



## NOMINATION BALLOT FOR VNLA/GREEN WORKS AWARDS\*

Please use the space below to nominate individuals for consideration by the Awards Committee for the VNLA's annual achievement awards. We ask that you submit a paragraph supporting the individual's eligibility for the award. Past recipients are not eligible to receive the same award a second time. Please see the reverse side of this sheet for past award recipients.

**Nominations must be received no later than December 31, 2025. Please include a supporting paragraph with your nomination(s) and mail to PO Box 92, N. Ferrisburgh, VT 05473 with this form or submit your nomination(s) on our website.**

### **Horticultural Achievement Award**

This award is given to individuals connected to the horticultural industry in Vermont, who are over 40 years of age and whose accomplishments have advanced our industry educationally, by plant development or growing, through literature, or through outstanding personal effort. This award is the most prestigious and distinguished that can be received from the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association/Green Works.

**Nominations cannot be accepted without a supporting paragraph.**

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Environmental Awareness Award**

This award is given in recognition of an individual that has implemented an environmentally sound practice that contributes to the protection of our environment. **Nominations cannot be accepted without a supporting paragraph.**

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Young Nursery Professional of the Year Award**

This annual award was established by the New England Nursery Association and is now being awarded by the VNLA. Its purpose is to reward, to honor and to encourage participation, achievement and growth by an individual who is involved in a related horticultural industry and has not reached the age of 40 years, who has shown involvement in his or her state and/or regional nurserymen's association, has contributed to the growth and success of their company of employment and has portrayed an image to the public of what our products and services can do for them. **Nominations cannot be accepted without a supporting paragraph.**

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Retailer of the Year Award**

This award will be presented annually to a retail garden center or greenhouse operation that stands apart for their excellence in any or all of the following categories: customer service, quality of plant material, knowledge of staff, creativity and innovations in marketing and presentation of retail space, and overall customer experience and satisfaction. **Nominations cannot be accepted without a supporting paragraph.**

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Allen B. Crane Horticultural Employee Acknowledgement Award**

This award will be presented annually and is sponsored by **Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse** in honor of Allen B. Crane, head grower there for over 42 years. Allen was "a great friend, wonderful colleague and an incredible grower". Allen passed away in 2013 after a year-long battle with cancer. This award is being established in Allen's honor to recognize the employees that make a difference in the horticultural industry. A cash prize will be awarded to the recipient in the amount of \$275. Nominees must meet the following criteria: they should be an employee of a member business with a minimum of 5 years employment with that business; nominees must be employed in the horticultural industry, which could also include the field of education; and nominees should be exemplary leaders and display an ability to grow and excel in the workplace and beyond. **Nominations must include a supporting paragraph that reflects the above criteria.**

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Your Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Company/Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Your Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**\* Any Active, Associate or Student member of VNLA/Green Works, current in dues, as well as any Honorary member, is eligible to nominate individuals for the Association awards. Please submit your nomination(s) via mail or electronically.**

# PAST RECIPIENTS

## Horticultural Achievement Award

- 2024 Peter Hausermann  
2023 Kristina MacKulin, VNLA Executive Director  
2022 Leslie and Peter van Berkum, Van Berkum Nursery  
2021 Carol and Mike MacLeod, Evergreen Gardens of VT  
2020 Vincent J. Comai, City of Burlington Arborist  
2019 Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2018 Ed Burke, Rocky Dale Gardens  
2017 Joan Lynch, The Inner Garden  
2016 Lori King, Claussen's Florist, Greenhouse & Perennial Farm  
2015 Paul Wiczoreck, Champlain Valley Landscaping/  
Lincoln Hill Nursery  
2014 David Loysen, Shaw Hill Nursery  
2013 Leo Roberts, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2012 Don and Lela Avery, Cady's Falls Nursery  
2011 Charles Siegchrist, Barber Farm, Inc.  
2010 Christopher Conant – Claussen's Florist, Greenhouse & Perennial Farm  
2009 Amy Rose-White, Rocky Dale Gardens  
2008 Paul Sokal and Louise Giovanella  
2007 John and Patti Padua, Cobble Creek Nursery  
2006 Thomas F. Wright, Homestead Landscaping  
2005 Dan G. Nash, Nash's Treescape  
2004 Leonard Perry, UVM  
2003 Bill Countryman, Countryman Peony Farm  
2002 Charlie Proutt, Horsford's Nursery  
2001 Holly Weir & Bill Pollard, Rocky Dale Gardens  
2000 Greg Williams  
1998 Joan Hulbert, Smallwood Nursery  
1997 William Horsford  
1996 Dennis Bruckel, Grand Isle Nursery  
1995 Richard Salter  
1994 Elmer Brown, The E.C. Brown Nursery  
1993 Norman & Dorothy Pellett  
1992 Lewis & Nancy Hill  
1991 Richard Stevens, Sr.

## Environmental Awareness Award

- 2024 Marijke Niles, Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus  
2023 Holly Greenleaf, Greenleaf Design, LLC  
2022 Julie Rubaud, Red Wagon Plants  
2021 Prides Corner Farms  
2020 Nan Jenks-Jay and Carl Phelps, Miller Hill Farm, Nursery & Gardens  
2019 David Fried, Elmore Roots Fruit Tree Nursery  
2018 Green Mountain Compost/Chittenden County Solid Waste District  
2017 Nate Carr, Church Hill Landscapes, Inc.  
2016 Dan Redondo, Vermont Wetland Plant Supply, LLC  
2015 Liz and Jake Guest, Killdeer Farm  
2014 Rebecca Lindenmeyr, Linden L.A.N.D. Group  
2013 Sarah Salatino, Full Circle Gardens  
2012 Chris Conant, Claussen's Florist, Greenhouse & Perennial Farm  
2011 Sarah Holland, River's Bend Design, LLC  
2009 Charlie Proutt and Eileen Schilling, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2008 Tom Stearns, High Mowing Organic Seeds  
2007 Karl Hammer, Vermont Compost Company  
2006 Anne Mueller, Arcana Gardens and Greenhouses  
2004 Common Ground Student Run Educational Farm  
2002 Paul Sachs, North Country Organics  
2001 Paul Sokal, Addison Gardens  
2000 Adam Sherman  
1997 Will & Judy Stevens  
1996 Don Avery, Cady's Falls Nursery

## Young Nursery Professional of the Year Award\*\*

- 2025 Danielle Norris, Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery  
2024 Linzy Vos, Rocky Dale Gardens  
2023 Aaron Smith, S & D Landscapes, LLC  
2022 Pat Toporowski, Vermont Stone & Horticulture  
2021 David Berg, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2020 Michelle Blow, UVM  
2019 Kristin Sprenkle, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2018 Ashley Robinson, Landscape Designer  
2017 David Burton, diStefano Landscaping, Inc.  
2016 Hannah Decker, Fairfax Perennial Farm  
2015 Gabe Bushey, Crafted Landscapes, LLC  
2014 Jason Koicuba, Cobble Creek Nursery  
2013 Brian Vaughan, Vaughan Landscaping, Inc.  
2012 Nathaniel Carr, Church Hill Landscapes, Inc.  
2011 Claybrook Griffith – Long Leaf Landscaping  
2010 Shannon Lee, Cobble Creek Nursery  
2009 Rebecca Lindenmeyr, Linden L.A.N.D. Group  
2008 R. Andrew Burt, Old Nash Farm & Landscaping  
2006 Chris Thompson, White River Valley Gardens & Landscaping  
2005 Mark Starrett, UVM  
2002 Tim Parsons, Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery  
2001 Charlie Plonski, Horsford's Gardens & Nursery/  
New England Nursery Sales  
2000 Peter Norris, Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery  
1998 Scott Pfister, Vermont Department of Agriculture  
1997 Stephen Tworig, North Branch Landscape  
1996 Bill Pedi, Northern Nurseries  
1995 Thamasin Sullivan  
1994 VJ Comai, South Forty Nursery  
1993 Chris Schlegel  
1992 Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
1991 Pat Seibel

## Retailer of the Year Award

- 2024 Golden Russet Farm  
2023 Peet Farm Greenhouse  
2022 Full Circle Gardens  
2021 J.M. Landscaping, Nursery & Garden Center  
2020 Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery  
2019 Claussen's Florist, Greenhouse & Perennial Farm  
2018 Gardener's Supply Company Garden Centers  
2017 Charlie, Proutt, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2016 Carol and Mike MacLeod, Evergreen Gardens  
2015 Ed Burke, Rocky Dale Gardens 0.4931 in  
2014 Karen and Jack Manix, Walker Farm  
2013 Tobi & Sally von Trapp, von Trapp Greenhouse  
2012 Julie Rubaud, Red Wagon Plants

## Allen B. Crane Horticultural Employee Acknowledgement Award

- 2024 Todd Bailey, Cobble Creek Nursery  
2023 Anika Adams, Elmore Roots Fruit Tree Nursery  
2022 Renee "Nee" Russell, Fairfax Perennial Farm  
2021 Tori Hellwig, Horsford Gardens & Nursery  
2020 Daisy Unsicker, Walker Hill Farms  
2019 Lily Belisle, Red Wagon Plants  
2018 Geoffrey Swanson, diStefano Landscaping, Inc.  
2017 Amy Olmsted, Rocky Dale Gardens  
2016 Matthew de Wolf, Gardener's Supply Company  
2015 Sally Dunkleman, Cobble Creek Nursery  
2014 Betsy Gritman, Glebe Mountain Gardens & Landscaping

\*\* NOTE: The Young Nursery Professional of the Year Award is selected in December of each year for the following calendar year (2024). All other awards are for the current calendar year.

All recipients will be honored at the VNLA Annual Winter Meeting & Trade Show on February 12, 2026.