

News Release

For Immediate Release

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JR. LANDSCAPING COMPETITION AND SCHOLARSHIP INTRODUCED AT THE DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

The Dutchess County Agricultural Society is pleased to announce the addition of the Jr. Landscape Competition & Scholarship at the 171st Dutchess County Fair. The competition & scholarship is to attract young talent within the green industry. The students will have the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills with landscape design and constructing their own display. They will follow the same criteria as the Professional Exhibits. This opportunity will provide a mentorship between the students and local landscaping businesses throughout the county. The mentors will also provide not only their experience with in the field, but they will also be donating the material and judging the competition.

Tony Capalbo, a member of the Horticulture Committee at the fairgrounds and owner of Phantom Gardener stated, "The idea for the Jr. Landscaping competition started when the Dutchess Garden Study Club donated \$500 to the Agricultural Society with the stipulation that the money be given to a student who was interested in a career related to horticulture or landscape. The Horticulture Committee began discussion on ways to get high school or college students that are pursuing a career in either of those fields, involved and came up with the Jr. Landscape program." The idea was presented to the Ag Society, who then offered an additional \$2,000 to this scholarship. A total amount of \$2,500 will be given to the overall winner of the competition to help with college expenses. Tony continued stating, "This new program, geared towards high school seniors and college students will help bring a new generation into the Horticulture Building. We are excited to have these young minds join us at this year's fair."

The Dutchess County Fair begins its six day run August 23 – 28. For more information please visit

www.dutchessfair.com.

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