

November 15, 2006

To: Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club Members

From: Sonia, Lorraine, Pam, and Diana

Subject: Garden Club Newsletter

### **Homestead Gardens**

Club members decided at our November meeting to visit Homestead Gardens at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, and then go nearby to Killarney's for lunch. Feel free to contact Sonia if you are interested so we can plan luncheon arrangements.

### **Christmas party**

Our club Christmas potluck and gift exchange will be Thursday, December 14, at Marilyn Berkut's home. If you can let Marilyn know by December 10 what your "potluck" will be, she can guide us toward a balanced meal! Gifts are usually in the \$10 range.

### **Club survey**

If you can also fill out and bring your "club member survey sheet," Sonia will use them to enter our club for an NCAFGC state award for outstanding garden club. The survey sheets were handed out at the October meeting.

### **Did You Know**

At the Christmas party, we'll have additional copies from the second printing of this popular (and wonderful gift) book. Lorraine asks that you let her know ahead of time how many copies you want so that she can pick them up. There may not be a third printing.

**Pecans.** Our pecans are expected this Thursday, November 16. Contact Lorraine if you need them before the December meeting.

### **Dahlia Delights**

Suzanne Montie enthralled members at the November meeting with hands-on division of dahlias, flowers for dried arrangements, and a CD of her flower farm. We'll have the opportunity to visit her Red Chimney Farm in Bowie next April. She sells cut flowers from mid-April to mid-November at the Herbert Wells Ice Rink in College Park and the MARC rail station parking lot off Queensbury Road in Riverdale.



### **State Convention in Springfield, Virginia**

April is also the month for the "state" convention of the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, to be at the Springfield Hilton Hotel, in Springfield, Virginia. The convention starts at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 20, and goes to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. This is the first "state" convention held by the National Capital Area in 20 years. It will include workshops, speakers, a chance to get together...and a good hotel rate!

### **Flower Arrangements a Hit With Veterans**

Club members made and delivered 75 small flower arrangements to the nursing home at the Veterans Medical Center in Washington, D.C., in recognition of Veterans Day. Club members report that recipients were delighted and expressed their appreciation for being remembered.

Special thanks go to Mary Beth Cecil for gathering the containers from members and preparing them with oasis; to Gilda Allen for making her basement available and providing treats during the 2-1/2 hour workshop; and to other participants--Mary Jane Bishop, Jackie George, Julie Harrison, Sonia Johnson, Lorraine Leonard, Marian Moreland, and Ann Williams.

### **Hellebores, Anyone?**

Pam Smart has visited Pine Knot Farms along Kerr Lake in Clarksville, Virginia, and recommends it ([www.pineknotfarms.com](http://www.pineknotfarms.com)). She visited it this fall after seeing it mentioned in a Washingtonian magazine article. She plans to go back when the hellebores are in flower. "I would love to take anyone down with me to see it in February, and we could stay at my mother-in-law's home on the lake or I can recommend a few local B&B's," Pam said. The farm is one of the biggest growers of hellebores in the country, ships to 48 states, and sells by wholesale prices. Pam said she got two beautiful, large hellebores for \$7.99 each. A flower show and a great supply of interesting perennials also contribute to the enticement for the 5-hour drive, Pam said.