

*Elizabeth Abernathy  
Hull Award:*  
**COMMON-SENSE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AWARENESS**

The GCA celebrates the life of Elizabeth Abernathy Hull (1900–1996), Ridgefield Garden Club, Zone II, and her common-sense approach to environmental awareness. The award honors educators who connect children under 16 years of age with horticulture and the environment and inspire appreciation for the beauty and fragility of the planet. This year 13 educators will each receive a \$1,000 prize. Both GCA and non-GCA club members may be proposed for this award that is administered by the GCA Civic Improvement & Grants Committee.

**Hull Award recipient information and photos were provided by the 2022–23 Civic Improvement & Grants Committee and the proposers. For further information or to propose a recipient, contact your Civic Improvement & Grants Committee zone representative or visit [gcamerica.org/members/civic-improvement#Hull-Award](https://gcamerica.org/members/civic-improvement#Hull-Award)**

**RICHARD BANISH**

*Proposed by Jane Ellison,  
Shaker Lakes Garden  
Club, Zone X*

Richard “Buster” Banish inspires appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our planet by introducing his students to birding. Banish has taught for nearly 40 years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and the majority of his students endure socioeconomic hardship. His ongoing efforts to engage children outdoors supports a critical part of their development. He created and secured funding for the Bird Nerds after-school club that studies birds in the classroom then identifies birds in the field.



**SARAH BREZZEN**

*Proposed by Terry  
McManus, Ridgefield  
Garden Club, Zone II*

Sarah Breznen, director of education at Woodcock Nature Center in Wilton, Connecticut, since 2009, has combined science and visual arts to develop innovative, nature-based programs that impact over 1,500 students annually across four Connecticut school districts. Many of the programs are field trips designed to meet rigorous state standards and are integral to science education objectives. Her passion for nature and love of teaching imbue her students with a deep appreciation for the environment and foster a lasting connection with the natural world.

**DEBRA DAVIS-GALLIARD**

*Proposed by Jean Taplett,  
The Little Garden Club of  
Rye, Zone III*

After a 30-year career in the IT industry, Debra Davis-Galliard returned to school for a higher-education degree to teach chemistry and earth and general science to fifth through twelfth graders. She has helped students understand both the fragility and beauty of our environment by supporting her middle school students’ efforts in Rye Harbor, New York, as part of the Billion Oyster Project to restore oyster reefs to New York Harbor. When a storm destroyed their research station, Davis-Galliard worked with her students to rebuild it.

