

## 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Forum

*by Wendy Vaughn, GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman  
The Princess Anne Garden Club and  
Leslie Leake, GCV Conservation Awards Committee Chairman  
Three Chopt Garden Club*

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Club of Virginia Conservation Forum was held on Oct. 27, 2017, at the Paramount Theater in Charlottesville. Entitled “Fracking in Virginia: From All Perspectives,” speakers shared facts on fracking and its impact on the environment.

The winners of the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation and the Conservation Educator Award were also presented at this event.

Nominated by the Albemarle Garden Club, Maggie and Rod Walker, founders of Blue Ridge PRISM, (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Removal), were presented with the Dugdale Award. Blue Ridge PRISM was established in 2014 as a project of the Shenandoah National Park as the first Cooperative Weed Management Area to be headquartered in Virginia. The collaborative partnership between individual citizens and various public and private agencies is dedicated to reducing the negative impact of non-native invasive plants in a wide geographical area of the Blue Ridge in Virginia.



*Dugdale Award recipients  
Maggie and Rod Walker,  
founders of Blue Ridge  
PRISM (Partnership for  
Regional Invasive Species  
Removal)*



*Conservation Awards  
Chairman Leslie Leake,  
Three Chopt Garden Club,  
and Conservation Educator  
Award winner Jody  
Ullmann, program director  
of Lynnhaven River Now,  
Pearl Programs*

The Conservation Educator Award was presented to Jody Ullmann, program director of Lynnhaven River Now, Pearl Programs. Nominated by the Princess Anne Garden Club, Ullmann’s relationship with teachers, administration, parents and students is inspiring, and her commitment to the Virginia Beach schools has earned her high esteem in the educational and larger Tidewater community. The program she heads is now embedded in the Virginia Beach Public Schools Sustainability Award Process, by which it measures the schools for sustainable activities.

After receiving their awards, each recipient gave a brief and informative talk about their work and contributions to their respective communities. GCV is delighted to celebrate

these award winners for their bold strides to improve upon the preservation of our state’s natural beauty and resources. 🌿

