

MT. AIRY CLAY BREAKERS GARDEN CLUB
MINUTES - February 9, 2006

The Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Vice President, Marian Moreland in place of Mary Jane Bishop who was ill.

Julie Harrison gave us an interesting talk on Herbs, which covered the history, definition and type of herbs available as well as the following areas:

- 1- Herbs recommended for beginners
- 2- Tips for growing herbs indoors & outdoors
- 3 -How to dry, freeze and store herbs

We were given photocopies of sheets containing the above-mentioned information and outlines of the description, culture, harvesting and the use of various herbs. Two books on the topics were made available for our viewing. Julie also shared with us samples of Cinnamon Butter, Parsley Chive Butter and Rosemary Cookie Bars. Elaine brought a Jelly of Purple Basil which we also sampled.

REFRESHMENTS were provided by Jackie Pugh. Twelve members and a second time visitor Dorothy Ann Shaffer were at the Meeting.

The MINUTES of the previous Meeting were read and approved with no corrections or additions.

TREASURER'S REPORT - There was no report due to the absence of the Treasurer.

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT - Lorraine brought us up-to-date on the activities of District I. She told us that the District had voted to give \$100.00 to the Anacostia Garden Club. She also informed us that the District is planning a bus trip to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens in June. She also encouraged us to attend the Annual Awards to be held on March 9, 2006. We were reminded of the Club's commitment to a contribution of \$68.00 to the Penny Pines Project. Lorraine suggested that the balance needed to get to this amount could be taken from the Club's reserve. She therefore moved that we write a check for \$68.00 payable to the project and deposit what is already collected to the Club's account. This motion was unanimously endorsed by the members.

Marian made an observation that absent members be brought

up-to-date of the Meetings. She suggested that some members could volunteer to call them after the Meetings.

HORTICULTURE - Arminta spoke to us about Helebores or Lenten Roses. She said they come in colors of White, Pink and Purple with the White tending to turn Chartreuse. They bloom from February thru April but can go into June. Despite being toxic, gardeners everywhere appreciate the Helebores. She pointed out that good drainage is important. When planting, a shady site should be selected and allow a foot between specimens. They are propagated from seeds and do not divide well.

CONSERVATION - Gilda brought our attention a Storm Water Management Study conducted by the EPA which revealed that only a small percentage of the population knows that storm water ends up in the river. This could explain the reason why people sweep leaves into storm drains. This is an example of non-point source pollution which she said is a greater problem than the source point pollution which is heavily regulated. Rain water when running off tends to pick up oil and leaves. She discouraged us in the use of too much fertilizer which adds to this kind of pollution. She impressed upon us the need to share this knowledge with others. She also mentioned that Prince Georges Beautification Committee provides trees for public projects to replace ^{those} lost in a storm. In keeping with conservation, Marian pointed out that electricity can be saved by unplugging Cell Phone chargers when they are not in use.

WAYS AND MEANS - Pam said that the date of the Plant Sale has been set for April 29, 2006 at St. Paul's Moravian.

OLD BUSINESS - Pam threw out a suggestion of hosting an earlier picnic on July 22. Marian said that she had spoken to the lady who operates the Royal Tea Room. She said she would be glad to have us on February 17 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Marian suggested having our Lunch Social at 11:00 AM on March 24 at North Beach.

NEW BUSINESS - Marian also reminded us that Dues were payable in March.

The Meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Johnson
Sonia Johnson, Recording Secretary