



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

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THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA NAMES GARDEN CLUB OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY AS 2019 FOUNDERS FUND RUNNER-UP

*\$10,000 AWARD WILL SUPPORT PROJECT AT SNIFF AND SAVOR GARDEN AT
PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN*

Boston (May 19, 2019) – Garden Club of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 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. The award will be used to help fund the completion of the Sniff and Savor Garden, a permanent, interactive and inclusive sensory garden at Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is an emerging horticultural institution in Western Pennsylvania. Started as a grassroots effort more than 20 years ago, the garden opened to the public in 2015. The Garden of the Five Senses, which will include the Sniff and Savor Garden, is scheduled for completion by fall 2019, with programming beginning the following spring.

The Founders Fund Award will be used to create a permanent garden incorporating carefully designed and constructed hardscape to contain the aromatic herbs, scented flowers and edible plants in the garden. Smart garden design will create a fully inclusive, accessible sensory garden with multigenerational appeal. The garden joins a handful of public gardens responding to the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Bright colors, soothing sounds, smells, tastes and physical challenges will balance with spaces offering respite and retreat.

The other runner-up was The Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties, Poughkeepsie, New York which will use the funds to create the Jane Golden Native Woodland Garden at Trailside Museums & Zoo at Bear Mountain State Park. 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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