

2021 Garden Club of Virginia Conservation Award Recipients Announced

The **Conservation Educator Award** recognizes an individual or organization that promotes ideals of conservation through education. The work of the recipient must support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia “to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.”

The Conservation Awards Committee has chosen two recipients: the **Allegheny Mountain Institute**, (below) founded in 2011, which works to cultivate healthy communities through food and education. The Institute was nominated by The Augusta Garden Club.



The second recipient is **Jennifer Erving, Youth Education Specialist at Norfolk Botanical Garden**. Ms. Erving (left) was nominated by the The Garden Club of Norfolk for her work of more than 15 years with children – and some parents – of opening the world of plants to young minds.

Our second award is **The Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation**. Named for the originator of the GCV Conservation Forum, the award is limited to organizations, industries or individuals who are not members of the Garden Club of Virginia. The recipient must have rendered outstanding service in the conservation and

wise development of the natural resources of the Commonwealth. The committee recognized an individual and an organization this year.

The Northern Neck Land Conservancy (right) was nominated by The Garden Club of the Northern Neck. The Northern Neck Land Conservancy has pursued its mission “to preserve the rural heritage of the Northern Neck by conserving its lands, water, economies and culture for future generations” throughout the five counties of the Neck since 2004.



Scenic Virginia Executive Director **Leighton Powell** was nominated by Jeanette McKittrick of Three Chopt Garden Club. Scenic Virginia is the only state conservation organization dedicated solely to the preservation, protection and enhancement of Virginia’s natural beauty. Ms. Powell has steered Scenic Virginia since its founding 21 years ago.

We congratulate these deserving recipients and thank them for all they do to reflect the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.