

Meet the 2022 GWC Scholarship Recipients!

by Christine Elliott, Editor, pro tem



One of our favorite GWC moments each year is the awarding of scholarships to hard-working and remarkable NCSU horticulture majors. After all the months of hard work preparing for and conducting our annual Azalea Sale, it is good to know that our efforts really do make a difference to real students. Once again, thanks to all the members who contributed to the success of this year's Azalea Sale. From the "heavy lifting" by Charlie Leverett, Mac and Vivian Williamson to the actual lifting by the rest of us, we moved and sold a lot of beautiful plants! Our efforts are an investment in the horticulture industry and in the young people who are its future.

This year we awarded four scholarships in the amount of \$2,500.00 to each.

Here's one of the lovely notes of thanks we received from the scholarship recipients this year.

"Thank you so much for choosing me to be the recipient of one of your scholarships. This scholarship will help pay for my tuition, books and living expenses for the coming year. I believe this award is an investment in my future and the future of the industry. For that I say thank you!" Parker Dearing

So, let's meet the GWC scholarship award winners for 2022! In alphabetical order:



Parker Dearing

Parker is a rising junior, hoping to graduate in May of 2023. From Monroe, NC, Parker began gardening as a child in his home garden. In high school he joined the local chapter of Future Farmers of America and worked at his school's spring plant sale. After some years working in other nurseries, he wants to start his own nursery. Given his interest in plant breeding, Parker hopes to release his own line of plants one day. In addition to being a Horticulture Science major, he is also studying Production Systems and Business Entrepreneurship.

Elizabeth Pace

Elizabeth Pace is from Brevard, NC. One of four children, she and her twin sister are both students at NCSU. Her interest in horticulture began in high school where she took introductory classes and worked in the school greenhouse. Her goal is to manage a greenhouse/nursery and perhaps start her own business one day. Because access to a nursery program was so important to her in high school, she hopes to "give back" by working with students to give them hands on experiences to learn about plants. Elizabeth will graduate in December of 2022 with a double major in Horticulture and Agriculture.



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(continued)



Brandan Shur

Brandan Shur was raised on a family farm in Mount Airy, NC. His family works a peach orchard. He entered the program at NCSU, studying Production Systems in Horticulture, with the thought to return to the family business. Now, he'd like to grow his family business and also to develop a love of gardening and horticulture in the next generation through teaching. To that end he will enter the Masters of Science program in the fall of 2022. Brandan has served as the president of the Horticulture Club at NCSU for the last few years and has been helpful in spreading the work of the Gardeners of Wake County with fellow members.

Caleb Stephenson

Caleb Stephenson is a junior with a study focus on Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. He also started working in his family's garden growing vegetables, fruits and herbs for family use and to sell at the local Farmers Market. From Kinston, TN, he attended community college where he interned at Phyllatech, learning about tissue culture and micropropagation, an interest he'd like to pursue in graduate school. Caleb transferred to NCSU last spring. He works at both the greenhouse at NCSU and the Very Berry Lab on campus.

