as a .pdf before emailing. The awards application coversheet (.pdf) and award submission **should not** be combined into one .pdf document.
2. **ALL** Applications **MUST BE emailed as a .pdf** to [gci2026awards@gmail.com](mailto:gci2026awards@gmail.com) by the deadlines listed. **EACH AWARD APPLICATION MUST BE EMAILED SEPARATELY.**
3. Forms are available on the GCI website, [gardenclubsofillinois.org](http://gardenclubsofillinois.org).
4. The GCI Award Application Coversheet is **not** needed for Flower Show Achievement Awards, Club Achievement (#62), Club Horticulture (#63) and GCI Garden Club of the Year (#70).
5. **Do not** submit the same award package as previous years, please rewrite the package even if you are doing a similar project.
6. Award forms #62, #63, #70 should be saved to your desktop, filled out, saved and then attached to e-mail. **Double check** the form is saved with your information before transmitting.

## GENERIC AWARD SCORING RUBRID

### Presentation

**5 Total**

Cover sheet included with all sections completed	2	
Application adheres to 3 single page limit unless other size specified in award description	2	
Application neat and concise	1	

### Achievement

**65 Total**

Meets GCI Mission & Goals	6	
Scope of project defined	4	
Need identified	7	
Benefit to target (members/recipients/community/etc.)	10	
Accomplishment of goals	8	
Comprehensiveness of work	6	
Activities to attain goals explained	8	
Evaluation of goals reached	4	
Educational	3	
Prior Planning	4	
Very brief history if continuing project (give full credit if not a continuing project)	3	
Other	2	

### Participation

**15 Total**

% of member participation (may include any type of support given)	12	
Involvement of others (community, government agencies, professionals, youth, facility residents, others)	3	

### Documentation

**15 Total**

Clear photos when applicable, labeled as needed	5	
Landscape plan when applicable (give full credit if not applicable)	5	
Financial details	5	

**100 Total**

## SAMPLE AWARDS SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The following is a completed "sample" Awards Application on the following pages. Notice the landscape designs and photographs which help complete the three pages. The Award Application Coversheet does not count as one of the three pages. This format matches NGC's submission, which makes it smoother for GCI awards to be forwarded. **ONLY GCI Awards Chairman** is to send state winners to NGC.

**THE 2026 GCI AWARDS COVERSHEET MUST ACCOMPANY ALL SUBMISSIONS  
UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED.**

**The coversheet form is in the Awards section of the GCI website.**

-----Summary Format Example Below-----

**Award #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Award Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Club Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of members in club:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete each topic, if applicable. Use section numbering as listed below.**

1. **New project:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ **Beginning date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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. Add % of club members who participated.*

**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

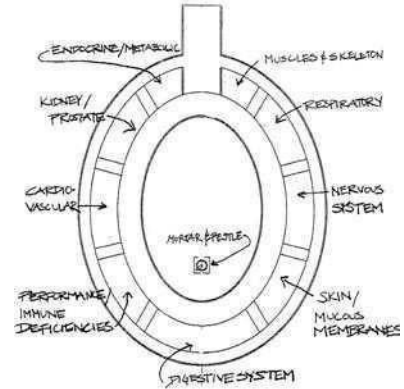
- \$1500 Pavers
- \$ 850 Bench
- \$1000 Shrubs - Yew (*Taxus baccata*) - 10 @ \$100 each
- \$ 350 Shrubs – Butterfly bush (*Buddleia spp.*) - 10 @ \$35 each
- \$2000 Herbs (200 @ \$10 each) such as rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), lavenders (*Lavendula spp.*) coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*), butterfly 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 2026. soil preparation completed, and herbs and shrubs planted.*





*In early summer 2026, 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 2026*

*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.*



## 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. Early in the year, consider which awards coincide with your club's programs. Review the GCI Awards Guide to ensure your project meets the intent of the award.
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) awards 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 [NGC Awards](#) 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 Awards Guide is published on the GCI Website under Club Information, then select Awards. <https://www.gardenclubsofillinois.org/awards>
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 will fail to win an award because the deadline is missed and required materials are **not submitted by the appropriate date.**
8. An NGC cross reference is added to applicable awards. Example: **NGC EC-5**. This cross reference is the NGC award which your award might be eligible. Referring to and following the NGC criteria will give you a better chance of being eligible for NGC awards.

## 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. Award packages must be rewritten each year instead of changing the dates and resubmitting the same package. Do not submit an exact duplicate application for more than one award. Minimum 12 font for award summary.**
2. Questions regarding any award should be directed to the GCI 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 page 12.
4. Only individuals, garden clubs, etc. that are members in good standing of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. 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 GCI Award Chairman.
7. Eligible applicants (club, district, councils, and individuals) may submit more than one application for an award if all qualifications are met.
8. For 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 award. Each application summary must be different. Do not submit the same award from a previous 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. The award summary must be rewritten.
11. Youth Garden Clubs must be sponsored by an adult club to be eligible for awards.
12. A GCI Award Coversheet must be included with each award application except #62, #63, #70 and Flower Show Awards. The .pdf form must be used and is available on the GCI website. **Updated in September of 2026.**
13. Flower Show Evaluation Forms for flower show judges are located on the NGC website. Three separate signed evaluation forms are necessary and are obtained at least **six weeks** before the show. Contact the GCI Awards Chairman in advance so the chairman can determine who will serve as a member of the **Evaluation Judges. Completed Judges Evaluation forms are emailed by Judges directly to the GCI Awards Chairman.** The GCI Award Chairman includes these forms in the Flower Show Book of Evidence.

Forms for Award #10 (Educational Exhibit), #12 (Design/Table Design) and Award #13 (Staging).

are available on the GCI website in the awards section.

## HOW TO PREPARE A FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE

Please remember that only GCI (and by extension NGC) Flower Show Achievement Awards require a specific Book of Evidence (BOE.) Preparation of an acceptable award-winning Book of Evidence is an integral part of the work of the Club's award or flower show chairman. Books of Evidence for Flower Shows held on or before October 20 must be sent via e-mail by November 1 to the GCI Awards Chairman.

Exception: For Flower Shows held after October 20, the deadline is January 1; however, the GCI 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.

Follow the Flower Show Achievement application guidelines and forms are available on the

NGC website at: <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-awards>

## GCI AWARDS LISTING

### FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

(An **electronic** Book of Evidence is required for all Flower Show Achievement Awards – unless otherwise noted. Refer to the section above 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.**

**1. Club (Standard, Holiday, Patriotic, or Petite) Flower. Sponsored by David Robson.  
First Place - \$30.00 / Second Place - \$20.00 / Third Place - \$10.00**

**2. Club (Small, Holiday, Patriotic, or Petite) Flower Show. Show Sponsor is David Robson.  
First Place - \$30.00 / Second Place - \$20.00 / Third Place - \$10.00**

**Certificate for winning entry in each of the following:**

- 3. Near-Clubs (2 or more) NGC Flower Show NGC FS9**
- 4. District NGC Flower Show NGC FS10**
- 5. Horticulture or Design Specialty Flower Show NGC FS11**

**Removed 6, 7, and 8 in 2024**

**9. ILLINOIS JUDGES COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE AWARD.** Given for best NGC flower show schedule. *Use Award Application Coversheet and send to current Judges Council Chairman by January 1.* No other requirements. NGC Schedule Scale of Points Handbook will be used. **Sponsored by IL Judges Council. 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. **Sponsored by Carol Yee. First Place: \$25.00.**

**11. EMILY RISING STANDARD SHOW AWARD.** To a sponsoring club who staged an **NGC** Flower Show in 2024 but hadn't staged a show since 2018 or before **and** applied for a 2024 GCI Flower Show Award in listed above (1, 2, 3 and 4). Submit Award Application for this Award along with your application for the GCI Flower Show Award. **\$50 to winning entry.**

**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 entry:**

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 entry in each category.**

- 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/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL OR BYWAY MARKER LANDSCAPING MARKER PROJECT.** 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 the department. **Sponsored by Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville. \$25 to winning entry. NGC CE-7, CE-8.**

**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 for ties.) NGC CE-5**

**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 entry in each membership division. NGC CE-1 and CE-6**

**24. RUTH Y. BENSON MEMORIAL AWARD.** 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. **\$25.00 to winning entry.**

**25. LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL AWARD.** Recognition of landscape design or redesign of property for public enjoyment. by the club in your hometown Obtain application form from the GCI Landscape Design Council Chairman. Sites must be reviewed by the Council before and after. Book of Evidence due October 1. **LDC is the sponsor. NGC CE-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. **\$50 to winning club in each district category. NGC CE-5**

- a. For club member in District I, II, VIII, or IX
- b. For club member in District III, IV, V, or VII

**27. ARBOR DAY.** To a club(s) for an Arbor Day tree project or program of exceptional merit. Member participation and publicity emphasized. **Sponsored by District III. First Place - \$30.00 / Second Place - \$20.00 / Third Place - \$10.00**

**28. GARDENING CONSULTANTS' COMMUNITY PROJECT.** To an individual or club for a garden project that benefits the community. Continuing projects are eligible, excluding Earth Day or Arbor Day Projects. **Sponsored by the Gardening Consultants Council. \$50 to winning entry. NGC CE-1 and CE-8**

**29. REMOVED 2023**

**30. THE GARDEN CLUB OF DOWNERS GROVE MILITARY MEMORIAL AWARD.** 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. Application 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. \$100 to winning entry NGC CE-8**

**31. GARY R. REWERTS BLUE/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL AWARD.** For the placement of a new Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker at an interstate rest area in Illinois. May be awarded to single member garden club or group of member clubs. **Sponsored by Kathy Rewerts. \$100 to winning entry. NGC CE-7**

### **32. FOOD BANK/PANTRY SUPPORT**

- a. To the individual and club (per capitata) that donates the most garden produce. Submit pounds of produce with application. **\$25 to winning entry. NGC CE-3 and G2**
  - i. Individual
  - ii. Club
- b. To the club that donates the most food and non-perishable food items to a food bank or food pantry/pantries. Submit approximate list of items and/or pounds donated. **\$25 to winning entry.**
- c. To the club that donates the most food, non-perishable food and non-food items to a food bank or food pantry/pantries. Submit approximate list of items and/or pounds donated. **\$25 to winning entry. Only awarded if there is a sponsor otherwise it will be a certificate.**

### **CONSERVATION AWARDS**

**40. Removed 2024.**

**41. VIOLET M. DAWSON AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.** To clubs having the most comprehensive environmental education program. May include Youth. **Sponsored by Diane Dawson. \$25 awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winning entries. NGC EC-1 and EC-2**

**42. BIRD PROTECTION.** To the 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. \$50 to winning entry. EC-3 and G-4**

**43. HISTORIC PRESERVATION. NGC CE-5 and CE-9**

- a. To a club for tasteful, distinctive holiday decorations in a historic building, house, or mansion. Must conform to the building's period. **\$50 to winning entry.**
- b. 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. **\$50 to winning entry.**
- c. To a club/s for an outstanding effort to beautify the community during a holiday season with holiday decorations. **\$50 to winning entry.**

**44. REMOVED 2023**

**45. WILDFLOWER AND ROADSIDE IMPROVEMENT AWARD.** Certificate to club(s) for planting wildflowers on public rights-of-way. **Sponsored by the Garden Club of Decatur. \$100 to winning entry. NGC CE-4 and EC-5**

**46. MARY ZGONENA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE.**

To a club for comprehensive new or continuing programs relating to the environment. **\$100 to winning entry. NGC EC-1**

**47. PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS NGC CE-6**

- a. To a club or youth garden club for preparing and maintaining a Butterfly Garden. **Sponsored by O’Fallon Garden Club. \$50 to winning entry.**
- b. To a club specifically addressing Planting for Pollinators in any new or existing garden on public property including Blue/Gold Star Markers. **Sponsored by Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville. \$25 to winning entry.**
- c. 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. **Sponsored by Cress Creek Garden Club. \$50 to winning entry.**

**48. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS 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. **Sponsored by Environmental Consultants. \$25 to the winning entry. NGC EC-5**

**49. JODY BAILEY AWARD FOR WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS.** 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. **\$100 to winning entry. NGC EC-4**

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARDS**

(preschool, elementary, middle and high school students)

**50. CARMEN AND JESSIE MCDONALD.** To a club sponsoring a youth garden club in 2024; award based on activities, club members and youth garden club members. **\$50 to winning entry. NGC YW-1, YW-2, YW-3, and YW-8**

**51. Combined with Award #53 2024**

**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.** To the club that participates with youth in three ways – entering GCI youth contests, submitting photos of youth to the GCI website (photo release), youth Arbor Day/Earth Day event, flower shows, and educational events with a group of youth. **Sponsored by Atkins’ Acres Educational Farm. \$50 to winning entry. NGC YW-3 and YW- 4**

## ANNUAL YOUTH-RELATED AWARDS

Additional details are available on the [NGC](#) website or contact GCI Youth Activities Chair. Refer to the current issue of *GardenGlories* for the chairman name and e-mail address.

**All entries are due January 20, 2027 unless otherwise stated.**

**SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST.** Entries are judged by the member garden club and winning posters mailed to GCI Youth Activities Chairman. **\$25.00 to the winner for each grade level.**

**YOUTH POETRY AND SCULPTURE CONTESTS.** Various poetry and sculpture contests are offered by NGC. **\$25 award for winning entries.**

## GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

60. **Removed 2023.**

61. **BEST HISTORY.** Certificate for history that includes activities up to the present time. Photographs allowed. Club history should be submitted in electronic form with GCI Cover Sheet.

- Small Club: 20 members and under
- Medium Club: 21-50 members
- Large Club: 51+ members

62. **CLUB ACHIEVEMENT.** Fillable .pdf form is revised yearly by GCI President and available on GCI website. Club President should complete after reviewing club's activities for the current year. Points listed after each activity are the maximum allowed. Send to GCI Awards Chairman by December 15.

- Blue Seal for 150+ points
- Purple Seal for 250+ points
- Gold Seal for 350+ points

63. **CLUB HORTICULTURE.** Fillable .pdf form is revised yearly and available on GCI website. Complete form and return to GCI Awards Chairman by December 15.

- Gold Seal for 200+ points
- Silver Seal for 100+ points

64. **NAPERVILLE GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP.** For giving the most per capita to scholarships at the college level and beyond in conservation and horticulture. **Sponsored by Naperville Garden Club. \$25 to winning entry in each category.**

- Small club up to 100 members
- Large club 101 members and more

65. **MARY WALKER AWARD FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT.** To the club that has joined GCI within the

last five years and has established an impressive record of accomplishment in all phases of club activity. **\$35 to winning entry.**

**66. GCI GARDEN WALK.** For a garden walk highlighting the objectives of GCI and NGC. Must be part of a club project and open to the public, and not a program. **Sponsored by South Barrington Garden Club. \$25 to winning entry.**

**67. GLORIA GREENE ADVANCED DESIGNER AWARD.** To member clubs providing a program/workshop on floral design. Membership participation required. **\$50 to winning entry in each membership category category. NGC FD-2**

- a. Club with 50 members or less
- b. Club with 51 or more members
- c. Council or group of clubs

**68. THE GARDEN CLUB OF DOWNERS GROVE NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK AWARD.** 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. **Sponsored by Garden Club of Downers Grove. \$100 to winning entry. NGC MAE-5**

**69. THE DES PLAINES GARDEN CLUB AWARD FOR BEST PROMOTION OF YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CLUB IN A PUBLIC SPACE.** 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. **Sponsored by the Des Plaines Garden Club. \$25 to winning entry.**

**70. GCI “GARDEN CLUB OF THE YEAR” AWARD.** To be competitive for this award, a garden club must complete award form **#70 inventory** located on the GCI awards webpage. **\$25 to winning club in each membership level.** This award is contingent on a club:

- a. Submitting at least five (5) GCI Awards: specifically awards #62 Club Achievement; #63 Club Horticulture; #82 Publication Award and at least two awards from any of the following categories: Flower Show, Civic Projects, Conservation, Club, Garden Club Awards, Youth and Publications (more than award may be submitted in each category.)
- b. Members attending: State Convention; Summer Meeting and GCI sponsored schools or symposiums.
- c. **MUST** turn in GCI Award Form #70.

**71. GCI GARDEN CLUB ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.** To the club who has promoted their club’s anniversary throughout the year with specials event. Award submission should include photos along with required documentation. **\$25 to winning entry.**

## PUBLICATION AWARDS

(scoring rubric on next page)

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

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

**82. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR DISTRICT AND CLUB PUBLICATIONS.** Submit .pdf of only three consecutive issues of each publication published in the awards year under one management. Copies maybe submitted with state award application and a 3-5 sentence summary. 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. Send ONLY three consecutive copies of newsletter/magazine or bulletin. **NGC MAE- 2a, 2c, 3 or 4.**

- a. Leaflet, a single sheet, if folded not more than 4 pages
- b. Newsletter/Magazine/Bulletin - minimum **three** times per year
  - i. 1-2 pages
  - ii. 3-12 pages
  - iii. 13-24 pages
  - iv. 24+ pages
- c. Other Publications (No periodicals, notices, or flyers with one-time events).
  - i. Educational
  - ii. Manuals
  - iii. Websites (submit URL)
  - iv. Social Media pages (submit name and location)
  - v. Digital Media Presentation
  - vi. Other

## Scoring Rubric for Publications

### Presentation

**5 Total**

Cover sheet included with all sections completed	2
Brief description of publication	3

### Achievement

**65 Total**

Educational	8
Informative	9
Accurate information	6
Clarity of subject	5
Print quality adds to overall appearance	5
Includes high quality photographs	6
Includes appropriate, meaningful graphics	4
Coverage received	6
General appeal	9
Indicates that organization is GCI member	7

### Promotes GCI Objectives

**15 Total**

Promotes at least one GCI Objective	5
Promotes more than one GCI Objective	10

### Documentation

**15 Total**

Number of copies distributed/sold	5
How distributed	4
Financial details include cost of publishing, price if sold	6

**100 Total**

## 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. To a club with regular on-going project(s). **NGC G-3**
  1. Must include patient/resident/student participation. **Sponsored by The Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc. \$25 to winning entry**
  2. Patient/resident/student participation not required. **\$25 to winning entry**
- b. Certificate to individual in club who plans and conducts therapy projects on a regular basis; must include patient/resident/student participation. **\$25 to winning entry.**

## MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

**100. NEW PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: Reserved and updated if applicable.**

**101. MARGARET TAMILLO.** Certificate to the garden club with the greatest percentage increase in membership as of December 31. Will be determined by GCI 1st 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.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**150. Removed 2024.**

**151. NATIONAL ENTRY.** A special notation will be given to the club for all awards submitted by GCI to NGC for awards which meet the requirements for an NGC award. The annotation will be on the certificate presented by GCI.

**152. STEPHANIE GREENE MEMORIAL AWARD.** Certificate and a \$70.00 Class Credit for any of the GCI schools (Environmental School, Flower Show School, Gardening School and Landscape Design School.) Is awarded to a club member who has represented their club well in the community for many years.

## PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

May be given by the GCI President at the GCI Annual Meeting or GCI Summer Meeting to persons who have performed outstanding service to GCI.