

STONINGTON



GARDEN CLUB

NEWS RELEASE
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STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Stonington High School Seniors Recognized for Interest in Environmental Sciences

STONINGTON, CONN. (July 6, 2020) – The Stonington Garden Club (SGC) announced today that it has awarded scholarships to two Stonington High School seniors who have exhibited a keen interest in pursuing studies in Environmental Sciences (ES) in college. The \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Daniel Robinson and Abigail Gibson at a virtual awards ceremony on June 8, 2020.

“We must do what we can to inspire our high school students to continue learning in the environmental sciences beyond high school and bring it back home, to our community,” said Michelle Kutz, former Chair of the SGC Horticultural Committee. “This fits perfectly with our club’s purpose to ‘educate and encourage interest in the environment, conservation and community projects, and to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening,’” she added.

The Club’s history with the ES department at Stonington High School has included providing funds for materials needed for their outdoor gardens, but the Club wanted to do more. Determined to help and encourage local high schoolers, Kutz worked closely with ES teacher Elisa Whitman and with the officers of the SGC to establish an award scholarship for a graduating senior in the spring of 2017. Now in its fourth year, SGC offers three awards, an SGC Environmental Studies Award (\$1,000), an SGC Environmental Awareness Award (\$1,000), and an SGC Business Plan Award (\$500), the last of which was not awarded this year.

“We are reminded how varied high school students can be in their approach to life beyond graduation. Some have a clear path early on and others develop later or are still in the process of developing their path. Each approach is slightly different, and we are proud to offer awards that recognize these different paths,” said Kutz.

Recipients

Daniel Robinson is the 2020 recipient of the SGC Environmental Studies Award. Daniel excelled in AP Environmental Science and credits his interest in learning how to protect and preserve our world to his 8th grade science teacher. Daniel spent many summers volunteering at Mystic Seaport Museum and values the positive impact of giving back to one’s community. Daniel’s goal is to learn as much as possible about the environment throughout his college years at University of Connecticut. He intends to bring his knowledge back home to Stonington and benefit the community by getting involved in local politics and working toward positive environmental changes.



Abigail Gibson is the 2020 recipient of the SGC Environmental Awareness Award. Abigail is equally enthusiastic about caring for our world. She is a long time Girl Scout and loves to give of herself to benefit those around her. She organized a STEM Exploration Day at Stonington High School this last year, and one guest teacher from Avery Point spoke on ocean ecosystems. This reminded Abigail of her goal to reduce the Great Garbage Patch in the Pacific Ocean by dedicating her studies to biodegradable plastics. Inspired by her high school chemistry teacher, from whom she learned girls can do anything, she has already begun her journey by experimenting at home with biodegradable plastic recipes. Abigail loves her community by the sea and intends to pursue her mission of helping her own community and the world by reducing plastic waste when she begins her first year at Johns Hopkins University this fall.



About Stonington Garden Club

The Stonington Garden Club is a nonprofit, member-driven organization based in Stonington, Connecticut. The club's mission is to educate and encourage interest in the environment, conservation, community projects and to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening. Club members are a diverse mix of active and dynamic women and men – all with an interest in learning more about gardens and helping each other. Members take great pride in the Stonington community and its environs. Community projects include the COMO Children's Garden, the Lighthouse Garden, Borough Post Office flower beds, Wayland's Wharf rain garden, wreaths for the Deck the Walls fundraiser for the Stonington Historical Society, floral sales at the COMO's Stonington Fair and the tri-annual Gardens by the Sea garden tour. For almost 100 years, the club has had a lasting and positive impact in the community. For more information, visit www.stoningtongardenclub.org.