

Scholarship Report 2024

The members of the 2023/2024 Scholarship Committee were Anna Caspersen (Chair), Caroline Tucker, Amy Dilatush, Olivia Charney and Christine Dean.

The Scholarship application is available on the Nantucket Garden Club website and is due by April 15th. Additionally, the Chair reaches out well in advance of the deadline to the Nantucket High School Guidance Counselor to encourage him or her to reach out to suitable candidates to apply. Once the Chair receives the applications by email she forwards them to the Committee for review. This year, Scholarship Committee met via Zoom on May 10th to review the student applications.

The Nantucket High School requires decisions be received by May 14th in order to be announced in the Inquirer and Mirror by the high school. Additionally, this year we placed our own ad announcing the scholarships in the August Inquirer and Mirror after the House Tour.

We received five applications and found all of them to be in keeping with our criteria and deserving of a Nantucket Garden Club Scholarship. The NGC Scholarship Committee elected to award a total of \$25,000 to the following Nantucket High School graduates:

Eli Fuller - \$6,500 to University of Vermont Rubenstein School of Environmental and Natural Resources with a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. A 2023 graduate of Nantucket High School, Eli attends the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Sciences at UVM, where he is studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology with a concentration in Fisheries. He maintained a 4.0 GPA and was cited as a high achieving first year student. Eli is working with the Nantucket Shellfish Hatchery this summer, as a Hatchery Technician Intern. Eli plans to pursue a career in marine and freshwater ecology. This was our second year supporting Eli and we were delighted to be able to give him \$1,500 more than the previous year.

Celia Almodobar - \$2,500 to Montana State University where she will continue her studies as a junior in Environmental Studies. A 2020 graduate of Nantucket High School, She is in Montana this summer taking classes in Yellowstone Ecology and the Ecology of Alpine Ecosystems. In past summers Celia has worked at the Nantucket Boat Basin. This is our second year supporting Celia.

Evan Belanger - \$7,000 to Montana State University. We had supported Evan in 2022 and were delighted to be able to support him again. A 2022 graduate of Nantucket High School, Evan attends Montana State where he is a Biological Sciences major, with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management, he has maintained a GPA of 3.74. Evan has worked several summers for the Harbor Master, being promoted to Assistant Harbor Master and he is a Qualified Boat Operator for the Town of Nantucket. Evan's goal is to follow in the footsteps of his father, and work as an Environmental Police Officer.

Clair Martin - \$6,500 to Wheaton College. A 2024 graduate of Nantucket High School, Claire is attending Wheaton College, where she is the recipient of a Wheaton Presidential Scholarship and recognized as a Trustee Scholar. In high school Claire had an impressive 4.04 GPA, was recognized with an Academic Excellence Award in Environmental Science, and was President of the Youth Climate Committee where she mentored younger students in the importance of environmental activism. During the summer Claire works at the Nantucket Boat Basin.

Jackson Milne - \$2,500 to Wentworth College. A 2020 graduate of Nantucket High School, Jackson graduated this Spring with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree from Wentworth College, concentrating in adaptive reuse and preservation. Jackson is continuing on at Wentworth for another year to pursue a Master's degree in Architecture. After graduation Jackson intends to return to Nantucket to focus of historic preservation and sustainable design strategies.

Key Dates for 2024 Scholarships:

December:

- Form Committee, this should be at the Chair's discretion and confirmed with President.
- Contact the Nantucket Public School Guidance Department to tell them that we will be providing scholarships again this year. New contact is Melissa Kiamie. kiamiem@npsk.org.

January:

- NPS will send an overview of the process as well as an application form and scholarship release form. This will need to be signed and returned by January 24th.
- Application should be updated on our website as well as featured on the homepage.
- Confirm with Treasurer on how much money we will have for scholarships.

April:

Applications are due April 15th. Forward completed applications to Committee Members for their review.

May:

Committee meets one to three times to select students to sponsor based on the criteria outlined by the NGC.

- Notify NPS and the students who have been selected. Have students sign photo waiver so we can advertise as needed.

June:

- Set up a time to take picture with the President and students for NGC website, etc.
- Work with Treasurer to send checks to the schools.

July:

- Ask students to join us for a meeting.

August:

- Submit Committee report.

NOTES:

Our committee discussed making changes to the guidelines to not award scholarships to graduate students going forward. It is not required but it is nice to continue to support students year after year.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Caspersen, Scholarship Chair, Nantucket Garden Club