

The March meeting of the Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club was hosted by Pamela Smart, with 14 members present. Linda Millette introduced a guest, Deborah Denreman, a recent retiree from the US government who now lives in Brandywine, MD.

PROGRAM: In lieu of the scheduled speaker who has been rescheduled, President Gilda Allen elicited questions and suggestions from the group on how to solve garden problems. Among the problems (and solutions) submitted were the following: How to handle sawdust from a tree that has been cut down? (Mix in with compost). How to get rid of moss in your lawn (difficult to eliminate; can use a product called "moss out"). How to get rid of wild strawberries and violets (Roundup?); How to get rid of moles (traps, drowning with water from a garden hose, stuffing rose branches with thorns down the holes, etc. etc.) Marilyn Berkut asked for old pillowcases to be used by her grandson to catch snakes for his research. Among the successes mentioned was the revitalization of an orchid plant.

Joyce Myer and Marian Moreland were the March birthdays. Both are very ill and at home; President Allen asked that members visit them and call frequently.

BUSINESS MEETING:

- The February minutes were read and approved. Some responses to the roll call question, "What is your favorite garden," were the St. Louis Botanic Garden, the Ann Marie Gardens in Solomon's Island, the Rose Garden at Hershey Park, and Arminta Donovan's back yard garden.
- Carol Ober treasurer reported that the balance in the club's account is \$828.41
- A list of District 1 awards was read (details to be provided.)
- Julie Harrison has been named Assistant Director for District 1.
- The New NCAGC President's luncheon is to be held on 19 April at the University of Maryland Golf Course Club House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Diana Morse, Conservation, reported on invasive insects such as the Japanese beetle, which can be put in soapy water. Milky Spore can be spread on the lawn to kill the grubs. The alderid beetle causes 95% mortality when it infests a Fraser Fir, a problem especially in the Pacific Northwest. Other pests include the stinkbugs and the emerald ash bore, which can spread rapidly due to lack of predators
- Laurel & Other Plants for winners" was the topic presented by Jessica Sherlock, Horticulture Chair. Laurel wreaths were placed on winners of Greek poetry contests. In the Middle Ages, scholars who won degrees wore laurel wreaths (hence the name, "Baccalaureate.") Winners of some horse races wear wreaths of laurel and roses.
- The Ways and Means chair is still open. Volunteers are welcome.
- Telephone: members were requested to respond quickly to phone calls about meetings. E-vites may be sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Linda Millette collected the orders and payment for the Perennial Plant Sale. ~~Plants will be available at the May meeting at Marybeth Cecil's home.~~ *Picked up at Linda's House day before plant sale.*
- A report on the plans for the club-sponsored trip to Winterthur included the price of \$90, the date—Sunday, 29 September, and features of the trip: a tour of the house, a tram ride through the gardens, and a guided walking tour. President Gilda will send out the invitation/announcement to be available mid-April.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The May plant sale will be 4 May at Julie Harrison's home. Please let her know the hours you will be available to work. Mark all plants with the name and price, and deliver to Julie's home the day before. Plants that don't sell should be delivered to Marybeth Cecil's home, since Julie will be out of town on the day of the sale.

- A proposal was made by Linda Millette to hold the annual end-of-year dinner meeting at the Tea House in LaPlata, MD.
- A proposal was made to hold tours of members' gardens in May instead of April. Iona Black and Pam Smart will plan the tours.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

- The April meeting will be Greenhouse Tours in Gettysburg to be hosted by Anne DeBoeser. Members will carpool to Gettysburg.

Meeting was adjourned at 0900 ; a 50/50 drawing followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary.