



## Massie Medal Awarded to Mary Ann Johnson

*By Missy Buckingham  
Massie Medal Committee Chairman, The Boxwood Garden Club*

The Massie Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement was presented to Mary Ann Johnson at the Annual Meeting in Leesburg on May 14, 2014.

A member of Roanoke Valley Garden Club since 1977, Mary Ann continues to be dedicated and devoted to the betterment of her club, community, church and the Garden Club of Virginia. True to the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia and the guidelines for this award, this year's recipient has served with dedication and distinction in her numerous and varied roles promoting horticulture, restoration, preservation and conservation of the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mary Ann has served in the offices of Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary on the GCV Board of Directors. She served for several terms on the Editorial Board of the *GCV Journal*, and her work in the mid-1990s was instrumental in setting the publication on a new path of creativity and relevance. Mary Ann's enthusiasm and dedication make her an invaluable member of the Restoration Committee.

Mary Ann's involvement in the Roanoke community is extensive and influential. She is involved in various preservation and conservation organizations including the Preservation Foundation and the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. A gifted writer, she was Book Editor for the *Roanoke Times* for many years.

Described by her friends, family and peers as a great team player, Mary Ann Johnson is held in high regard by all for her integrity and inspirational leadership. We congratulate her as a most worthy recipient of this year's Massie Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement. ❁



*Mary Ann Johnson, recipient of the 2014 Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement, with husband, Jim Johnson*



## The de Lacy Gray Award

Betsy Agelasto received the 2014 de Lacy Gray Award for her exceptional conservation work for both the Garden Club of Virginia and her communities. A member of the Virginia Beach Garden Club, she has served on the GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee several times, chairing Legislative Day and instructing GCV members in effective lobbying techniques. She and her family started the Rockfish Valley Foundation near their farm in Nellysford “to work cooperatively with the Rockfish Valley community and others to demonstrate and promote agricultural and non-agricultural land uses and activities that conserve, protect and sustain the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Rockfish Valley for the enjoyment and enrichment of residents and visitors.” We are overjoyed to salute Betsy for her enthusiasm in promoting the conservation and beautification of our Commonwealth. ❀



*Betsy Agelasto (The Virginia Beach GC), winner of the 2014 de Lacy Gray Award, with Mary Ann Johnson (Roanoke Valley GC), recipient of the 2014 Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement*

## The Bessie Bocock Carter Award

The Albemarle Garden Club received the Bessie Bocock Carter Award for their project “Interpreting the Bog Garden – Where Conservation, Horticulture and Civic Projects Meet.” The project was created “to enhance the beauty and wildlife habitat of a city park wetland with interpretive signage and print materials and to enable better understanding of storm water rain gardens, wetlands plants, and bio systems for the general public and for school field trips.” Ongoing volunteer maintenance will be provided by the Albemarle Garden Club and their project partner organizations including the Charlottesville Department of Parks and Recreation, Rivanna Master Naturalists, and the Garden Club of America Partners for Plants. Deepest thanks to Albemarle Garden Club members Dorothy Tompkins, Horticulture Chair, and Constance Palmer, Civic Projects Chair, for this very worthy nomination, and to the Albemarle Garden Club as its sponsor. ❀



*Carol Carter (Albemarle GC), Anne Beals (Conservation and Beautification Chairman, The Rappahannock Valley GC), Robert Carter, and Kim Cory (President, Albemarle GC)*