



**2026 MARY LOU GOODWIN
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Packet Materials:

1. About the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club
2. Mary Lou Goodwin Biography
3. Eligibility
4. Application
5. References



EUREKA SEQUOIA GARDEN CLUB, INC. FOUNDED 1967

WHO WE ARE:

A non-profit organization, founded in 1967, incorporated in 1977.

Member of: California Garden Clubs, Inc.; Humboldt District California Garden Clubs, Inc.; Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.; and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

OUR GOALS:

- **TO** promote interest for all aspects of amateur gardening, horticulture and floral and landscape design;
- **TO** encourage and engage in community and roadside beautification projects;
- **TO** educate, promote, and participate in projects programs to safeguard our natural resources;
- **TO** aid in protecting California's native plants, wildlife and natural beauty.

OUR EARLY HISTORY:

"Early in 1967 four Eureka residents met at the home of Nita Alexander to discuss forming a garden club. Mrs. Christine Kemp of Fortuna, who was the Humboldt District Director of California Garden Clubs, Inc., attended. Following this meeting a notice appeared in the February 3, 1967, newspaper inviting all interested persons to meet at the YWCA for the purpose of establishing a permanent organization to create, promote, and increase interest in amateur gardening. The name suggested for the new organization was "Sequoia Garden Club." The Club was accepted as a member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., in May 1967. "Eureka" was later added to the name. The Eureka Sequoia Garden Club's corporate charter for incorporation in the state of California and the IRS, 501(c)(4) non-profit application were both filed in March 1977. The Club affiliated with the Save the Redwoods League." - Mary Lou Goodwin

CURRENT ESGC ENDEAVORS:

- Plant native plants and weed at Sequoia Park Zoo
- Plant hanging baskets for the gazebo in Eureka Old Town
- Arbor Day celebrations during California Arbor Week in March
- Revitalize and maintain garden area for Eureka Rehabilitation and Wellness Center
- Summer watering of hanging baskets in Henderson Center
- Annual plant sale
- Scholarship program

PO Box 479
Bayside, CA 95524-0479
esgc@cagardenclubs.org

www.californiagardenclubs.org/eurekasequoia



MARY LOUISE BARNES VAN DEVENTER GOODWIN

1939 - 2021

Mary Louise Barnes Van Deventer Goodwin, known as Mary Lou to her friends and family, was born on July 31, 1939 and was raised in Fortuna. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and a teaching credential at Humboldt State University. While raising her two children, she was very active in the 4-H Gardening Club, and was the first woman trustee on the Fortuna Elementary School Board.

Mary Lou always had a love of plants and flowers and in 1990 she bought the Eureka Florist Shop in Henderson Center, and was actively involved with the Henderson Center Merchant's Association.

Mary Lou was a member of the Fortuna Garden Club for 50 years and served as president of the club twice. In 2010 Mary Lou became an active member of the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club and served as the club's president for five years. She became active in the California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) and received certificates in the Flower Show and Landscape Design Schools. She judged flower arranging and landscape design all over the state, including the State Fair in Sacramento and noteworthy gardens of California Wineries. After serving on the CGCI Executive Committee for six years, she was elected as their 32nd President and served from 1991-1993. She was honored as the CGCI Woman of the Year for 2009. In 2016 Mary Lou was presented the CGCI Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2016 Mary Lou took the lead for the CGCI propagation project for the conservation of the wild western native azalea at the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve on Kane Road, north of Trinidad. Along with ESGC members, she cleared blackberries and other invasive plants and took cuttings of the wild western native azaleas, one of the most extensive stands on the north coast. The cuttings were then propagated by the Redwood National and State Parks Nursery.

Over the years Mary Lou entered her flower arrangements in the Humboldt County Fair and created informational displays promoting the benefits of gardening and membership in local garden clubs. Mary Lou, along with ESGC members, was instrumental in planting the beautiful hanging baskets that adorn Old Town Eureka each summer. In 2012, she started the ESGC "Garden Jewels" award to recognize and honor community members who had created beautifully landscaped front yards.

Mary Lou was dedicated to making the world a better and more beautiful place. She lived her life in service to her community and touched the lives of many in her community.



**MARY LOU GOODWIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
SPONSORED BY
EUREKA SEQUOIA GARDEN CLUB**

The scholarship will be awarded to a local college or high school student from Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, or an unincorporated area, who displays interest and aptitude in the fields of Agriculture, Plant Science, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Environmental Studies, Floral Arrangement, or a related field.

Successful applicants should demonstrate experience or aptitude in one of the following fields for a career in:

- botany
- conservation
- floriculture
- horticulture
- landscape architecture
- plant biology and/or plant genetics
- community supported agriculture and farm sciences
- plant and environmental sciences

Eligibility Criteria:

- A current high school senior with proof of enrollment into the field of study; **OR**
- A current college student who has completed a minimum of one semester of college with proof of enrollment into the field of study

Instructions:

1. Send or give a copy of the recommendation letter to two people who know you well. Ask that they mail it to the address below prior to the deadline.
2. Mail the following to the address below:
 - Your completed application
 - A copy of your most recent transcripts

**ESGC SCHOLARSHIP
PO BOX 479
BAYSIDE, CA 95524-0479**

The deadline is March 31, 2026.

The scholarship winners will be notified in May. The funds will be provided to student upon proof of enrollment. ESGC welcomes information about your future success. Please keep in touch and consider applying in following years as your education continues.

Questions can be directed to: esgc@cagardenclubs.org



**MARY LOU GOODWIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
EUREKA SEQUOIA GARDEN CLUB, INC.
2026 APPLICATION**

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: *Your address is required for notification and forms.*

STREET _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL _____ **PHONE** _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT SCHOOL? _____ **WHERE?** _____

CURRENT GRADE LEVEL _____ **WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO GRADUATE?** _____

DEGREE _____ **WHAT IS YOUR FIELD OF STUDY?** _____

**BRIEFLY STATE WHAT EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE HAD IN THIS FIELD AND WHAT ABOUT
THE COURSE OF STUDY INTERESTS YOU:** _____

**PLEASE LIST YOUR CURRENT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND
HOBBIES:** _____

WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATIONAL GOAL AFTER GRADUATION? _____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

SUBMIT THIS FORM ALONG WITH OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS BY MARCH 31, 2026 TO:
(Note: Use additional sheets if needed)

ESGC Scholarship
PO Box 479
Bayside, CA 95524-0479

Questions? Contact: esgc@cagardenclubs.org



Eureka Sequoia Garden Club
PO Box 479
Bayside, CA 95524-0479

Date: _____

Thank you for providing a reference for _____ who is an applicant for the MARY LOU GOODWIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP to be awarded by the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club. The scholarship will help support a student's educational pursuits in the fields of Agriculture, Plant Science, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Floral Arrangement, Environmental Studies, or a related field. Please return this form directly to Eureka Sequoia Garden Club.

Please use your personal knowledge of the applicant to respond to the following questions. (*Attach additional pages if needed.*)

1. How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity? (i.e. employer, school instructor, friend, etc.)

2. Please rate the candidate in the following areas, based upon your knowledge of their achievements and strengths. (circle one)

A score of "1" means that you "*strongly disagree*" with the statement;

A score of "2" means that you have "*no opinion or knowledge*";

A score of "3" means that you "*strongly agree*" with the statement.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. The applicant has clear goals. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| B. The applicant is motivated to reach these goals. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| C. The applicant has demonstrated responsibility. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| D. The applicant would be an inspiration to others. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

3. Please tell us what you believe to be the applicant's particular strengths in their personal, educational, or professional life. If you can, give examples of particular accomplishments.

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4. What is your knowledge of the applicant's educational goals and progress toward achieving these goals? Consider any barriers or difficulties they have overcome.

5. Is there any additional information we should know about this applicant in regard to this award program?

COMPLETED BY: _____

EMAIL or PHONE: _____

Date: _____

Mail the completed form by the deadline of March 31, 2025 to:

ESGC Scholarship
PO Box 479
Bayside, CA 95524-0479

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