

# Massie Medal Awarded to Betty Gwaltney Schutte

*By Sarah Bass, GCV Massie Medal Chairman  
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club*

At the Annual Meeting in Newport News on May 11, 2005, Betty Gwaltney Schutte was awarded the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement. By definition in our bylaws, "the recipient, in the judgment of the Committee, must have done outstanding work in gardening, served The Garden Club of Virginia with unusual distinction, improved the quality of life or have been effective in the protection, restoration or preservation of the natural beauties of our Commonwealth."

Betty has done this and much more. She has been a valued member of the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club for many years having served as both second and first vice president before leading her club as president from 1981-83.

Her involvement with The GCV began in 1988 when she was elected Parliamentarian. She became Corresponding Secretary, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and then President from 1996-98. After her presidency, she continued her service for The Garden Club of Virginia by serving on numerous committees, including the Restoration, Investment, Long-Range Planning and Nominations Committees.

In 1999 she was instrumental, along with other preservationists and members of the General Assembly, in insuring the passage of House Bill 1206 which created the Capitol Square Preservation Council. The Council was charged with developing plans for the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of the historical and architectural integrity of the grounds of the State Capitol. Betty was appointed by The Garden Club of Virginia's Board of Directors to be the very first GCV representative to the Council and was then elected chairman of the group by their other distinguished members. Under her leadership the by-laws were adopted, the executive director was hired, and a nationally ranked landscape architect was selected.

As Betty received a standing ovation from the delegates at the Annual Meeting, she was surprised by eleven family members there to honor her on that wonderful day.



*Photos by Grace Rice*

L-R: GCV Massie Medal Chairman, Sarah Bass; Former GCV President, Betty Schutte; and GCV President, Deedy Bumgardner.

# The 2005 deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation

*By Jocelyn Palmer Connors, GCV Conservation Committee Chairman  
The Lynchburg Garden Club*

The conservation medal, a memorial to Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, given by the Dolley Madison Garden Club of Orange, was first awarded in 1965. It is presented annually to a club, or to an individual member of The Garden Club of Virginia, who, in the judgment of the Conservation Committee, has rendered outstanding service in the dissemination of knowledge of the natural resources of The Commonwealth of Virginia, and the conservation and wise development of such natural resources. The 2005 deLacy Gray Medal was awarded to Martha Wingfield of The Ashland Garden Club. She not only participated in these actions; she helped lead them. She has assumed leadership roles in her own community, and also in the entire Commonwealth.

Martha's wonderfully efficient leadership skills, vision, dedication and expertise in organization and planning have led her to important positions both in The Garden Club of Virginia as well as in the public sector. She has served as conservation chairman of The Ashland Garden Club, vice president, Historic Garden Week chairman and she is currently serving as president-elect. Martha is a former member of The GCV Conservation Committee. In her community she and her husband were leaders of a successful group formed to preserve open space and farmland and to prevent development in her county, which would have infringed upon historically significant areas.

First elected to the board of the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) in 1999, she served as its treasurer from 2001-03. In October of 2003 she was elected president of the VCN Board. The VCN is the umbrella organization for all of Virginia's environmental organizations. At the VCN's 35th Anniversary and Recognition Dinner in April she awarded our own Bunny Murray and Bessie Carter the Mighty Oak Award for their contributions to the protection and enhancement of Virginia's environment.

Martha Wingfield is one of the most respected environmentalists in The Commonwealth of Virginia.



*Photos by Grace Rice*

L-R: GCV President, Deedy Bumgardner; Martha Wingfield; and  
GCV Conservation Chairman, Jocelyn Connors.