

The Garden Club of Virginia exists to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.

It was in the tall pines and bayous of East Texas that Lady Bird Johnson, as a young girl, developed her lifelong love of the outdoors, watching wildflowers bloom. As we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to our southern neighbors in need, let us be reminded of Lady Bird Johnson's poignant words about the resilience of the human spirit.

*"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."*



GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

Kent-Valentine House • 12 East Franklin Street • Richmond, VA 23219

[www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org)



ASTER, SEMPLE'S BRANCHING.

“Though the word beautification makes the concept sound merely cosmetic, it involves much more: clean water, clean air, clean roadsides, safe waste disposal and preservation of valued old landmarks as well as great parks and wilderness areas.

To me... beautification means our total concern for the physical and human quality we pass on to our children and the future.”

– Lady Bird Johnson, *speaking at a conservation lecture for the American Institute of Architects in 1968.*

Lady Bird Johnson is well-known for her advocacy for the environment. Her love of wildflowers has inspired their planting along highways across America. She was instrumental in the Highway Beautification Act of 1966 – legislation which has played an important role in the history of the Garden Club of Virginia.

## Aster

### *Symphyotrichum*

A wildflower native to Virginia, the star-shaped aster means love and patience. It grows along highways up and down the northeast, and is beneficial as a pollinator for bees. There are 32 species of aster native to the commonwealth.

The Garden Club of Virginia has been a voice for environmental education, conservation and preservation for nearly 100 years, but our hard work is not complete. Just as early GCV members took on highway beautification, we forge ahead today to challenge the environmental concerns that threaten the preservation of our landscape.

I am most grateful to you, the 3,300 members in our 47 clubs across the commonwealth who continue to maintain our founders’ enthusiastic spirit. It has been a great pleasure as I serve my term to hear the many things our clubs do to promote beautification within your own communities. From organizing educational events to maintaining community gardens, you are part of an extraordinary coalition. Individually, the work is impressive. Collectively, it is most inspiring to see the great accomplishments of the Garden Club of Virginia!

As we move forward to serve our mission in the commonwealth, we appreciate the support that you provide. The GCV Annual Fund supports our Club to make possible all that we do. When we come together, we can achieve great things. Please consider a gift to the Garden Club of Virginia and renew your annual commitment to our mission.

With appreciation,

*Nina Mustard*