

February 11, 2011

Attention Prospective Scholarship Applicants (High School Seniors)

Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex first opened to the public in 1984 as a nature preserve set amid one of the few surviving coastal hammocks in South Florida. Through the efforts of local residents, the city of Boca Raton purchased this wooded area that spans the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic dunes. Part of the land was set aside for environmental education and it is this portion that became Gumbo Limbo. The director of Gumbo Limbo was Gordon Gilbert, a former science teacher at Boca High School and one of those foresighted persons who worked to make this land preservation a reality.

The Board of Trustees of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc. has established two **\$2500** scholarships named to honor Gordon Gilbert. These scholarships will be awarded to two high school seniors who plan to continue their education in a major related to conservation science and agree to contribute at least 40 volunteer hours to the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center during the summer of 2011.

Selection of recipients will be made by the Scholarship Committee of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc. All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply. Consideration will be given to applicants who have been or currently are volunteers in good standing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. However, the selection committee will evaluate the credentials of each applicant in making the award decisions.

Winners will be notified by a committee member following the interview and final selection. **The scholarship awards will be sent to the college or university where the student is enrolled and credited to the student's account.**

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. Candidate must be a 2011 graduating senior who intends to pursue a college degree in a biological or natural science, or other fields relevant to the mission of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in conserving coastal resources.
2. Candidates may self-nominate or may be nominated by a guidance counselor or science teacher, but **MUST** submit a letter of recommendation by a science teacher or guidance counselor.
3. A minimum 3.0 GPA overall, and minimum 3.0 in science courses completed is required. Candidates will be evaluated on grade point average, honors point average, extra-curricular activities, personal references, a brief essay, and a short interview that will be held the week of April 15, 2011.
4. The scholarship recipient must provide 40 volunteer hours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center during the period from May to August. Volunteer hours during the past year will be taken into consideration to fulfill this requirement.

Contact Darlene Rosa, Secretary at the Nature Center, 561.362.4578, or DRosa@ci.boca-raton.fl.us, if you have any questions.