Scholarships Committee

The Master Gardeners of St. Lucie County have again given hope and encouragement to five local students seeking higher education. Each year, the Master Gardener program funds a few $500 student scholarships to the educational institutions listed below:

- Indian River State College
- University of Florida, Indian River Research and Education Center
- Local High Schools

The process begins with the educational institution passing applications onto the Master Gardener Scholarship Committee for selection. The MG Scholarship Committee consists of the current Vice President and two of his or her designees. Applicants must meet certain criteria, including the pursuit of a degree in environmental or agriculture-related studies.

This year, scholarships of $500 were awarded to Kristen Campbell and Cecil Montemayor at the Indian River Research and Education Center, Krystal Schneider at Indian River State College, Meleah McMillen from John Carroll High School and Chelsea Barkley from Port St. Lucie High School. The scholarships are paid directly to the institution upon the applicants’ acceptance by the College or University of their choice.

Spring into Gardening Festival

Profits generated from both the Spring and Fall Plant Sales are integral to funding these scholarships to help students achieve their educational potential. The scholarship coordinator from Indian River Research and Education Center will be attending the Fashion Show at the Spring into Gardening Festival and Plant Sale on May 15. At that time, Master Gardener Vice President, Dick Gerardy, will introduce her and give a short talk about the annual scholarship program funded through the Master Gardener program. The “Boutique Booth” at the Spring Festival, consisting of used gardening items, will be new this year to help offset the lower number of plants for sale due to the harsh winter. So tell your friends and neighbors to come on out on Saturday, May 15 and support a good local community program while getting some great plants at unbelievably low prices!

For more information, contact Kate O’Neill at (772) 462-1660 or kasmi@ufl.edu