

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club

September 12, 2013 Meeting

The Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club met on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at the Patuxant Riverkeepers Center on Nottingham Road in Upper Marlboro. Marilyn Berkut was the hostess and the club members and guest enjoyed drinks and delicious snacks before the business meeting and program.

Attendance - Thirteen members were present: Gilda Allen, Elaine Arnold, Marilyn Berkut, Iona Black, Jackie George, Julie Harrison, Lorraine Leonard, Marion Moreland, Linda Millette, Lenay O'Quinn, Jessica Sherlock, and Pam Smart. Lorraine volunteered to take the minutes for Esther.

Program - Lorraine Leonard introduced the Speaker, Frederick Tutman, the Patuxant Riverkeeper since 2004. He told the club about his background, working in the media for many years, law school and environmental activism. He also included information about his long family history in the area, going back seven generations. He described the various trials and successes involving the health of the Patuxant River and told the group how volunteers are involved. He presented the evolution and international aspects of the Riverkeeper and Waterkeeper Alliance Program. He provided club members with Riverkeeper membership brochures, the Biannual Patuxant River Report Card and related newsletters.

Correspondence and Social - Birthdays of Arminta and Elaine were noted. A thank-you card from Elaine for the life membership in the NCAGC, Inc. was read. Elaine read a note from Sonia explaining her health situation. Sonia hopes to be back participating with the club in the spring.

Committee Reports -

Civic Development - Program Co-Chair, Pam Smart, presented work done to date on the Holloway Park entry garden. Rather than work parties, she proposed club members help out with the garden maintenance whenever they have time. There was a discussion about the merits of "work parties" versus individuals. Co-chair, Jessica will get some plants from Tanglewood Nursery, where she works, and Pam will plant them and let the group know how they can help.

Design - Julie demonstrated an idea for a quick table centerpiece based upon the repetitive principle of three clear plastic cups filled with whatever was available and looked good, on three coasters on a table runner or long piece of cloth. Julie said she'll be concentrating on quick and easy design ideas for this year's monthly design programs.

Horticulture - Jessica gave a short presentation on orchids, including history, variety, care of orchids and her experience while working with these plants.

Publicity - Lorraine said she is trying to follow Marian's lead in having something in the Marilton Advocate each month. Gilda suggested aiming to get something in *The Capital Gardener* (the NCAGC, Inc. quarterly magazine). Lorraine said she will try as she has to aim for that deadline anyway with Arbor House Volunteer news.

Ways and Means - Linda reported that she is waiting on more information regarding the flower arrangement sale at the St. Thomas Church (Croom Road) Fall Festival, week before Thanksgiving.

Old Business

- a. The group going to Winterthur would be leaving at 9:00 am on Sunday, Sept. 22. Those going will coordinate with each other regarding carpools, etc.
- b. Gilda, on behalf of the whole club, thanked Jackie for hostessing the club picnic in August.
- c. Gilda asked if any in the club had participated in the horticulture portion of the PG County Fair. No one present had.

New Business

- a. Gilda passed out the new yearbook and thanked the club for helping her, particularly Carol, Linda, Iona, Elaine, and Lorraine. She thanked Jessica for designing the cover of the program booklet.
- b. Gilda mentioned that a club member had agreed to help with paying half of the fee for Dean Norton to come and speak to our club on the gardens of Mt. Vernon.
- c. The suggestion regarding combining the installation of officers with a garden tea party was tabled until next month.
- d. Gilda said our club was responsible for a portion of the food for the next District I meeting on Sept. 20. She said she would bring drinks and asked for volunteers for cookies.
- e. Announcements were made regarding upcoming local and NCAGC events.
 - 1. The Central Atlantic Region (CAR) conference would be held late in October at the Pooks Hill, Bethesda Marriot. This is a good deal for local garden club members as they can attend for \$10 which includes parking.
 - 2. PG County Beautification Awards are on Sept. 25 for those attending.
 - 3. District I is meeting at Franklin's Restaurant (anytime during the day) in November, as a fundraiser. More info to follow.
- f. Save your cans for the Veteran's Day flower arrangements. Club is hoping to make 20 -25 arrangements.
- g. Iona suggested an Arbor House Trunk Sale at next club meeting. Lorraine said she would talk to Mary Beth about it and said November might be the best month to have it.

Linda Millette won the 50/50.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Lorraine Leonard