

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Scholarship Award Presented to New Hampshire Resident Lydia Barnes

The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is delighted to announce that Lydia Barnes of Stratham has been awarded one of only forty-three scholarships offered nationally by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The NHFGC Scholarship Committee submitted her application in February and the award was announced in May during the National Garden Clubs Annual Convention. Lydia has received the Helen Hussey Champlin-Tempie Dahlgreen Scholarship Award.

Before college, Lydia's main passion was music and songwriting. While attending Berklee College of Music, a course she took in Environmental Science introduced her to a new passion. Lydia now plans to major in Environmental Studies at Clark University. During school, she spent four seasons working at the local Barker's Farm where she "learned the beauty of growing food from seed to farmstand, and about the fragile balance that we have to maintain in order to keep the ecosystem healthy." She also volunteered for three years at the Stratham Fair, an agricultural fair in her hometown. In her career, Lydia hopes "to be an associate for sustainability, and/or do field work and research that will help aid and protect the ecological balance."

In his letter of recommendation, Professor Paul Posner stated "Lydia has demonstrated both the academic achievement and the ethical commitment to environmental protection and stewardship to make her an excellent candidate for the National Garden Club's college scholarship. She is bright, thoughtful and passionate about protecting and conserving the environment."

Photo Caption: Audrey Vargish, NHFGC Scholarship Chair, Lydia Barnes, NGC Scholarship Recipient and Sue Miner, NHFGC President.