

2012

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Club met on 10 May at the home of President Julie Harrison. Attending were 22 members and one visitor.

Program: Club members created seasonal table settings with china and floral arrangements. Julie Harrison's table, with angels, holly, ivy, and Spode holiday china, demonstrated how a wine and cheese Christmas buffet might look. Lenay O'Quinn's table consisted of a Franciscan Desert Rose china place setting with a rose and fern arrangement, suitable for a summer luncheon. And Marsha Kirchof's breakfast table displayed Royal Winton china in their chintz pattern, with a peony arrangement. Ann DeBoeser demonstrated unique arrangements using Egyptian onion stalks together with arum italicum, peony, and iris from her garden.

*from Arminia
Donovan's garden*

Visitor: Ms. Danielle Barbazon, now District 1 president, explained the District 1 leadership hierarchy and the offices she held before becoming president. She announced the District 1 President's Coffee to be held at the Oxon Hill home of Shirley Nicolai, President of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the 9 June Behnke's Day, a fundraiser for Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD. She mentioned several fall events: District 1 will host the 13 September meeting at 10:00 at Arbor House and on 10 October a Morning of Design will be presented by the Tanta Cove Garden Club. Applications for the Perennial Bloom Award will open in August.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Carol Ober reported a \$401 profit on the 5 May plant sale, making a total of \$1,423.72 in the club's bank account.

Civic Development: MaryBeth Cecil offered to remind the County Parks and Recreation office that the area in the Edge of the Woods Garden needs mowing.

Conservation: Diana Morse gave suggestions how to create, maintain and preserve wetlands: buying special stamps at the post office, volunteer to monitor wetlands, get advice from state and local experts, such as those at the Patuxent River Park, and research USDA publications on how to develop a wetland.

Floral Design: Linda Millette continued her discussion on the principles of design: rhythm, contrast, balance, proportion, dominance, gradation, and scale.

Horticulture: Elaine Arnold discussed butterflies—jewels of the garden. There are 104 species of butterflies in Prince George's County alone. She gave tips on how to attract butterflies to a garden by planting nectar plants en masse and at different heights, and by growing caterpillar plants such as parsley and dill, which attract the black swallowtail butterfly, and milkweed, which attracts the Monarch butterfly. Butterflies need sunny spots and a water source. They are attracted to rotting fruit as well. Avoid pesticides on butterfly plants. Brookside Gardens has a butterfly conservatory. Elaine distributed an informative handout to members. She also announces a garden tour in Bowie on 19 May that will feature a variety of ecological themed yards, along with the flea market also on 19 May at the Lions Park in Cheltenham.

Sunshine: May birthdays of Jessica, MaryBeth, and Diana were acknowledged.

Publicity: Marian Moreland suggested that next year we advertise our plant sale in a local paper.

Old Business:

Future Club Project: Landscaping of the Youth Center/home for foster children in Clinton. Gilda Allen will continue to research a solution for landscaping a portion of the 24-acre property by finding funding resources of \$3,000, dealing with the overgrown vegetation, and identifying the areas to be planted. Applying for a grant and using volunteers were suggestions on how to resolve some of the challenges.

Current Club Project: It was recommended that the club project for the after school program at the Concordia Lutheran Church be the development of a butterfly garden. The club would sponsor planting native shrubs that will attract butterflies. Some maintenance would be required, but Gilda Allen mentioned that teaching aides are available.

A motion was made and seconded to investigate the purchase of a small projector for the club use in presenting programs. Pat Hall volunteered to research information and options for this equipment.

Linda Millette, chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers for the 2012-2013 year. All were approved:

President, Gilda Allen; Vice President, Iona Black, Corresponding Secretary, Jackie George; Recording Secretary, Arminta Donovan; Treasurer, ~~Pam Smart~~; Historian, Pam Smart.

Carol Over

Julie proposed that the club sponsor a yard sale in September. Another option would be to have a table at the Lion's Club flea market (cost is \$20.00).

Mary Woodruff volunteered to develop and maintain a club website at a cost of \$99 per year. Iona Black moved and Elaine Arnold seconded the motion to consider supporting this project. Mary will give a presentation on the website and some of its proposed features at a future meeting.

Upcoming Events: The June meeting will be held on 7 June at the Mama Stella's restaurant in Clinton, starting at 6:00 pm. The cost of the meal will be \$19.50.

Proposed and awaiting confirmation was a 12 June tea for Esther Neckere's retirement at the Royal Tea in La Plata, MD.

Linda Millette won the 50/50 raffle. Julie Harrison gave each member a Coral Bells plant. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary