



CLAY BREAKING NEWS

MOUNT AIRY CLAY BREAKERS GARDEN CLUB

Member of National Capital Area Garden Clubs. The National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 5

Issue 1

Spring 2013

Gilda Allen, President

Telephone # 301 574 4246

Sonia Johnson, Editor

Telephone # 301 627 8613

Arminta Donovan, Co-Editor

Telephone# 301 952 9558

Patricia Hall, Production Assistant

Telephone# 301 952 9067

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Classic Principles of Gardening"

Picture: Courtesy of Gilda Allen.



Gilda Allen: President Mt Airy Clay Breakers.

One of the things I love about gardening is that there is always something to learn, and the more you garden the more you want to learn. There are always new plants and new methods to handle pests, and ways to improve soil and areas of gardening to explore that you haven't yet, like seed saving and growing orchid or installing a rain garden.

Iona and I attended a free all day garden forum called Rooting D.C. in February with about 800 other garden enthusiasts. The aims of the forum was to provide education about urban food production and consumption, cultivate health and preserve the environment through workshops, hands-on demonstrations, round-table discussions and an information fair. They offered 47 different hour long workshops organized into 5 different tracks. The tracks included: a) Start it-gardening for the aspiring grower; b) Eat it-use what you grow i.e. cooking and food preservation techniques; c) Teach it-learn ways to share what you know with others; d) Grow it- hone your skills (workshops for the continuing gardener; e) The big picture- discussions on how growing fits into the broader landscape.

I was inspired to set up a bee hive and install a drip irrigation system for my vegetable garden. I also want to grow shitake mushrooms. I probably won't do these projects this year but I will get to them eventually. Iona learned more about pest identification, maintenance, techniques for pickling and fermentation, how to handle gardening challenges such as deer encroachment, gardening on a slope and poor drainage. Iona and I would like to encourage you to learn more about gardening and to let the club know about learning opportunities that are available, especially those that are free. Next year I plan on letting you know about Rooting DC in time for you to register.

Sincerely,

Gilda Allen, President.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The meeting in January was held at the home of Lorraine Leonard. A program on "Living Roofs and Living Walls", by Jimmy Dick was presented. The film informed of the functions of green roofs and walls which are: The management of storm water; Habitat creation; Reduce heat effect; Present aesthetic appeal; Reduce energy consumption; Extend life of roof membranes. Examples of extensive, intensive roofs and interior, exterior living walls were shown. Plant technology was exemplified in the Dirksen Senate Office Building which consisted of a sedum garden. At the meeting in February which was held at the home of Marian Moreland, Dr. Amy Rossman of the Beltsville USDA Agricultural Research Service Center gave an informative presentation on "Fungi in your garden". Fungi which cover a wide scale of 1.5 million species, obtain nutrition by absorption, and this opportunistic nature makes them efficient at breaking down all kinds of organic and inorganic matter. They are also essential for growth of living plants due to their intimate association with their roots.

HORTICULTURE: Chairman Jessica Sherlock presented an interesting piece on the history of Roses, with mention of the Knock-out rose as an evolution of old world roses.

CONSERVATION: Chairman Diana Morse dealt with the continuing problem of invasive species. The brown tree snakes have been responsible for the disappearance of birds in Guam after World War II. Here in the U.S.A, South Florida has a problem with reptiles like Boa Constrictors, which often times started out as pets, and are released into the wild after they have become unmanageable. Birds such as Swans, the non-native Canada Geese, European Starlings and Cattle Egrets have become a problem. Attention was also paid to invasive mammals like the Brown and Black rats. The Russian or European Boars are doing a lot of damage in the Smokies, and they are hard to control due to their nocturnal nature.

DESIGN: Joyce Meyer, Chairman has been ill. We certainly miss her beautiful designs and interesting presentations. Get well soon Joyce.

PUBLICITY Marian Moreland, Chairman

The following articles were submitted and included in the Monthly Publications of the Marlton Community Advocate.

JANUARY, 2013 Publication

The Mount Airy Clay Breakers met at Iona Black's home in Brookwood. The program for the December meeting was Christmas Pot Luck, Gift Exchange, Ornament Contest and a Brief Meeting. After dinner and gift exchange, handmade ornaments were judged. Winners were Arminta Donovan "Best use of materials", Linda Millette "Simplicity", and Lenay O'Quinn for "Creativity".

Local Students Excel in National Poetry Contest

The Mount Airy Clay Breakers sponsored three children from St. Mary of the Assumption School in Upper Marlboro in the National Garden Club's annual poetry contest. All three children received recognition at the Central Atlantic Region level (composed of Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia Metro area, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania). Kyle Musselman received 1st place among 7th Graders, Amaka Okeke received 2nd place 8th Graders and Ezekial Crampton received honorable mention at the 5th Grade level. The theme for the poetry contest was "Tasty and Colorful Fruits and Vegetables".

Club Won First Place for "Helping Hands" Project

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club was awarded "1st place" by Central Atlantic Region of National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., for "Helping Hands" project.

Green Tips for the Month – Waste Reduction

- . Give the gift of time or talent. Take someone to a play, concert or movie. Make your own gift certificates. Offer your talents like photography or financial planning.
- . Help your friends go green. Give planet-conscious gifts like compost bins, can crushers, water timers, programmable thermostats, rain barrels, bird feeders, light timers or bat house.
- . Keep it simple. One thoughtful gift is better than six wrapped packages of unwanted gifts.
- . Reuse foam peanuts. Most packaging materials for shipping can be used more than once.
- . Make festive recycling bins. They're a great addition for your holiday party and a great activity for kids.
- . Buy outdoor light strands that are wired in parallel. If one bulb goes bad, the others still work, so you won't be throwing away entire "bad" strands.

FEBRUARY, 2013 Publication

The Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club met at the home of Lorraine Leonard, a resident of Marlton, on January 10, 2013. The program's focus was on "Living Roofs and Walls" by Jimmy Dick, a professor at the Community College of Baltimore.

One of the examples he gave is the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. Many more examples were shown in the Baltimore and Virginia areas. The roofs or walls are planted in plant materials such as sedum. One of the benefits is longer life for the roof; it also has many benefits for the environment. Walls may be done exterior or interior. For more info go to : www.smartslope.com.

Green tip for the Month: Saving Energy, Water and Cash!

Apparently, a lot of us have a not-so –little dirty secret: we wash too much laundry! Whether you're only wearing your jeans once before tossing them in the suds or you have a thing about not using towels twice, it adds up. The average family does six to eight loads of laundry a week. Maybe you don't have a family. Either way, there's always a way to do less.

How Often to Wash Clothing Items? Try just washing the things that are next to your skin after one wearing and, wearing everything else a little longer before dunking them in the machine. Some designers have notoriously suggested never washing jeans and Levi's. They recently began encouraging consumers to only wash them once every two weeks. Whether you're willing to marinate that long is up to you, but know it does make the denim, and any fabric you wash less, last longer. Washing less has other great benefits, too. It saves cash, water and energy, especially if you currently wash in warm or hot water and use the dryer.

MARCH, 2013 PUBLICATION

The Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club of Upper Marlboro met on February 14, 2013, at Marian Moreland's home in Brookwood. The program for the evening was "Fungi in your Garden". A Video/Lecture was given by Dr. Amy Y. Rossman, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory, U.S. National Fungus Collections, in Beltsville. Conservation Chairman Diana Morse gave a report on invasive mammals such as black rats and wild boars. Horticulture Chairman Jessica Sherlock reported on Roses from the 1700s up to the present day.

Green Tips for the Month-Combating Energy Thieves

- 1) Do toasters and lamps suck up energy when they are turned off? Unless it has a power adapter, indicator light, standby function, or clock, it's not burning energy.
- 2) The worst energy vampire by far? Your cable box uses half the juice of an Energy Star fridge, even when you're not watching HBO. So plug that cable box into a power strip and switch it off when you're away.
- 3) When you're insulating your home against energy- robbing winter drafts, don't overlook the smaller details. The openings for electric outlets and power switches on some walls can let in cold air in the form of drafts. Fortunately, it's easy to insulate electric boxes or power switches to keep cold air from finding a path way to the interior of the house. The inexpensive, precut insulating foam to insert behind switch and outlet plates can be found where electrical components are sold. In addition, use child safety outlet caps to block air from entering through outlets on exterior walls. All of these small efforts add up.

DISTRICT 1 AWARDS/ INSTALLATION MEETING

District 1 held the annual Awards meeting on March 14, 2013. Clay Breakers Julie Harrison, Linda Millette, Gilda Allen, Mary Beth Cecil and Sonia Johnson were in attendance. Marilyn Navazio, Horticulturist, gave a fascinating presentation on the Gotelli Conifer Collection located at the US National Arboretum. A striking feature of the presentation which was "Perfect Conifers for Urban Gardens and Containers" showed miniature and dwarf conifers- some not more than one foot- growing in containers. A tour of the Conifer Garden brought us up close to some of the most magnificent specimens. There was the example of a "witches broom" an outgrowth from the trunk or a branch, which is an aberration as a result of some kind of mutation or virus. On another note, fellow Clay Breaker Julie Harrison was elected District 1 Assistant Director. Congratulations Julie. Mount Airy Clay Breakers continue to distinguish themselves as a lively and active club. The club was given Awards in the following areas:

- A) Garden Club Yearbook Citation
- B) Printed Club Newsletter Citation
- C) Arbor House Volunteer Citation
- D) Education and Youth Programs
- E) NCAGC Plus one Membership Certificate
- F) Outstanding Garden Club Achievement
- G) Community Projects Citation.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. AWARDS MEETING

The NCAGC held the 2012-2013 Annual Awards at the US National Arboretum. Gilda Allen, Mary Beth Cecil and Lorraine Leonard attended. The Mount Airy Clay Breakers was awarded in the following categories:

- 1) CAR Helping Hands Award
- 2) Youth Horticultural Award
- 3) Poetry Contest
- 4) Outstanding Garden Club
- 5) 35 Anniversary Award
- 6) Arbor House Volunteer
- 7) Membership Increase.

SUMMER CALENDER: 2013

.Friday, April19, NCAGC Installation Luncheon at the University of Maryland Golf Course Clubhouse

.Saturday, May4,District1 and 11 Bus Trip to Delaware's MT. Cuba Native Gardens and Historic New Castle.

.Saturday, May 4, MT. Airy Clay Breakers Plant sale at the home of Julie Harrison.

.Saturday, June 8, District 1 Presidents' Coffee.

.Thursday, June 13, Dinner meeting and Installation of officers of the MT. Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club

There is no such thing as an ordinary flower. Charlotte Gray, 1937.