



Mary Hart Darden, 2012 Massie Medalist

*By Lynne Beeler,
Massie Medal Committee Chairman
The Martinsville Garden Club*

On May 16, 2012, at a festive banquet held during the annual meeting at the Williamsburg Inn, Mary Hart Darden received the most prestigious award presented by the Garden Club of Virginia, the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement. Mary Hart exemplifies the extraordinary dedication to the betterment of the GCV for which the Massie Medal is given. Her commitment and vision for the future direction of the GCV stand as a model for all.

Since 1984, Mary Hart has served The Nansemond River Garden Club with tireless energy and enthusiasm. From club president to president of the GCV, she has tackled countless projects, chaired numerous committees and, most notably, led the GCV into the technological world of the 21st century.

Under the presidency of Bessie Bocock Carter, Mary Hart, as first vice president, was given the task of creating a committee to form a website. With conviction and diligence, Mary Hart oversaw the creation of the GCV database and website. What a giant endeavor it was to pave the way toward a more efficient communication system.

Mary Hart exemplifies the qualities and dedication for which the Massie Medal stands. Her devotion to restoration, conservation, horticulture, beautification and education distinguish her as a leader and a spokesperson for the GCV. For all her accomplishments and service to the GCV, we are pleased to honor Mary Hart, a faithful servant, with the Massie Medal. ❁



*Massie Medal for
Distinguished Achievement
goes to Mary Hart Darden,
The Nansemond River
Garden Club*

The Editorial Board welcomes submissions and reserves the right to edit them.



The 2012 de Lacy Gray Award

By Karen Jones

*GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman
The Martinsville Garden Club*

We are excited to announce that Virginia (Gina) Farrar of The Warrenton Garden Club has been chosen as the winner of this year's de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal. Gina has long lived a true conservation ethic, making her a perfectly natural choice for the conservation medal created to honor the memory of de Lacy Thompson Gray. The award recognizes outstanding effort to further knowledge and wise use of our natural resources.



*Gina Farrar accepts the
de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal
from GCV President Kim Nash*

Gina founded The Warrenton Garden Club's Nature Camp in 1983 in an effort to get children outside and connected to the natural world that sustains us. Her conservation ethic begins at home. Her own farm in Orlean is the setting for the two-week camp co-sponsored by her garden club and the Piedmont Environmental Council. Gina serves as co-director, counselor, nurse and cheerleader. The farm, situated on the Rappahannock River, will be preserved through a conservation easement.

Some 24 children, ages 8 to 11, attend the camp. Campers explore their surroundings, study the inter-relatedness of all living things, and gain understanding of the importance of protecting and preserving these things. Many inspired campers return as counselors to perpetuate Gina's important legacy. Gina's infectious appreciation for nature, as well as for the importance of clean water, air and land to all life, is truly a gift to future generations.

In 1999, Gina received the Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the early environmental education of children. Her willingness to share her farm and her time to inspire children to appreciate the beauty and fragility of our planet made her a worthy honoree.

Gina also was the recipient of the 2010-2011 Gulick Conservation Educator Award. The John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District conferred the award in recognition of Gina's commitment to Nature Camp and for "promoting conservation education through outdoor adventures."

The Garden Club of Virginia is lucky to have Gina Farrar, a dedicated and inspirational member, teaching the next generation about a true conservation ethic by example. ❁