

# GROWERTALKS

## Features

5/1/2008

## And the Nominees Are

*Staff*

### Top candidates vie for GrowerTalks' Young Grower Award

The nominations are in! We're hard at work evaluating this crop of outstanding 2008 GrowerTalks' Young Grower Award candidates. Next month, look for essays from our five finalists. Our panel of judges will carefully review applications and interview these finalists. Then, join us at the OFA Awards Ceremony at the OFA Short Course in July as we announce the winner.

Thanks to all who nominated these talented young people. And thanks, also, to our sponsors: Ball, OFA, and BASF.

#### The nominees:

**Jenni Barnes, 31**

Head Grower  
Schmidt Bros. Inc.  
Swanton, Ohio

**Ed Barrow, 31**

Perennial Grower  
Whiteford Rd. Greenhouse  
Toledo, Ohio

**Colleen Carlson, 28**

Owner  
Carlson Greenhouse  
Montrose, Minnesota

**Kathy Carlson, 28**

Assistant Grower  
Carlson Greenhouse

Montrose, Minnesota

**Sarah Celestian, 27**

Propagation Manager  
Desert Tree Farms  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Chad Earles, 31**

Co-Head Grower  
Nash Greenhouse  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Nancy Gambino, 29**

Vice President  
Arte Verde Garden Center and Landscape Co.  
Poplar Grove, Illinois

**Hugh E. Kurtz Jr., 32**

Head Grower  
Kurtz Farms LLC  
Cheshire, Connecticut

**Elizabeth Hoffman, 32**

Owner/Manager  
West End Florist & Garden Center  
Evanston, Illinois

**Zoltan Kovacs, 34**

Vice President Operations  
Sunny Border Nurseries  
Kensington, Connecticut

**Jose Vega Jr, 22**

Vice President - Operations  
Dream with Colors  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Jill West, 31**

Grower  
D.S. Cole Growers  
Loudon, New Hampshire

**Davy Wright, 29**

Vice President  
Wright's Nursery and Greenhouse Inc.  
Plantersville, Alabama