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**SCOTTS GIVE BACK TO GROW® AWARD WINNERS HONORED  
FOR IMPROVING COMMUNITIES—AND IMPACTING LIVES**

*Awards Recognize Individuals Whose Gardening Efforts Have Helped Create a Better World*

**Marysville, Ohio, February xx, 2005** — The Scotts Company, the world’s largest marketer of branded products for consumer lawn and garden care, today named the winners of its fifth annual *Give Back to Grow Awards*. As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, Scotts will award \$5,000 to winners in four categories whose gardening efforts have helped to grow a better world by beautifying neighborhoods, benefiting the environment and strengthening communities. Two finalists in each category will receive \$2,500.

“Since 1868, Scotts has fostered more livable communities by helping people grow healthy lawns and gardens,” said Jim Hagedorn, chairman and CEO of Scotts. “As a natural extension of this mission, the *Give Back to Grow Awards* honor those who have given back through gardening—and fostered community growth in the process.”

The winners will be honored at a breakfast ceremony held on Sunday, March 13 at the Philadelphia Flower Show. The winners are:

**Scotts Classroom Gardener of the Year**—Salutes elementary through high school teachers who have integrated a school gardening program into their curriculum.

**Winner: Mary Hoffmann, Deland Middle School, Deland, Fla.**

To help her special education students cope with their grief following their classmate Tristan’s death, teacher Mary Hoffman purchased a milkweed plant containing a monarch caterpillar. Watching the caterpillar turn into a butterfly inspired the students to build a butterfly garden in Tristan’s memory.

The students planted donated seedlings and plants in a 96’ x 30’ plot and then built an 8’ x 11’ screened-in butterfly house. Mary made the whole project an educational experience: She taught “Tristan’s Butterfly Rangers” about conservation, had them write letters soliciting donations and thanking donors, and encouraged them to use their math skills to plan the construction.

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The students gained knowledge about gardening that they have shared with others, including more than 1,000 students who have visited from other schools. Through teaching others, the students' self-esteem blossomed. Mary's efforts helped her students deal with grief, in some cases undergo a profound metamorphosis, and create something beautiful.

**Scotts Good Neighbor Gardener of the Year**—Salutes gardeners who donate produce to feed the hungry in their own communities through Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR), a national campaign of the Garden Writers Association of America.

**Winner: Norman Steele, Cumberland, Maine**

Norman Steele has been an enthusiastic master gardener volunteer in Cumberland County for 17 years, with involvement in several community-based horticultural projects. He has been part of the Cumberland County committee of the PAR since its 1999 inception.

Norman has donated more than 1,000 pounds of produce from his home garden to feed the hungry each of the past three summers and has tirelessly campaigned for the PAR program by planning, writing letters, obtaining donations, giving tours of soup kitchens, and proactively bringing the program to light through the media. On his own initiative, he helped harvest a crop of rutabagas from a commercial grower in Falmouth, Maine, donating them to the hungry, and has organized apple pickings at local orchards for several years to feed the hungry.

When diagnosed with cancer in 2002, Norman volunteered in a garden in Boston while there receiving treatments. Through his selfless work and commitment to his community over the years, Norman has proven he is more than a “good neighbor.”

**Scotts Community Beautification Gardener of the Year**—Salutes volunteers who have helped beautify a main street, park or neighborhood within their city limits, in the process significantly contributing to community pride.

**Winner: Lloyd Baron, Tualatin Valley Garden Club, Hillsboro, Ore.**

Lloyd Baron has been a quiet force in his community for more than five decades, helping with a wide range of beautification projects. He recently fulfilled a 40-year dream by creating a 1.5 acre educational and display garden for rhododendrons, Hillsboro's official flower, at Rood Bridge Park. At 89 years old, Lloyd is a regular presence at the garden, helping to maintain it year-round and encouraging others to pitch in.

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Visitors have marveled at the garden, which is located at the heart of Hillsboro’s most popular park. More than 500 rhododendrons representing 200 plus varieties of species and hybrids flourish in the garden’s woodland setting. The rhododendrons bloom for up to six months each year, while companion plants offer extended seasons of interest, giving park visitors a scenic, tranquil resting spot they can enjoy any time of year. Today, Lloyd is donating his funds, time and energy to expand the garden to twice its size. By creating the display garden, and through a lifetime of volunteer work, Lloyd has left an indelible, beautifying mark on his community.

**Scotts Urban Greenup Gardener of the Year**—Salutes volunteers working in an urban area who have successfully used community gardening to address the various challenges of an inner-city neighborhood.

**Winner: Mary Peery, Austin Green Team, Chicago**

Retired foundry supervisor Mary Peery saw her block in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago’s West Side worsening—and did something about it. When the abandoned house on the northwest corner of her block became a haven for drug dealers, she successfully lobbied the city to have the building torn down. Mary created a garden on the lot, raising money and enlisting the aid of friends, neighbors and even her grandsons to transform it into an urban oasis she eventually named Paradise, complete with a brick path, gazebos, trees, perennials and vegetables.

She co-founded the Austin Green Team, which has the motto, “Propagating Beauty in Austin, Lot by Lot.” She turned a garbage-strewn lot across from Paradise into a sculpture garden with benches, plants, and open space for community picnics, and has since created several other neighborhood gardens. Three of them have won First Place in the west side community garden category of Mayor Daley’s Chicago Landscape Awards.

Mary has been involved with a variety of other community improvement projects. She has also served as a mentor, teaching unemployed women the skills needed to work in the greening industry and teaching teenagers in a summer gardening job program. At the age of 79, she still gets up at 5 a.m. in the summer months to garden—because Paradise doesn’t happen on its own.

**Judges** — The *Scotts Give Back to Grow Awards* were judged by a panel of leaders in the field of horticulture. Judges for the fifth annual *Scotts Give Back to Grow Awards* include:

- Peter Strauss  
Actor, gardener and Miracle-Gro spokesperson

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- Katherine Whiteside  
Garden writer for *House Beautiful* magazine and spokesperson for Smith & Hawken
- Jane G. Pepper  
President, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
- Georgia Raimondi  
Author of “*The Passionate Gardener*” and contributing host of PBS’s “The Eastern Gardener”
- Jacqueline Heriteau  
Former director, Plant a Row for the Hungry
- Bill Dawson  
Director, Growing to Green of the Franklin Park Conservatory
- Michael Metallo  
President, National Gardening Association
- Ashton Ritchie  
National spokesperson for The Scotts Company

### **About Scotts**

Dedicated to a Beautiful World.

The Scotts Company is the world's largest marketer of branded consumer products for lawn and garden care, with a full range of products for professional horticulture as well. The Company owns the industry's most recognized brands. In the U.S., the Company's Scotts(R), Miracle-Gro(R) and Ortho(R) brands are market leading in their categories, as is the consumer Roundup(R) brand, which is marketed in North America and most of Europe exclusively by Scotts and owned by Monsanto. The Company also owns Smith & Hawken, a leading brand of garden-inspired products that includes pottery, watering equipment, gardening tools, outdoor furniture and live goods. In Europe, Scotts' brands include Weedol(R), Pathclear(R), Evergreen(R), Levington(R), Miracle-Gro(R), KB(R), Fertiligene(R) and Substral(R).

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