

# Massie Medal Awarded to Dot Montgomery

by Nancy Bowles,  
Massie Medal Chairman 2002-04,  
Boxwood Garden Club

At the Eighty-fourth Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia in Harrisonburg this past May, Dorothy Harris Montgomery (Mrs. James B.) was awarded the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement for her leadership, service, advocacy and devotion to The Garden Club of Virginia.

This award, first given in 1929, is the highest and most prestigious award given by The Garden Club of Virginia to an individual member, an honorary member or a member club.

Dot has been a member of The Martinsville Garden Club since 1956 and has served as its president three times. She has been an active and devoted member of The GCV serving as chairman for a number of key committees and as GCV President, 1982-84. As The GCV Conservation Committee Chairman she enthusiastically worked on conservation, beautification and education issues in the Commonwealth. During her tenure, she served as a member of the Governor's Council on the Environment and advocated and

worked toward legislation to require a program on environmental protection in the Virginia school system. Dot also served two terms on The GCV Restoration Committee, as well as Director at Large, and was a

founding member of the committee which established the Common Wealth Award.

As GCV President and an avid advocate for environmental issues, Dot was the moving force in the restoration of Prestwoud



Photo By Fleet Davis

**Dot Montgomery**

Plantation,

Clarksville, Virginia, and persuaded VDOT to erect "Welcome to Virginia" entrances around the Commonwealth.

In addition, she initiated the publications of the New Members *Handbook* as well as The GCV *Journal* and "Update."

The prestigious 2004 Massie Medal was awarded to Dot for her leadership, service, advocacy and devotion to The Garden Club of Virginia. A Martinsville Garden Club member wrote, "she embodies the award" with her devoted and enthusiastic leadership.

# Rebecca McGovern Awarded The deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation

by Mary Bruce Glaize,  
GCV Conservation Committee Chairman 2003-04,  
The Little Garden Club of Winchester

The 2004 deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation was presented at the GCV Annual Meeting in May to Rebecca Lee McGovern, a member of The Garden Club of Danville.

Rebecca has had a lifetime of achievement. She persuaded Danville's city officials that with proper planning and planting, Danville could become a much more attractive city. Through the years, Rebecca encouraged businesses, schools and churches to make their surroundings attractive. *City Beautiful* landscaped the proper-

ty around several public buildings. In the 1960s, she took it upon herself to save the land along the Dan River where trees had been cleared for road construction. With the help of her young son, Rebecca planted hundreds of seedlings that she acquired from the state and rooted in recycled school milk cartons.

Ever mindful of conservation and maintaining Danville's public areas, Rebecca, along with other city leaders, successfully rose up in protest when the Danville City Council threatened to take away part of the city's 93 acre Ballou Park to build a

school. She persuaded the city's Public works Department to send out workers who, under her direction cut the ballpark grass into strips, rolled it up, and took it across the river where a new street was being built. The appearance of the neighborhood was improved immediately and the ball park grass was saved and recycled.

Through a program initiated by Rebecca, local garden club members choose a Yard-of-the-Month. *Keep Virginia Beautiful* has recognized Danville with first place awards for many years. Danville

has been named first in *Keep America Beautiful* several times. A quotation in a thank-you letter from one of Rebecca's guests reads, "I must comment on the difference in the appearance of Danville. Your civic beautification has really paid off. You saw it happen gradually. The full impact of it is very different. Congratulations!"

As stated by Garden Club of Danville President, Nancy Jiranek:

*"A lifetime of achievement in conservation and beautification, a gracious and giving lady - what more can be said?"*



Rebecca McGovern with GCV Conservation Chairman 2002-04, Mary Bruce Glaize

Photo By Fleet Davis