

Mavis Bayles Awarded Massie Medal

by Clarkie Jester, Editor

The coveted Massie Medal is presented annually to a member of The Garden Club of Virginia who possesses exceptional talents and abilities, and who shares her gifts for the enrichment of her club, her community, The Garden Club of Virginia and those of us who have the good fortune to know her personally. This year's award was presented to Mavis Bayles (Mrs. William D. Bayles) of the Charlottesville Garden Club, a great lady and friend who epitomizes the spirit of the prestigious Massie Medal. Mavis, who is known for her keen wit and articulate way with words, appeared momentarily speechless when this award was presented to her at The GCV Annual Meeting banquet in Lynchburg last spring.

Mavis is a gardener, arranger and meticulous record keeper. Along with her husband, Bill, she maintains an extensive garden in Charlottesville, growing flowers generously shared with club members and friends. Many of her horticultural treasures are named after the people who gave them to her. It is rare that she misses a GCV flower show. Mavis shows often and has won numerous ribbons and accolades, especially for her choice of containers and extensive collection of vases. She assists her club members with Interclub

arrangements and helped write *The Art of Conditioning Flowers*. In addition, Mavis served as her club treasurer for 23 years.

From 1980 to 1996, Mavis served as Treasurer and Circulation Manager for The Garden Club of Virginia publications. Because of the enormous amount of time and record keeping involved, (which includes keeping the mailing list current for over 3200 members and

serving on the GCV Finance Committee), this is one of the most challenging of all GCV positions. Mavis' contributions during this period are far greater than many realize. When she retired from this assignment in 1996 she left a legacy of flawless records and a concise outline of the duties of the position for others to follow. A friend and former GCV President describes her as "a unique person and a multi-talented executive.

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When she spoke at Board meetings, everyone listened. She has a flair for figures, for style, and for gardens and arrangements." Her contributions to The Garden Club of Virginia are many and great.

The citation on Mavis' Massie Medal honors her with the following inscription: **"For fiscal and artistic talent shared with wit and joy."**

Lucy Ellett: *Leader Extraordinaire!*

Lucy Russell Ellett (Mrs. Frank T. Ellett) of the Mill Mountain Garden Club was awarded the prestigious DeLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation at the GCV Annual Meeting held this past May in Lynchburg.

Former award recipients have distinguished themselves as community leaders in the field of conservation, and Lucy is no exception.

Her polished leadership style is one of the fundamental reasons she has been so successful in organizing major community projects. She played a key role in initiating the Community Recycling Center for the City of Roanoke as well as a recycling program in the county. She was a founding member of the Clean Valley Council and the Western Virginia Land Trust, and has served on the Valley Beautiful Board for six years, two as president.

Lucy has served on the boards of numerous financial, educational, cultural and environmental institutions. Her organizational skills continue to benefit the community as a board member and past president of the Science Museum of Western

Virginia and as a member of the board of trustees for Centre in the Square, a multi-cultural urban center for performing arts, history and science in downtown Roanoke.

The Mill Mountain Garden Club and The Garden Club of Virginia have both benefited from Lucy's capable leadership and genteel style. She has served as her garden club's conserva-



Lucy Russell Ellett

tion chairman, member and chairman of The Garden Club of Virginia Conservation and Beautification Committee, past chairman of the Conservation Forum, GCV Corresponding Secretary and Board member-at-large. Currently, Lucy is Finance Committee Chairman and serves on the GCV Restoration Committee and the ad hoc Committee for Development.

In presenting the award, Hylah Boyd (Mrs. J.P. McGuire Boyd), GCV Conservation and Beautifi-

cation Chairman, commended Lucy as a model leader who has made outstanding contributions to her community, the Commonwealth and The GCV in the field of conservation and beautification.