

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA HONORARY AWARDS

The Massie Medal For Distinguished Achievement

The prestigious Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement was presented by Shirley Cooper (Mrs. Clarke T., Jr.), GCV Massie Medal Chairman, to Katherine (Katty) Turner Mears at the May Annual Meeting in Norfolk.

In presenting the award, Mrs. Cooper said, "Katty has the skills and stamina that have enabled her to work throughout the Commonwealth in leadership positions that reflect her love of gardening and her dedication to our natural and historic resources."

Katty's many contributions to her own garden club, the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, have included a term as president, and she has been honored with her club's award for dedicated service. Her flower arrangements display an eloquent use of design and color and have brought her countless cups and ribbons.

The Garden Club of Virginia took note of this energy and talent and soon put Katty to work. She has served on the Restoration Committee for many years, both as a committee member, and as chairman, supporting the Committee's projects with

her typical energy and organizational skills. She has also been an active member of The Garden Club of Virginia Speaker's Bureau, and a District Chairman of Historic Garden

Week. After serving as Director-at-Large, Second Vice President, and Parliamentarian for The GCV, Katty was elected President of The Garden Club of Virginia in 1984. At the end of her term of office, she was elected to the presidency of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

She quickly found common ground between the two organizations, as demonstrated by their cooperative efforts at Bacon's Castle. Using these experiences, she has continued to expand the circle of organizations whose efforts can affect our region's natural assets. Known for her loyalty to The Garden Club of Virginia, Katty has been its ambassador as she worked with kindred groups, advocating complimentary goals and "cross-pollinating" ideas to the benefit of all.

Her Massie Medal is inscribed: "For her loyalty, talent, dedication, and style." Indeed, a fitting tribute to one of The GCV's finest!



Katherine Turner Mears
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

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The deLacy Gray Memorial Medal For Conservation

Describing her as the “indefatigable Molly Brown,” GCV Conservation Chairman Sharon Scott (Mrs. J. Martin) presented the 2000 DeLacy Memorial Medal for Conservation to Molly Brown (Mrs. Dirck W.) at The GCV Annual Meeting in Norfolk.

Molly is a member of the Blue Ridge Garden Club and founder of the club’s Roots and Shoots Program which won The GCV Common Wealth Award in 1997. She is known in her club as “a planter and a nurturer” who recognizes the importance of gardening to individuals of all ages.

Early on, Molly began her work with children and gardens in California where she was the co-founder of the Roots and Shoots garden of the Elizabeth Gamble Horticultural Foundation. She also developed a school-wide program to instruct students about the three R’s: Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse.

After moving to Lexington and joining the Blue Ridge Garden

Club, she and her husband began promoting interactive gardens with young and old alike. The Roots and Shoots garden they created at Waddell Elementary School provides a unique learning

experience for over 300 students. The concept has been adopted and recreated by other Garden Club of Virginia clubs in Ashland and Williamsburg. The popular *Roots and Shoots* manual of instruction has been distributed across the country

and the first-printing has been completely sold out.

In presenting the award, Sharon Scott poetically read:

*“Molly, Molly, quite successful
How does your garden grow?
Why, with seasoned roots and
youngish shoots*

And pretty flowers all in a row.”

Congratulations to Molly Brown, 2000 recipient of The GCV DeLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation, an outstanding educator and visionary!



Molly Brown
The Blue Ridge Garden Club