

# Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club - Spring 2019



Flowers from  
Garden of Dot Lower

## Message from our President – Esther Neckere

AS I drove along the fields in my Midwestern home states of North Dakota and Minnesota, one of the most beautiful sights was a field of sunflowers, each of the hundreds of golden heads following the sun's rays throughout the day. Useful as well as beautiful, I find sunflowers inspiring. Despite the insects, tornadoes, rain, hail, and wind storms that visit the prairies, they stand erect, facing whatever happened, to end up with a crop that helps feed birds and people alike. During my tenure as president these past two years, challenges I faced were mitigated by garden club members who, like sunflowers, stood firm and ready to turn a dark problem to a sunny solution. Thank you all for your dedication and, when I asked for help, said "yes."



Speaking of sunflowers, here are a few suggestions on how you might brighten your garden with one of the following varieties:

The "Mammoth" variety is the traditional giant sunflower, sometimes growing to more than 12 feet tall. Its seeds are excellent for snacks and bird feeders, too.

"Autumn Beauty": One of the most spectacular, the "Autumn Beauty" has many 6 inch flowers in shades of yellow, bronze, and mahogany on branching stems up to 7 feet tall.

"Sunrich Gold": A great flower for bouquets and arrangements, this sunflower grows to be about 5 feet tall and produces a single 4-to 6-inch flower. The big, no-mess pollenless flowers have rich, golden-yellow petals and green yellow centers.

"Teddy Bear": Just 2 to 3 feet tall, this small sunflower is perfect for small gardens and containers. The fluffy, deep gold, 5-inch blossoms last for days in a vase.

Source: The Old Farmer's Almanac



Editors: Mary Woodruff & Pamela Smart  
Photos by Pamela Smart

January 2019



Presenter Colin Dunphry of Wyoming Farm, LLC gave us for the history of Wyoming Farm. Colin is bringing the farm into the present with the planting of Chinese Chestnuts and PawPaw trees. We learned that the farm in Clinton was originally the home of William Madison of the case *Marbury v. Madison* - an important case in U.S. History that established judicial review. Colin's plan for the farm is to make it into an AgriTourism Farm bringing agriculture, education and tourism to the Prince George's County area. Colin hold's Balkan festivals at the farm and plans to use the tobacco barn and farmland for weddings in the future.



Chestnut and PawPaw Orchard



Wyoming Farm Farmhouse

Wyoming Farm, LLC

[www.wyoming.farm](http://www.wyoming.farm)



## January 2019



Lorraine Leonard showed us various ways that we can use bottles to add color and decoration to our tables. Just simple items around our home, such as perfume bottles, wine bottles, etc. can be used to beautify our homes. Thank you Lorraine!

Iona Black, Secretary and  
Lorraine Leonard



Thank you to our  
Hostess,  
Carol Ober for hosting  
the January meeting  
at her home.







## February 2019

February's Meeting was hosted by Elaine Arnold at Concordia Lutheran Church of Upper Marlboro.

The Guest Speaker was Greg Kearns, at Patuxent River Park, Croom, Upper Marlboro, MD showing the more recent advancement of wild rice which took a nose dive in the mid 1980's. He has been working tirelessly to bring it back over several 1000 acres.



Garden Club members Deborah Determan, Lucille Gwynn, Arminta Donovan and Julie Harrison enjoying Mr. Kearns' presentation.





## March 2019

We held our meeting and potluck luncheon at the Chapel of the Incarnation in Brayndywine, MD. Our speaker was a soil scientist from the Natural Resources Conservation Services, a statewide organization. Lunch dishes included Pam's lemon, orzo and meatball soup, Carol's delightful strawberry salad, Arminta's sandwiches and Connie's Mexican salad to name a few.



Arminta and Mary Beth, Larry, Connie and Diana enjoying the presentation and luncheon.



Nandina Arrangement created by Pam



## Mount Airy Clay Breaker Garden Club Awards District I Awards – 2018

Council Members Citation

Philanthropy

Outstanding Garden Club Achievement

Outstanding Garden Club Yearbook

Outstanding Club Newsletter

Community Garden Projects Citation

### CONGRATULATIONS TO PAMELA SMART FOR RECEIVING THE BUSY BEE AWARD FOR HER 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR GARDEN CLUB!

Pam monitors and takes great care of our gardens at Holloway Park. We are blessed to have her gorgeous photography for our newsletters and website providing a history of our meetings and events.

Pam is instrumental in finding our highly qualified speakers for meetings.

Not only all of this, Pam also creates and delivers beautiful flower arrangements as well as solicits and distributes our members beautiful flower arrangements to historic homes!

This is only a snapshot of all Pam does for our Garden Club!

Pam with a Great Horned Owl



Diana Morse receiving the NCAGC State Award on behalf of the Mount Airy Garden Club for an Outstanding Electronic Newsletter.





## 2019 Meeting Schedule

April - Homestead Gardens  
Stop Those Four-Footed Munching Machines

May - Home of Iona Black  
Club Planning - Annual Plant Exchange

June - Hanobi Japanese Grill  
Installation of New Officers and Recognition of  
Members - 4:30 p.m.

July - Garden Club Picnic

## UPCOMING EVENTS – 2019

May 9<sup>th</sup> - Tour of Members' Gardens



## Asparagus - Scents and Non-Scents



It's spring - time for asparagus!

The Romans were passionate about asparagus, plucked shoots from the wild and, over time, domesticated the plant.

Wherever Roman legions marched, the asparagus followed. The plant was sown along the Mediterranean and then in France. It later spread to England and to other parts of Northern Europe.

Rulers spared no expense, sending chariots and fast runners from the Tigris River for the Alps, where the stalks were frozen in the snow for six months, then returned to Rome for the Feast of Epicurus, held in February.

Asparagus in its early days was the province of the wealthy.

It virtually disappeared during the Middle Ages except in convent and monastery gardens.

It was rediscovered during the Renaissance and began to appear in markets. It continued to be relished by nobility. King Louis XIV could feast on asparagus in December thanks to the "hot beds" in the palace gardens.

A member of the lily family that includes onions and leeks, asparagus had the reputation of healing and sexual powers.

It's one major liability--the distinctive scent it induced in urine. Its study led to the discovery of the first amino acid in 1806. The latest thinking is that when we eat asparagus, a sulfur compound in the vegetable is, in most bodies, converted to a highly pungent chemical related to skunk spray, Denker wrote.

Agronomists are now attempting to breed a white asparagus that, unlike earlier efforts, would thrive in American soil.

Diana Morse

Source: *The Carrot Purple, and Other Curious Stories of the Food We Eat,* by Joel Denker.



African Violet gracing the home of Pam Smart