

The Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement

By Jocelyn Connors, Massie Medal Chairman
The Lynchburg Garden Club

Eugenia and David Diller received the 2007 Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement at the Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia in Newport News on May 9th. In more ways than can be numbered, this couple, with their "passion for lilies" and dedication to horticulture and the education of others, has "improved the quality of life and been effective in the protection, restoration and preservation of the natural beauties of our Commonwealth."

Genie has been an active member of The Spotswood Garden Club for over forty years, holding office, chairing committees, and presenting programs. David was named an honorary member of the club in 1987. Their knowledge of the culture, origins and names of myriad varieties of lilies is immense, witnessed by the lilies they have raised over the years. In addition, they are both accomplished arrangers. In fact, David won the tricolor for best in show in the artistic division of the first GCV Lily Show he entered, representing Spotswood that year, and he earned this honor again ten years later. As team members, the Dillers have traveled widely, presenting programs, teaching judging schools, and entering their beautiful lilies in shows.

David served as President of the North American Lily Society, from 1997 to 1999. Genie received the 2004 North American Lily Society Award honoring her service and accomplishments. The GCV benefited greatly from her dedication and service as Lily Chairman for over twenty years, and she continues to serve as Chairman *emeritus*. Committed to their calling, they joyfully share their expertise with others, representing The Garden Club of Virginia throughout the Commonwealth and indeed, the nation.

Their daughter, son, their spouses and their granddaughter were in Newport News to celebrate this outstanding couple. Together, they are an inspiration to us all.



Jocelyn Sladen Awarded the 2007 deLacy Gray Conservation Medal

By Marsha Merrell, GCV Conservation and Beautification Chairman
The James River Garden Club



Jocelyn Sladen, recipient of the 2007 deLacy Gray Conservation Medal

Jocelyn Arundel Sladen (Mrs. William J. L. Sladen) of The Warrenton Garden Club was awarded the 2007 deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation at the Awards Banquet of The Garden Club of Virginia's Annual Meeting in Newport News.

In the late 1950's Jocelyn began her commitment to conservation issues when she worked for the International Union for the Protection of Nature in Europe and the United States. Her work at the Union and an African photographic safari inspired the first of her seven books for children on conservation related issues. Jocelyn stated in a biographical sketch from the 1980's, "I had come to realize that our children, and children all over the world, growing up amid swelling populations and vanishing natural frontiers, will have both a desperate need to find renewed contacts with nature and a harder time fulfilling that need. The toughest conservation problems will be their responsibilities."

Twenty plus years later we see that she was an oracle of truth.

Jocelyn is very committed to plant conservation, stressing biological diversity and habitat preservation as the means for success. A founding member of The Virginia Native Plant Society, she served on its Board of Directors and helped inaugurate its site registry program. She has worked tirelessly in the Piedmont Chapter of the organization, serving as board member and president, and helping to develop educational materials including a slide show, "Hedgerows & Habitat." She also has been a resource to groups in the field of native plant conservation and served for four years on the Conservation and NAL Committee of the Garden Club of America as Co-Chairman for Invasive and Endangered Species. She developed its invasive species slide show, "Not In My Back Yard."

In addition Jocelyn has served on the following boards: The Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Virginia State Arboretum, Audubon Naturalist Society and Defenders of Wildlife, where she also served as President. She currently serves on the national boards of The Center for Plant Conservation and Rachel's Network. She has offered her leadership to The GCV, with service on The GCV Conservation Committee and with numerous positions held in The Warrenton Garden Club.

Jocelyn is the second member of her family to be honored for work in conservation. Her mother, Marjorie Arundel, was awarded the deLacy Gray Medal in 1992. The Garden Club of Virginia is indeed proud to call Jocelyn a member and delighted to bestow upon her the honor of the 2007 deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation.