

# Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club

## Breaking News

Winter 2016



### Calendar of Upcoming Events



Feb 11  
Monthly Meeting

Mar 10  
Monthly Meeting

Mar 12  
District 1 Spring Meeting/Awards

Apr 14  
Monthly Meeting

May 12  
Monthly Meeting

Notes:

Annual Dues: March

Annual Plant Sale: May

Annual Plant Exchange:  
May

Editors: Lenay O'Quinn  
and Deborah Determan.  
Next edition will be  
published April 2016.  
Send input to Lenay and  
Deborah by April 6th,

## Earth's Treasures

I didn't receive a horticultural article this quarter, so instead am including photos of the Iris and Geranium Esther still had blooming in December and early January! Hope you enjoy (and consider writing an article for the horticulture section next quarter).



Photos provided by Esther Neckere

Adkins Arboretum near Ridgely, MD offers many adult programs, including a Guided Walk the first Saturday of the month. Check out their website [http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/programs\\_events/index.html](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/programs_events/index.html)

The [2016 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series](#) will kick off on February 5 this year with [Dr. Ayanava Majumbar](#)'s presentation '[Don't Let the Insects Eat Your Vegetables](#).' All webinars are scheduled for the first Friday of the month at 1PM. It's best to log in and watch it live, you can use the chat box to ask questions and add comments. All webinars in the series will be recorded, so you can watch them any time. To watch a webinar, just log in as a guest 15 minutes before the webinar begins using the link: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/fireant>

University of Maryland's Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) has lots of pamphlets and even a "Ask the Experts" at <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic>

## Educational Opportunities

## President's Corner

From gardening for the Anacostia river project to assisting with the pollinator garden at the community pool, and helping the Community Support System with the vegetable garden. Plus a couple trips/tours are in the planning process. We have an exciting year planned ahead of us.

*Lenay*

## Advocate for Youth Gardens...Gilda has award named after her!

At the annual *Maryland Nature Play Space* workshop this year held in Gaithersburg, MD, Gilda Allen, Vice-President of the Mt. Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club made a presentation on "Nature Play in Your Yard." She shared the inspiring story of a beautiful, low cost one-half acre woodland play space she created for her grandson, and its multi-faceted use -- including the installment of pollinator, herb and vegetable gardens. Other workshop presentations addressed a high end public space around the Baltimore Harbor and mid-priced public space in Gaithersburg, which was visited by attendees.

Because of Gilda's passion and commitment for youth gardens, the *D.C. Public Schools Healthy Schools Act Initiative* named the best school garden award, the "Gilda Allen Best School Garden Award." She was both a pioneer and strong advocate for the Washington D.C.'s environmental education movement, and laid the groundwork for school gardens in the city.



Exceptional **Fabulous** *Fantastic*  
CONGRATULATIONS  
*Fantastic* **Fabulous**  
Terrific **OUTSTANDING**  
*Fabulous* **OUTSTANDING** *Exceptional*  
**Terrific**



Congratulations Gilda on this  
Recognition for your hard work and  
commitment to youth gardens!

## St Thomas Church Fundraiser

Our fund-raising event at St. Thomas's Church Fall Festival was, again, a success!! Each year (this was the third) has brought in more for our coffers than the year before. This year we cleared \$325.00!!

THANK YOU to Arminta and Elaine for their help in the set-up, pricing and selling; and to Pat for managing the money AND encouraging vendors and those standing around to purchase our remaining displays at a discount.

A VERY BIG **THANK YOU** to the following for your generosity of money and time in creating the interesting and beautiful arrangements:

Arminta, Elaine, Jackie, Pam, Lenay, Connie, Joyce, Gilda, Pat, Julie, and Lorraine. Your talents shown. The table was beautiful, and we seem to get better each year.

*Linda*



Top Left: Joyce Meyer at our Arrangement Table

Top Right: Arminta Donovan, Linda Millette and Elaine Arnold

Bottom Left: Arrangement Table



## **A NEW EXPERIENCE**

**by Linda Millette**

It was Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a mild day, and the Fall foliage was absolutely beautiful, as Julie Harrison and I traveled to Gettysburg, PA for “A Floral Explosion” and the 2015 Central Atlantic Region Conference (“CAR,” as it is often referred to). This was a “first” experience for both of us.

The trip took only an hour and 45 minutes. We settled into our room at the Wyndham Hotel, where the conference was being held, and then went down to the area where events would take place over the next two days. Vendors were still setting up in their room and floral displays lining the corridor and representing each of the five states were not yet completed. Because we had not chosen to do any of the optional tours, we realized that we could have driven up Monday morning. (Just something to keep in mind for the future.)

We shared a gourmet duck dinner in the lovely dining room and then retired for the night.

Monday began two days of meals and events that we rated as 5 stars. The only negative for several of us was that on the last day, the room hosting the dinner and speakers was freezing, and it seemed to take forever for the Wyndham powers-that-be” to get the temperature back up.

We had made plans to meet up with Anne DeBoeser Monday for lunch. Anne took us to a favorite place, and we had good food and laughter and did some catching up. It was good to see her. Before Anne left, we all admired the amazing state floral displays (Maryland’s was “Fireworks over Annapolis”) and educational exhibits set up in the corridor and then went into the Vendor Boutique, which had everything from clothing to Christmas crafts/decorations, paintings and cards; gardening and floral arranging items. There were a few others, but I can’t remember them all. (We have to admit, we left a LITTLE money in there.) Anne had not registered for the conference but had a good time seeing old acquaintances and was glad to see the floral arrangements.

By 6 p.m. we were dressed up and at the Cocktail Reception in the corridor, where we ran into other NCGAC members who had come that day.

The opening banquet included the welcoming speech, Recognition of Honorees, Awards Presentation, a wonderful meal, and a delightful speaker: Horticulturalist, Donald W. Hyatt. His topic was “Things I Tried that Died.” It was most entertaining with lots of laughter!!

Tuesday morning we attended the General Session meeting, which was informative and sometimes hilarious. They held a Memorial Service, gave out more awards, had reports from the State Presidents and, lastly, the hilarious chorus line made up of representatives from New York, sang craziness to the tune of “New York, New York,” and urged us to come to Saratoga Springs in 2016 for the CAR Conference. They promised a beautiful setting and another good experience. They provided us with laughter, and that’s always good.

The “Design Luncheon Program” was tasty, allowed for interesting discussion with ladies at our table, and was wonderfully interesting with laughter sprinkled through it, due to the designer, Tony Todesco, as he created floral designs using all types of containers and structures while providing comedic vocalizations. If you EVER get to experience Tony, PLEASE take advantage of it. Amazing!!!

Immediately after the luncheon program, many headed for one or two workshops: “Monarchs and Pollinators- Plant and They Will Come!” by Marcy Cunkelman – creator of “Cunkelman’s Safe Haven,” and photographer; and “Great Gardens, Less Work” with George Weigel, PA Certified Horticulturist, writer and presenter.

## A NEW EXPERIENCE (continued)

After another cocktail reception, we attended the final evening's banquet with great food, more award presentations, reports and the final VERY INTERESTING program: "Building Green Infrastructure" with Tom J. Hylton, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of Save Our Lands, Save Our Towns, where "he makes a powerful plea for comprehensive planning to save our cities, towns, and countryside." Then, came the Benediction and the end to our first CAR Conference.

I think it was during the drive back (in the rain) that I asked Julie a question I had saved up for this part of the journey: Please, what exactly is CAR? Seem strange that I left this until the end??! Hey! I chose to just enjoy what was happening. So, for you in the club, who like me, have never focused on the CAR organization, here's the scoop:

The Central Atlantic Region (CAR) is the umbrella organization for the states in it's region: NY, NJ, DE, MD, OH, PA, and the National Capital Area and their garden clubs (NCAGC) When a conference is held, State Presidents, and members, plus delegates, alternates, and guests may register to attend. To help us understand, Julie has provided the following organizational chart.

Now that you have a sense of what a CAR conference is: put this on your "bucket list" and choose to attend one. It's a very interesting and fun time.



Top Left: Linda Millette and Anne DeBoeser

Top Right: Display

Bottom Right: Julie Harrison and Linda Millette



## Two Entries for National Garden Clubs Youth Contests

Our club is sponsoring both Emma A. Leonard and Kyle Musselman for the National Garden Club's Youth Contests. The theme for the poetry contest this year was "Croaking Leaping Frogs" and Emma's poem is below for your enjoyment. She is in the 8th grade and goes to school in Acton, MA. (She is a figure skater, also!) The theme for the essay contest was "Don't Let the Frogs Croak" and Kyle took some time during his Christmas vacation to write an essay for the contest. (Club members may remember Kyle, as he's entered his container garden in the PG County Beautification Contest for the last few years.) He's a Junior at Bishop McNamara HS in Forrestville. He's hoping to go in the medical profession. We're so glad these two young people put out the effort to share their writing talents. We wish them well at the next level of competition at the Central Atlantic Region (CAR) level. They will compete with entries from NY, NJ, OH, and PA.

### A Day at Frog Pond

Morning mists rise  
Sunshine dappling through oak leaves  
Flickering surprise!  
Peace broken, a splash, and one sees  
Green legs leaping!

Clear sand bottom  
Thick tadpole tails parting weedgrass  
Kids cry got'em!  
No, short fast swimmers safely pass  
and stay in hiding!

Lazy day turns  
Dusk blanketing the peaceful pond  
Concentric churns  
Break the blue surface's still bond  
Frogs all leaping!

Night settles down  
Fireflies light the eve's croaking choir  
Eyes all around  
Frogs cloaked in formal green attire  
Chorus peeping!



Emma A Leonard





**Photos of Flower Arrangements in Photobucket to Brighten up your Winter!**





## INVASIVES (last in the series)

Key Code	Scientific Name	Common Name
2	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
2, 3	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
2	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
1, 3	<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Garlic
2, 3	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain Berry
2, 3	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
2	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry
1, 2, 3	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Plumeless Thistle
1, 2, 3	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
2	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
2	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted Knapweed
1, 2, 3	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle
1, 2, 3	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle
2	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive
2	<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy
2	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Daylily
1, 4	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed
2	<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Japanese Hops
2	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle
2	<i>Lonicera maaackii</i>	Amur Honeysuckle
2	<i>Lonicera morrowi</i>	Morrow's Honeysuckle
2	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian Honeysuckle
1, 2	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
2	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese Stiltgrass
2	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Eulalia
2, 3	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Perilla
1, 2, 3	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Phragmites
2	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese Knotweed
2	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	Mile-a-minute
2, 3	<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i>	Kudzu
2, 3	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford'	Callery/Bradford Pear
2, 3	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
2, 3	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose
1, 3	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Shattercane
1, 2, 3	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass

### Invasive Species of Concern in Maryland: Terrestrial Plants

#### Key code

1. Currently Regulated by state and/or federal law
2. Widely recognized by biologists and natural resource managers to degrade natural resources and/or negatively impact native species
3. Known to have a negative economic impact on agricultural or natural resources
4. Known or potential negative impacts on human (or animal) health

Information courtesy of The Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC)  
[http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invasive\\_species\\_md.html](http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invasive_species_md.html)



Another invasive to watch out for: Wavyleaf basketgrass, *Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *Undulatifolius*—**highly invasive** grass discovered in Maryland. The seeds are very sticky and moved around easily.



## Next 3 Months in the Garden

### February Gardening

- ◆ Keep bird feeders stocked this month. Natural sources of food are at their lowest point.
- ◆ Plant bareroot stock as weather and soil conditions permit.
- ◆ Prune flowering deciduous trees/shrubs that bloom later in the season (June and later). These trees produce flowers from wood produced in current season (Butterfly bush, Rose of Sharon).
- ◆ Early blooming plants can be pruned to clean out dead wood and suckers. Other types of pruning now may remove flower buds. Eg. Barberries, magnolias, mountain ash, dogwoods, redbuds.
- ◆ Prune narrow leafed evergreens to improve shape and clean out winter damaged branches. e.g. yews, junipers and arborvitae.
- ◆ Now is the time for dormant oil sprays on fruiting trees like apples, cherries, and pears. Smother egg masses and overwintering pests like aphids, thrips and scales.
- ◆ Sow seeds indoors or in hotbed: celery, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, and rhubarb; and herbs like fennel, parsley, chives.

### March Gardening

- ◆ Get your soil tested in your home landscape and add appropriate fertilizers.
- ◆ Set out natural slug bait. You will start to see more slug activity this month.
- ◆ Get a jump on weeds. Pull weeds like shot weed before they finish seeding.
- ◆ Increase fertilization and water of indoor plants to coincide with increase in light levels.
- ◆ Repot root bound plants. If water drains through the plant before it can absorb the water it is time to transplant. Move up 2 inches in pot size. Pinch and prune houseplants.
- ◆ Early in the month is the last chance for dormant pruning fruit trees. You still have some time to prune back diseased wood, suckers, and crossing limbs.
- ◆ Mid-month start planting warm weather vegetables like eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes.
- ◆ Transplant fruit trees from your favorite grower now as dormant bare root plants.
- ◆ Sow seeds outdoors when soil temperatures at or above: lettuce, peas, carrots, swiss chard and beets (40F), leeks, onion, and spinach (45F), turnips, radishes and Asian greens (50F).

### April Gardening

- ◆ Plant perennials, flowering shrubs and vines now.
- ◆ There is still time to plant summer flowering bulbs like gladiolus, iris and crocosmia.
- ◆ Trees, shrubs and vines may be planted but avoid bareroot stock now. Stick with container grown plants.
- ◆ Lawn mowing will begin. Keep lawns between 1-2 inches in the spring and don't allow to get higher than 3 inches if possible.
- ◆ Increase fertilization and water of indoor plants as light levels increase causing increased growth.
- ◆ Prepare plants for their trip outdoors. Do not leave them overnight until two weeks after the last frost date.
- ◆ Keep your eye out for the arrival of aphids. Ants usually bring aphids out early from their nests where they overwinter.
- ◆ Apples are blossoming now so if you have had problems with Codling Moth larvae now is the time to set out traps. Watch out for peach tree borers in peach, plums, cherries, apricots.

