

The Mount Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met on 13 March 2014 hosted by Dot Lower with 10 members and one guest (Connie Andrews) present. Kudos were given to Linda Millette for her leadership in compiling information for the "Lots to Shout About" project on garden club contributions to the community. Other membership announcements included Sonia Johnson's resignation from the club, Joyce Myer's return home, and Armanda Donovan's husband Dan, who is critically ill.

**PROGRAM:** The meeting was opened by Gilda Allen, who introduced the evening's speaker, Michael J. Raupp, Professor of Entomology at UMD. Dr. Raupp is the "Bug Guy" on the local radio station WTOP and has appeared on the Good Morning America show. He opened his presentation with facts about insects in the world around us—Comparatively speaking, in terms of time, bugs have been around for 1 year, humans, 2.4 hours. Humans share 80% of their genes with insects. Bugs provide ecosystem services, such as pollination (crucial for food production), links in the food chain (serve as food for birds), and biological control (i.e. ladybugs who eat aphids). Dr. Raupp followed introduction with a slide show of bees in and other insects in their role as pollinators in and around flowers in his garden.

**PRESIDENT'S REQUEST:** In response to the president's request to bring ideas for growing the club, the following suggestions were offered:

- More community oriented projects such as the Concordia School garden, but with a new focus. Program/project on removal of invasive species.
- Focus on mission statement: Education, environmental stewardship, design, and flower show participation
- Maintain camaraderie among members by getting together socially. More gardening-oriented workshops
- Take advantage of training opportunities at University of Maryland and other events as listed on handout.
- Use our own members as speakers
- More emphasis on design
- Create garden club publicity with educational projects in the community such as displays in local libraries, provide information on vegetable growing/nutrition
- Field trips
- Take advantage of Prince George's county bulb program, classes/workshops, planting vegetables, rainbarrel project

## BUSINESS MEETING

- Order forms and checks for purchasing plants from the Shelby Fund Raiser were due to Linda Millette. Members are encouraged to note and/or report on how plants purchased in previous years perform in their gardens.
- Club dues of \$25 for the coming year are now due. Please see Carol Ober if you have not yet paid.
- City of Bowie Gardens for Wildlife program will be held on 20 March, and a film "Symphony of the Soil" will be given on 27 March. See Elaine Arnold for more information
- Marian Moreland recommended considering pesticide-free "See's" brand sweets when purchasing Easter candy.
- Application forms for Prince George's County Beautification Awards will soon be available. Please see Iona Black for further information.
- Plan to attend the University of Maryland Training Day, sponsored by the Extension Service. See Deborah Determan if you have questions.
- The next meeting will be held on 10 April at the Concordia Lutheran Church hosted by Linda Millette. Anne DBoeser will give a presentation on floral design.
- Club plant sale will be held on 26 April—the last Saturday in the month, at Julie Harrison's. Now is the time to start seedlings or cuttings.
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- The May meeting, Plant Exchange and Floral Design, scheduled for 8 May, has been changed to 1 May.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m followed by a 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

*Esther Neckere*

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary