Purpose
The Georgia Green Industry Association Scholarship Fund exists to serve and support the students who aspire to be future leaders in our industry. The financial aid given is one way we can invest in their efforts and thereby invest in the success of ornamental horticulture in Georgia.

Administration
The scholarship program is under the direct supervision of the GGIA Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors of the Georgia Green Industry Association. The Scholarship Committee screens applicants and selects the recipients each fall. The deadline for receiving applications is November 1st of each year. The Committee will notify the recipient by December 15th. As a part of the process, the Committee reserves the right to request a personal interview with any applicant under consideration.

Award Guidelines
1. All applicants must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in the green industry or related field of work.
2. All applicants must complete the application form in full along with all required documentation and submit the application packet to GGIA no later than the November 1st deadline.
3. Preferred applicants should have a grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate students or 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 for graduate students.
4. All applicants must be a Georgia resident.
5. All applicants must be currently enrolled in a school that offers either a two year or four year horticulture program; in or out of state.
6. The Bill Inabinet Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis and the application process must be completed each year in order to be considered for any subsequent school term.
7. The Georgia Green Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors, reserves the right to make all final decisions in regard to scholarship awards.

Scholarship Disbursements
The GGIA Scholarship Committee will notify the winning recipient of the Bill Inabinet Scholarship after December 15th once the evaluation process is complete. The scholarship amount of $1000 will be presented to the recipients during the GGIA Wintergreen Trade Show, which takes place each year near the end of January. The recipient is expected to attend Wintergreen at the designated time and place in order to be awarded the scholarship check in front of industry peers.

Criteria for Scholarship Award
1. Overall Strength of application (GPA, presentation, clear goals)
2. Leadership and work experience (student activities, civic involvement, summer jobs)
3. Strength of references (comments from teachers and/or employers)
4. Financial need (other scholarships, student job, siblings in college)
Scholarship Application
Please return no later than November 15, 2019

Completed applications and supporting materials can be sent to:
Chris Butts via email: chris@ggia.org or mailed to:
Georgia Green Industry Association Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 2568 Blue Ridge, GA 30513

Student Name: __________________________________________________________________________
(First) (Last) (Middle Initial)

I. Contact Information

Hometown Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

School Mailing Address: ______________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Hometown Phone No.: (_____)________________________ Cell Phone No.: (_____)_______________________

II. Education Background

High School Graduated From: ______________________________________________ Year: ______________
GPA: ______________________

Secondary School Enrolled in now: ______________________________________ Major: __________________
GPA: ______________________

Class standing as of the fall semester: (Check One) _______ Freshman _______ Sophomore
Junior _______ Senior________ Graduate Student________

Expected Career: __________________________________________ Expected Graduation Date: __________

Other Schools Attended: ____________________________________________________________

GPA: ______________________

Please explain your financial needs for applying for this scholarship:

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________
III. Activities:

Extracurricular Activities:

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Community & Volunteer Activities:

____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Awards/Recognitions- Please specify college or high school.

____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

IV. Employment History

1) __________________________________________________________________________________________

   Employer                                             Job Description
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   Dates                                                Person to Contact    Phone

2) __________________________________________________________________________________________

   Employer                                             Job Description
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   Dates                                                Person to Contact    Phone

3) __________________________________________________________________________________________

   Employer                                             Job Description
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   Dates                                                Person to Contact    Phone

4) __________________________________________________________________________________________

   Employer                                             Job Description
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   Dates                                                Person to Contact    Phone
V. Supporting Materials

Please include the following with your application

- A Short description of the factors and experiences that have influenced your interest in horticulture. You may also include reasons you feel are deserving of this scholarship. This should be no more than 1-2 brief paragraphs.
- A current copy of your transcript.
- One to three reference letters which include an evaluation of your background, character and qualities.
2019 marks the second year that GGIA is pleased to provide scholarships in the name of Bill Inabinet. Bill was a long time supporter of the industry, GGIA and a leader who worked hard to promote the value of education. The scholarship program is supported by contributions in Bill’s memory by many of his fellow Heart of Georgia Nursery Growers. Beginning this year, a small portion of membership dues will also go to ensure that the Bill Inabinet Scholarship Fund will help support the dreams of students who are pursuing a career in horticulture. Scholarship availability will be announced each fall with the winners being recognized each year at WINTERGREEN.

This year, we are pleased to recognize four students who are pursuing degrees to lead to a career in the green industry. Two of these students are leaders at the University of Georgia and two are among the brightest at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Please join us in celebrating these scholarship winners and the lasting legacy of Bill Inabinet.
CARVER NICHOLS
University of Georgia, Horticulture

Carver Nichols is back. He has continued his strong academic and extracurricular performance while continuing to pay his own way through school. He represents a unique blend of excellence in the classroom along with a dedication to his classmates, The UGA Horticulture Club, along with a wisdom beyond his years gained through hard work. He has also participated in GGIA events like WINTERGREEN and Capitol Day. He's not afraid to get his hands dirty but is also an articulate advocate for the industry.

UGA Interim Department Head Tim Smalley helped recruit Carver to attend school in Athens. Since then, he has observed him as a student, Secretary and Vice President of the Horticulture Club. Tim notes, “I have no doubt that Carver will be a leader in the profession because of his intellect, motivation, organizational and interpersonal skills. He has worked for the athletic department grounds department, a local nursery and professors to help handle his student debt, and I know that he is very deserving for a scholarship.”

JASON GIBSON
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Horticulture

Jason Gibson is a living, breathing example of it never being too late to pursue your dream. At the age of 23, he realized that the career he was pursuing in business would not lead to happiness. After much thought and prayer, he felt called to a future in horticulture and he hasn’t looked back or slowed down since. In the years since, while working towards a degree in horticulture at ABAC, Gibson has served as the president of the Horticulture Club, taught a class on hydroponics, become an accomplished bonsai grower, and served the Tifton community garden project.

Assistant Professor John Layton has seen Gibson’s growth first hand. “It has been a privilege to have Jason in my classes. He has excelled in the classroom and laboratories in addition to being highly involved in the Horticulture Club at ABAC. Through these efforts, Jason gained a vast amount of horticultural knowledge and experience and he has found a great satisfaction in working with plants in a variety of settings.” Associate Professor Frank Flanders adds, “Jason provides leadership for many of the events including the club trip to the GGIA convention. My impression of him has only grown more positive over time.”
Some leaders are developed over time. Some like William Heath seem born to the role. His high school FFA landscape team placed second in the state. In college he is a member of the Pi Alpha Xi Horticultural Honor Society. He became involved in the horticulture club the same week he arrived in Athens and has since risen to the role of club president. He has been chosen to receive other prestigious scholarships including one from the Garden Club of Georgia.

Dr. Matthew Chappell calls Heath “one of the hardest working, kindest, and down to earth students he has ever had the pleasure to work with. He doesn’t just show up for meetings, he fixes broken equipment, installs irrigation systems and tends to plants on holidays and weekends.” The sign of a true leader, “He is also admired by his peers and faculty alike for welcoming new students, fostering their involvement in the club and allowing them to take on leadership roles themselves. Of all the students I have taught and mentored, Alex is near the top and I fully expect him to make a significant impact on the horticulture industry.”

WILLIAM ALEX HEATH
University of Georgia, Horticulture

While some find horticulture and the green industry later in life, Jhanavi Williams describes her passion for plants and the landscape around her as a driving force in her life for as long as she can remember. She was inspired by her parents who built a successful landscape company from the ground up and she will be the first person in her family to attend college and obtain a degree. The inspiration has turned into determination which is reflected in her outstanding academic and extracurricular performance. Her perfect 4.0 GPA is complimented by leadership and volunteer activities that earn her high praise from her professors.

James McCrimmon writes, “I would place her in the top 2% of all the students that I have taught during my 12 years at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Jhanavi is an excellent student, not only in the academic portion of her courses but; also, in the actual hands-on laboratory work that we do as part of our courses. An area of our program that is required of all students is experiential learning; this is hands-on work experience. Jhanavi excels in this area as well as in her academics.”

JHANAVI WILLIAMS
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Horticulture