

**West Virginia Garden Club, Inc
Award Description 2025-2027**

General Awards

Submit to: Beth Post
10 Third Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Post Marked by: November 10

1. THE WEST VIRGINIA GARDEN CLUB AWARD

Donor: Emily Shirey, Past President

\$100 cash award presented annually to a club for outstanding civic contributions including educational activities, which emphasize the objectives of WVGCI. This may be one large project or several small ones. *(NGC CE-1, CE-2, CE-4, CE-5, CE-8, G-1) (SAR 4)*

2. THE BRENDA MOORE MEMBERSHIP AWARD – Do Not Apply

Donor: Mrs. Brenda Moore, Past President

A \$50 cash award to the club with the highest percentage membership increase. This will be determined by the Asst. Treasurer's reports and dues collected.

3. THE VIRGINIA C. MABLEY AWARD

Donor: Ohio Guyan District

A \$50 cash award is given annually to an individual garden club member for his or her meritorious achievement or outstanding contribution to the welfare of the community, local, state or national, through the media of gardening activities.

Rules for the award are as follows:

1. Nomination may be submitted by the president or secretary of any garden club, which is a member of the WVGCI.
2. On application form, submit nominee's full name and address. List activities and achievements of nominee in garden club work. Be specific and list all activities in the following areas: gardening, flower arranging, landscaping, official duties in Club, District, State, National or other areas of Garden Club, teaching or instructing, community beautification, civic improvement, exhibiting, youth projects, and others.

Only the winner's name will be announced each year, as candidates for this award may be nominated the following year. Individuals may win award one time. *(NGC SR-3)*

4. ROCKWELL SMALL CLUB BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Donor: Mrs. Carol Rockwell, Past President

A \$50 cash award to be presented annually to a club of 24 members or less for an outstanding project of civic beautification. *(NGC CE-1, CE-2, CE-4, CE-5, CE-8, G-1)(SAR 4, 10)*

5. THE JERRY SHRIVER LARGE CLUB BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Donor: Country Road Garden Club

A \$50 cash award to be presented annually to a club of 25 members or more for an outstanding project of civic beautification. *(NGC CE-1, CE-2, CE-4, CE-5, CE-8, G-1)(SAR 4, 10)*

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6. THE LORETTA LIVELY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD

Donor: Family of the late Mrs. Loretta Lively, Past President

A \$100 cash award will be presented annually to a garden club for the most outstanding project in litter cleanup and beautification in the community. Submit proof of project, giving locations and details of the project. (NGC CE-6) (SAR 6, 17)

7. THE SARA H. TOWNSEND LANDSCAPE AWARD

Donor: David & Vickie Stedman, Past President

A \$100 cash award to a garden club or clubs for the most outstanding civic landscaping project undertaken in cooperation with a non-gardening group or promotion of the project by the garden club or clubs. Submission *on application* must include plans and specifications and evidence of plans for future maintenance. (NGC CE-1, CE-2, CE-4, CE-5, CE-8) (SAR 4)

8. GARDEN THERAPY AWARD

Donor: WVGCI

A \$50 cash award to a garden club or clubs for outstanding garden therapy work that benefits the physically or learning challenged, residents in nursing homes, schools, prisons, low-income housing, cancer centers etc., including barrier-free gardens, accessible gardening, community gardens, or meditation gardens. The goal of the project should be to increase awareness and give hope. (NGC G-3) (SAR 6, 7)

9. THE JIMELLE F. WALKER RHODODENDRON AWARD

Donor: Jimelle Bowen, Daughter, in Honor of her mother, Mrs. Henry L. Walker, Past President

A \$40 cash award given to the garden club with the most Rhododendrons planted (minimum of 3) in a public space. (NGC CE-1, CE-2, CE-4, CE-5, CE-8) (SAR 11)

10. STEDMAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Donor: Vickie Stedman, Past President

A \$50 award presented annually to a garden club(s) or council for the completion or continuation of a historic preservation project such as the restoration of a park, building and/or garden of importance to the heritage of a specific locality. Good landscaping and/or architectural design to enhance the value and significance of the site will be considered. A landscaping plan (need not be by professional landscaper) should accompany the application. It is important to use plantings that are authentic to the locality and period and to follow rules relating to the plantings of the period.

(NGC CE-6, CE-9) (SAR 8)

11. BIRD PRESERVATION AWARD

Donor: WVGCI

A \$50 cash award given annually to a garden club for outstanding accomplishments and contributions toward the environmental protection and preservation of beneficial birds, such as establishing sanctuaries, furnishing food and shelter, or planting habitat to attract birds. (NGC EC-1, EC-2, EC-3, EC-5, G-4) (SAR 2)

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12. AWARD FOR ARTICLE ON GARDENING

Donor: WVGCI

A \$50 cash prize to the garden club member submitting the best article on any subject of gardening or garden club activities.

Rules: All articles become the property of the WVGCI and will be used as program material. The articles may be unpublished or published, but if they have been published, written permission from the publisher for submitting the articles must accompany application. None will be returned. Articles must be correct form, typed and all pages securely fastened together. Length of article must be between 500 and 2,000 words.

13. AWARD OF HONOR CONSERVATION CITATION: given to a person or persons not affiliated with a garden club for extraordinary contribution in some area of conservation and/or an industry, commercial enterprise, or civic organization for extraordinary contributions in some areas of conservation.

Rules: One or more conservation citations may be presented annually. Nominations for the Award of Honor, along with supporting evidence, may be made by the president of a local garden club or Council upon unanimous approval of its members and presented to the Awards Committee for consideration. The Awards Committee may include one or more conservationists in judging nomination for this award. (NGC SR-1)

14. AWARD OF MERIT CITATION – Do Not Apply

An *Award of Merit* to recognize meritorious efforts in related garden club activities, which may be given to a garden club member, non-garden club member, federated club, or group of federated clubs. This is to be awarded at the discretion of Awards Committee and President. (NGC SR-1)

15. AWARDS OF HONOR

WVGCI will present *Awards of Honor* to business and industrial establishments in West Virginia which have taken an interest in landscaping, maintenance and other means, either on-going or completed, in making their buildings, grounds, and surroundings attractive and deserve commendation for their outstanding efforts. Garden Clubs, after choosing the establishment they wish to sponsor, should contact an official in charge and ask permission to submit an entry to avoid duplication of sponsorship. Each club is permitted one entry which is to include a typed report on 8-1/2 x 11" paper, setting forth reasons why entry deserves consideration. Such evidence as pictures, news clippings, etc. may be included with typed report. Ten (10) of these awards may be presented at the annual meeting to the president or representative of the club(s) sponsoring said establishments. These awards will be presented to the winning groups by sponsoring club(s). Awards may not be self-solicited by firms. Government agencies and private properties are excluded. (NGC SR-1)

16. THE SIMIEN BLUE STAR BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Donor: Ernie & Pam Simien, WVGCI President

A \$50 award will be awarded to a club for making landscaping improvements around an already established Blue or Gold Star Memorial or by-way marker. Patriotic colors/themes will be given preference. This project may be a replacement for a destroyed or long neglected landscape. (NGC CE-7) (SAR 14)

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17. SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

DONOR: Vickie Stedman, Past President

A \$100 cash award will be presented annually to the individual garden club member with the most unique project that uses some type of recyclable material. Acceptable uses are recycled items to decorate your garden, planting in recycled products or making recycled items useful in your gardens. (SAR 17)

18. ARNDT AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Donor: Patricia Arndt, Past President

A \$100 cash award for the most effective or outstanding program in the field of environmental education and/or concerns, such as current conditions and further need of water, air, soil, plants, animal habitat, land use, urban environment, etc. Evidence of youth participation must be a part of the comprehensive plan. Submission should include: Objective of project, activities to meet objective and participation, involvement of youth and results.

(NGC EC-1, EC-2, EC-3, EC-5, G-2, YW-8, YW-9) (SAR 5)

19. THE SHIREY CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF BUTTERFLIES AWARD

Donor: Mrs. Emily Shirey, Past President

A \$50 cash award to a club or council for developing and implementing a program focusing on the protection of butterflies and their habitat and/or the planting of butterfly gardens. Applications must include how this project protects and preserves butterfly habitat. If planting a butterfly garden, application must include a plant list and diagram or sketch of the garden. Extra effort should be made to combine exciting plantings and native wildflowers with any new plantings. Extra points will be awarded if youth participate. (NGC EC-1, EC-2, EC-3, EC-5) (SAR 3,10,11)

20. THE ASHWORTH ARBOR DAY AWARD

Donor: Martha Hilton, Past President, in Memory of June Ashworth, Past President

A \$50 cash award to be given annually to a garden club/clubs or a council for meritorious tree and/or shrub project including one or more of the following:

- (1) The planting, protection, and preservation of trees and shrubs, especially our state flower, the Rhododendron;
- (2) A community-wide promotion with plantings of a single variety of tree or shrub;
- (3) Planning/promotion with planting of many varieties of trees and/or shrubs;
- (4) Arbor Day activities. (NGC CE-1, CE-2, CE-4, CE-5, CE-8)(SAR1)

West Virginia Garden Club, Inc
Award Description 2025-2027
Yearbook Awards

Submit to: Beth Post
10 Third Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Post Marked by: November 10

K1. SMALL CLUB YEARBOOK AWARD – clubs with 24 members or smaller

Donor: WVGCI A \$50 cash award for club with outstanding yearbook.

K2. LARGE CLUB YEARBOOK AWARD – clubs with 25 members or greater

Donor: WVGCI A \$50 cash award for club with outstanding yearbook.

K3. OTHER YEARBOOK CONSIDERED MERITORIOUS

Donor: WVGCI A \$50 cash award for club with meritorious yearbook.

Scoring of yearbooks will comply with point system established by National Council Awards Committee.
Point System for Grading Yearbooks:

Format:

15 points

- A. Book structure 3 points
Practicability (convenient size, durability, neatness)
- B. Arrangement of Contents
 - 1. Cover 2 points
Name of club, town, state, year (design optional). If permanent type binder is used, substitute paper cover for contest.
 - 2. Title Page & Table of Contents 4 points
Name of club, town, state, year, and number of members.
National Garden Club and other organizational memberships.
 - 3. Subsequent pages 6 points
Name and addresses of National President, Regional Director, State President, District Director, Council Chairman (if any) and club officers. Club membership roster with complete mailing addresses and phone numbers. Calendar of Events (other than regular meetings).

Program Content:

85 points

Goals for ideal club program: Study and activity in some of National Garden Club's objectives such as: birds, Blue Star Memorials, civic development, conservation, flower shows, garden therapy, High School/Junior/Intermediate Gardening, horticulture, landscape design, litter control, roadside development, world gardening, etc.

- A. Club Meeting(s) (at least 7 per year) 50 points
When (date of meeting), **where** (place of meeting), **who** (name of person to address group), **what** (title of subject matter also extras such as roll-call, exhibits or social activities optional). When a theme is used it should prevail in at least a majority of meetings.
- B. Club Projects 35 points
 - 1. Continuing projects and new projects for the current year should be listed separately
 - 2. Give location, description and member participation in both types of projects.
 - 3. Note where meetings programs pertain to project work.

Total

100 points (SAR 22)

West Virginia Garden Club, Inc
Award Description 2025-2027
Flower Show Awards

Submit to: Beth Post
10 Third Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Post Marked by: November 10

Rules for Flower Show Awards

1. Procedures for Applying:

A. **WV Flower Show Awards are only considered for those shows which have an evaluation score of 90% minimum.** Only scores of 95% may be sent on to SAR and NGC for award consideration. Awards Chairman will be responsible for acquiring this form from the Evaluation Chairman, who is also a member of the Awards Committee.

B. All Flower Shows applying for awards must be standard.

2. Deadline: All Applications shall be sent to State Awards Chairman and Post Marked by November 10 of each year. For Holiday Shows occurring in November and December, the post mark deadline is December 10 of each year. State awards chairman should be notified if you plan on applying for a show held in November or December.

3. Eligible Clubs: Only a club or group of clubs that are members of the WVGCI will be eligible.

4. This award still requires a Book of evidence. The book of evidence should contain 10 pages maximum (20 surfaces front & back). Must contain supporting evidence of how, arranged in an orderly manner including two (2) schedules, publicity (clipped to show name of newspaper and date), photographs to show sections of show rather than of persons; floor plan, list of judges and any other pertinent information

5. Presentation: Will be made to chairman of winning shows at state meeting.

6. Evaluation Committee: Shall consist of a chairman and two other members appointed by State Evaluation Chairman. One or two of these may also be judges of the show being evaluated.

Expenses: Flower Show Judges and Evaluation Committee mileage and expenses shall be paid (if funds area available) by applying club.

Description of Awards for Standard Flower Show

F1. GOLD MEDALLION FOR BEST DISTRICT OR COUNCIL SHOW (NGC FS-10, FS-11)

Donor: Mrs. David V. Walters, Past President

\$50 Cash Award as well

F2. GOLD MEDALLION FOR BEST SHOW WITH TWO OR MORE CLUBS PARTICIPATING (NGC FS-9)
(not a council)

F3. GOLD MEDALLION FOR BEST MINIMUM STANDARD SHOW (NGC FS-5)

A. With one club participating*

B. With one or more clubs participating

Limited to three (3) medallions*

F4. GOLD MEDALLION FOR BEST HOUSE & GARDEN SHOW

A. Standard Flower Show sponsored by one (1) or more member garden clubs in a home or homes, with a tour to two (2) or more home gardens.

B. Home Show sponsored by one (1) club in a home or homes. Garden tour not required.

C. Home Show sponsored by one to three clubs.

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F5. GOLD MEDALLION FOR BEST HOLIDAY SHOW *(NGC FS-2, FS-6)*

- A. Sponsored by a Council.
- B. Sponsored by one to three clubs.

F6. GOLD MEDALLION FOR BEST SHOW WITH COMMERCIAL AID

(Application with Submission Topics must include detailed financial report.)

- A. Sponsored by a Council.
- B. Sponsored by one to three clubs.

F7. GOLD MEDALLION AND \$25 CASH FOR FLOWER SHOW STAGED IN A PUBLIC BUILDING *(NGC FS-1, FS-4)*

Donor: Mrs. Jane Lundblad, Past President

A \$25 cash prize for Standard Flower Show sponsored by one (1) or more federated garden clubs.

Show must be staged in a public building such as: historically preserved home; museum; church; business; shopping center; mall; housing development; world, county or state fair; furniture store; garden center or other commercial public buildings. A tour of garden(s) may be included. Show may have a patriotic or holiday theme. Two (2) or more educational exhibits and one (1) or more youth and/or sponsored groups or any three (3) of the above are required.

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Presidential Awards

Submit to: Beth Post
10 Third Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Post Marked by: November 10

P1: COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD *(SAR 10, 17, or 19) (CE 1 or MAE 5)*

Donor: Pam Simien, WVGCI President

This award is for \$100. The award is for garden club non-beautification project or projects that make a positive impact on the local community. These projects will be judged on originality, the number of people impacted & membership recruitment. Examples: Flower shows (standard or non-standard), plant & craft shows, educational talks, yard of the month, or local business support

P2: CELEBRATING THE GARDEN IN OURSELVES

Donor: Pam Simien, WVGCI President

This award is for \$100. Garden club members will submit a picture (4x6 ") of their garden or a flower, along with an essay, not more than 100 (one-hundred) words in length describing its importance to you. Pictures will not be returned.

P3: PLANT AMERICA – PLANT A TREE *(SAR 1 or 9)(G1-4, EC 1-6)*

Donor: Pam Simien

This award is for \$100. This award recognizes the club that gives the most per member to the NGC Plant-A-Tree Project. Clubs are encouraged to find fun & unique ways to support this project.

West Virginia Garden Club, Inc
Award Description 2025-2027
Youth Activity

Submit to: Mary Hyre
595 Gougerville Road
Rock Cave, WV 26234

Post Marked by: November 10

Y1.CAROLYN G. PATTERSON AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Donor: Mrs. John P. Patterson, Past President

A \$50 cash award and a certificate may be awarded to a junior, intermediate, or high school garden club or organized youth group, assisted by a federated garden club, for the most outstanding projects and programs that have been implemented and that meet the objectives of NGC and WVGCI.

Points for Judging:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Programs, planned and carried out. | 40 points |
| 2. Projects implemented | 40 points |
| 3. Application book and report | <u>20 points</u> |

TOTAL **100 Points**

(NGC YW-1, YW-2, YW-3, YW-4, YW-6, YW-8, YW-9) (SAR Y2)

Y2. HIGH SCHOOL GARDENERS AWARD

Donor: WVGCI

Certificate of Honor presented to a high school group which has carried out the best all-around gardening program, sponsored by a member garden club.

Points for Judging:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Program, planned and carried out | 40 points |
| 2. Projects | 40 points |
| 3. Application book and report | <u>20 points</u> |

Total **100 points**

(NGC YW-1, YW-2, YW-3, YW-4, YW-6, YW-8, YW-9) (SAR Y2)

Y3. Youth Poetry Contest

2026 Theme: ***“Celebrate America’s 250 Birthday with Red, White and Blue”***

Eligibility: Special Education & English as a Second Language: grades K-9; General Education: grades K-9. WVGCI \$10 cash award will be given to each winning entry.

Contest Rules: All entries must be typed and titled.

1. Include name, address, age, grade & school of participant on back of entry.
2. Sponsoring garden club and state federation/club name must also be identified.
3. “Generations of Gardeners” sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent.
4. All entries become the property of NGC, Inc.
5. Poems do not have to rhyme. Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquain, diamond poems, limerick or Haiku

Scale of Points:

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| Title | 10 points |
| Content | 40 points |
| Creativity | 30 points |
| Style | <u>20 points</u> |

TOTAL **100 points**

(SAR Y3)

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Y4. YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

Donor: WVGC

A \$10 cash award will be given to one winner in each grade 4 through 8 (\$50 total award). The sculpture is limited to a size that fits on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. Recyclable, reused and/or reduced materials should be used. \The submission should include 2 4x6” pictures as well as a description of the materials used.(SAR Y4)

Y5. SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST

First through fifth grade students are invited to participate in the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. The entry posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires or conserving natural resources. Winners on the State level will be sent to SAR and their winners receive a \$10 cash award; then sent to NGC for judging. The National winner will win a free trip to Washington, D.C. for a presentation ceremony, with round-trip airfare and accommodations for four.

A \$100 US Savings Bond will be awarded to the first-place winner for each grade level as well.

National Winners to be announced at the NGC annual meeting. Poster Topic is the basic message for the Smokey Bear poster is “Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires” and for Woodsy Owl poster is “Lend a Hand-Care for the Land”

Poster Rules:

1. Poster must feature Smokey Bear.
2. Smokey Bear poster must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!
3. Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires.
4. Each entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size.
5. Materials that can be used: crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, etc.
6. Posters must be completed by individual student artists.
7. No three-dimensional posters, computer-scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted. May include artwork pasted upon a second piece of paper but they must be flat.
8. Poster must include the head of Smokey.
9. Please print the artist's name, address, home phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and state on the back of the poster in the lower right corner. (Do not use dark marker for this as it may show through). There is a specific entry form that should be requested from the Youth Activities & Contests Chairman.
10. Posters will be judged 20 percent each for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message. Deadline is November 15.
11. Clubs, please remember to report the number of teachers and students that were contacted in each grade level. There is a form to be completed for the Local Chairman Outreach Report. Please fill out this form and mail to the Youth Activities and Contests Chairman with all poster entries – please include the Garden Club name as well as the school’s name, if used.
(SAR Y5)

West Virginia Garden Club, Inc
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Y6. YOUTH ESSAY AWARD

Donor: Emily Shirey, Past President

\$50 Cash Award will be given to one winner. Open to all high school students in grades 9-12. The **2026-2027 Theme of Essay:** *"How Can We Use Native Plants for Climate Adaptation?"*

Students should write the essay so it is suitable to be published in the WVGCI publications and on the WVGCI website.

All entries become the property of West Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc. The state winner will be forwarded to the South Atlantic Region for further competition.

Guidelines for Criteria:

Content-Total 65 points

- Knowledge of Subject: 25 points
- Practicality of Proposal: 10 points Originality: 15 points o Subject Matter Well Organized/Clarity of Presentation: 15 points
- Composition-Total 25 points
- Vocabulary: 15 points
- Conformance to Length: 10 points

Manuscript-Total 10 points

- Name, Address, Phone Number, School Attending, Grade, Sponsoring Club(Photo Optional): 5 points
- Neatness: 5 points

A signed disclaimer stating the essay is the student's original work must be included with entry.

**West Virginia Garden Club, Inc
Award Description 2025-2027**

Pressbook Awards

Submit to: Beth Post
10 Third Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Post Marked by: January 10

PUBLICITY PRESSBOOK AWARDS

Donor: WVGCI

A \$50 cash award to the first-place winner in two classifications as follows:

R1. Small Club Publicity Pressbook Award- up to 24 members

R2. Large Club Publicity Pressbook Award - between 25 and greater

Award Year: January 1 – December 31

Deadline: Entry must be post marked by Jan 10 of each year.

Application: The Pressbook must include the 1-page Award Application Coversheet.

Eligibility: All garden clubs, districts, councils and garden centers belonging to NGC may submit a press book.

Format: Entries must be submitted in a folder with holes to firmly hold the pages; a theme-style binder, or oxford brief folder. No heavy scrapbooks, oversized portfolios or loose clippings will be judged. Size 8-1/2 x 11" or 9 x 12". The cover must have a label affixed stating the category.

Contents:

1. Materials must consist of only actual newspaper, magazine, newsletter or any printed publication "clipping" with the name and date of publication over each article. No decorative embellishments will affect judging. Affix contents in chronological order beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Pages must be numbered and an index is required.
2. Each published item must contain name of the club, district, council or garden center and/or individual(s) identified as a garden club member and/or member of the district, council or garden center. Underline the first use of the club's name, district, council or garden center's name in the story or article.
3. Pressbooks will be judged on quality, quantity, diversity of coverage and requirements set forth on attached Guideline for Evaluation of Publicity Pressbook.
4. Pressbooks will be returned if stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with entry.
5. Number of pages unlimited.

Guidelines for Evaluation of Publicity Pressbooks:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Pressbook Criteria | 30 points |
| 2. Quality | 35 points |
| 3. Quantity | 20 points |
| 4. Diversity of Coverage | <u>15 points</u> |

Total **100 points**
(SAR 23)