

Scholarship Report 2021
The Garden Club of Wilmington
June 7, 2021

GCA awarded \$315,000 to fund 64 scholars and 9 Hull awardees in 2020. There are 28 merit based scholarships and fellowships in twelve areas, from summer environmental study and field work to graduate level research.

Posted on our website are the six people from our Zone V who won awards in 2021. Scholarship awards are such an important part of the future. For example, one scholarship, the Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany won by Evelyn Jane Abraham of Zone V this year was won in 2007 by Cassandra Quave.. Cassandra Quave is now the Curator of Emory University Herbarium and associate professor of dermatology in Emory's Medical School. As a medical ethnobotanist she collaborates with scientists and healers worldwide to search for lifesaving plant based medicines. Dr. Quave has found that the sap from the Brazilian pepper tree used by native healers to treat infected wounds compared favorably with the antibiotic tetracycline and had the added benefit that the bacteria it was treating did not mutate as it does with tetracycline. Then after extracting a compound from callicarpa, American beauty berry, she has found that using it in combination with an antibiotic that had become ineffective against MRSA restored that antibiotic's effectiveness.

We don't know what path our scholars of today will take, but evidence of past achievements of GCA scholars speaks well for the expected success of our current scholars. They are our future too and GCA is contributing to their success in a major way. Their energy, passion and intelligence are remarkable and deserve to be nurtured and developed.

The one award that individual members of garden clubs can propose candidates for is The Elizabeth Hull Award. It is awarded to those who educate children about the environment and the recipient could be a teacher, a program leader at a nature center or a community leader. Please, if you know of an outstanding person doing this work in Delaware or Pennsylvania, think about proposing them for this award. The application with supporting letters must be submitted to GCA by the end of January 2022. Summer would be a good time to gather supporting letters, pictures etc.. You can check out the GCA website for more information or contact me..

And speaking of the GCA website – it's a great place to learn more about GCA scholarships and the recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith W. Spruance