



NOMINATION BALLOT FOR VNLA 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, 2026. 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 nursery/landscape 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

2025	Sally and Tobi von Trapp, Waitsfield
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 Wiczorek, 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 Treescapes
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

2025	Wasted, Williston, VT
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
1995	SVCEC Horticulture Program
1994	Jim & Mary Musty, J. M. Landscaping
1993	Nancy Volatile Wood
1991	Andrea Morgante

Young Nursery Professional of the Year Award**

2026	Guinnevere Hand-Boniakowski, Perseid Gardens
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, Horsfords 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

2025	Glebe Mountain Gardens & Landscaping
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
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

2025	Karen Krajacic, Rocky Dale Gardens
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.