



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

14 East 60th Street New York, New York 10022-1006
212.753.8287 / www.gcamerica.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: Jennifer Barnette
Chief Operating Officer
The Garden Club of America
212.753.8292
gcamedia@gcamerica.org

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA NAMES THE GARDEN CLUB OF ORANGE AND DUTCHESS COUNTIES 2019 FOUNDERS FUND RUNNER-UP \$10,000 AWARD TO SUPPORT LOCAL PROJECT

The Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties, Poughkeepsie, New York, has been named one of two runners-up for The Garden Club of America (GCA) 2019 Founders Fund Award. The \$10,000 award was announced during the GCA's annual meeting in Boston on May 19. The award will be used to create the Jane Colden Native Woodland Habitat at Trailside Museums and Zoo at Bear Mountain State Park in New York.

The Trailside Museum and Zoo was established in 1927 in collaboration with the American Association of Museums and the American Museum of Natural History and represents the first outdoor nature and science education museum in the United States. Trailside's mission is to educate visitors about local natural history while inspiring curiosity and reflection in nature, exploring the relationship among plants, animals, geology, climate, and natural cycles.

The Founders Fund Award will be used to create a woodland habitat and interpretive visitor materials. Visitors to this section of the Appalachian Trail will walk through native plantings that provide habitat for new exhibits of bobcat, fox, and porcupine, aided by interpretive signs. The project pays tribute to Jane Colden, (1724-1760), America's first woman botanist. Her Botanic Manuscript details over 300 Hudson Valley plants including trees and shrubs.

The other runner-up was the Garden Club of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which will use the funds to complete the Sniff and Savor Garden, a permanent, interactive and inclusive sensory garden at Pittsburgh Botanic garden. Top winner, receiving a \$30,000 award, was Winchester-Clarke Garden Club, Winchester,

Virginia, which will use the funds to ensure the restoration of the wetlands at Abrams Creek Wetland Preserve and provide educational resources for both residents and visitors.

The Founders Fund was established in 1934 to provide monetary awards to projects proposed by GCA-member clubs. The award was endowed in memory of the GCA's first president, Elizabeth Price Martin (Mrs. J. Willis) of Philadelphia, who served from 1913-20. Generous gifts from clubs and individuals since have augmented the fund.

The first award of \$700 was presented in 1936 for English-language publication of the oldest known American herbal, the 1552 Badianus Manuscript, by Johns Hopkins Press. Since then, 87 Founders Fund winners and runners-up have received more than \$1.5 million to save thousands of acres of land and innumerable trees, restore historic landmarks, establish civic plantings, and conduct research and educational projects across the country. Projects are nominated annually by garden clubs that are members of GCA. Individual members of all GCA clubs vote among three finalists selected by a committee of regional representatives.

The GCA is a nonprofit national organization composed of 201 clubs with some 18,000 club members who devote energy and expertise to projects in their communities and across the United States. Founded in 1913, the GCA is a leader in horticulture, conservation, creative arts, historic preservation, and environmental protection.

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