

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club

Breaking News

Summer 2016



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Aug 20

Annual Picnic

Sep 8

Monthly Meeting

Items of Note:

Soil Health Card Pg 2

40th Anniversary of the
Club—History Pg 3

Plant Sale Pg 4

New Regulations Pg 4

Flower Show Recap
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Dupont Park Element-
ary School Update
Pgs 6-7

Tips & Activities Pg 8

Cats Meow Trip Pg 10

Photos Pg 10

Editors: Lenay O'Quinn
and Deborah Determan.
Next edition will be
published October 2016.
Send input to Lenay and
Deborah by October 6th,
with captions for photos.

Earth's Treasures



Dot provided above photos to show interaction of wildlife with our gardens — birds would come and perch on her front door forsythia wreath. The photo on the left shows a missing portion on the right where birds took material to build a nest. The photo on the right is after the wreath was knocked down when the weight of the birds got too heavy.



Just in case you missed a trip to the club garden this season, here is a photo of the exquisite Marian Lee that I planted to honor our dear Marian last fall. Although this is my own bush, the one in the club garden is exactly like it. These special azaleas are late bloomers giving us more extended color there in the late spring season after the standard azaleas are finished. Anyone who wants to visit the very special azalea farm where I purchased them should reach out to me. The offer to arrange a club trip is still open! Enjoy, Pam

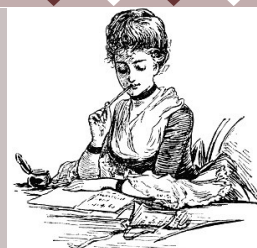
President's Corner



Summertime is here, buds and blooms everywhere. I know how busy everyone can get this time of year. Don't forget to sit back and enjoy the beauty of summer from time to time. I hope to see everyone at one of our craft workshops this year, guaranteed to be fun. Lenay



Note from the Editor

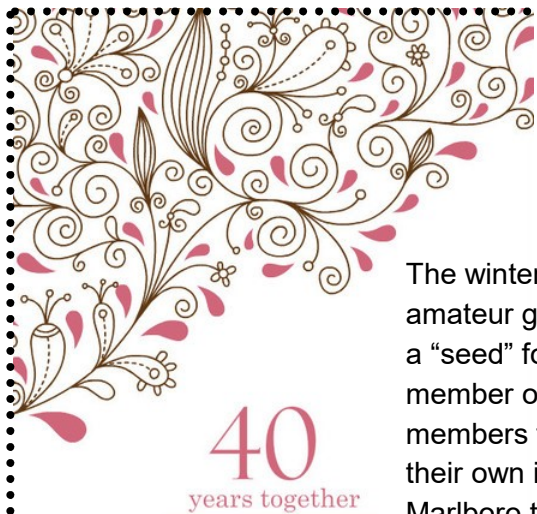


I missed one! I didn't get a newsletter out last quarter, so this one may be a bit long—but full of good info. Below is a soil health card that was briefed during the Master Gardener training day in May, that I thought you might enjoy. And, we are now in our 40th year! The club was founded in March 1977, so we should be thinking about what we want to do to celebrate. The newsletters between now and then will showcase a piece of our history, starting on page 3 of this issue. If anyone has any stories or items from the past they want to submit for these highlights, please send to Linda. And, since I fell behind last quarter, if I missed anything that was submitted, please let me know and I'll get it in the next edition.

Soil Health Card

Indicator Table

Indicator	Poor	Medium	Good
<i>Earthworms</i>	0-1 worms in shovelful of top foot of soil. No casts or holes.	2-10 in shovelful. Few casts, holes, or worms.	10+ in top foot of soil. Lots of casts and holes in tilled clods. Birds behind tillage.
<i>Organic Matter Color</i>	Topsoil color similar to subsoil color.	Surface color closer to subsoil color.	Topsoil clearly defined, darker than subsoil.
<i>Organic Matter Roots/Residue</i>	No visible residue or roots	Some residue few roots	Noticeable roots and residue
<i>Subsurface Compaction</i>	Wire breaks or bends when inserting flag.	Have to push hard, need fist to push flag in.	Flag goes in easily with fingers to twice the depth of plow layer.
<i>Soil Tilth Mellowness Friability</i>	Looks dead. Like brick or concrete, cloddy. Either blows apart or hard to pull drill through.	Somewhat cloddy, balls up, rough pulling seedbed.	Soil crumbles well, can slice through, like cutting butter. Spongy when you walk on it.
<i>Erosion</i>	Large gullies over 2 inches deep joined to others, thin or no topsoil, rapid run-off the color of spil.	Few rills or gullies, gullies up to two inches deep. Some swift runoff, colored water.	No gullies or rills, clear or no runoff.
<i>Water Holding Capacity</i>	Plant stress two days after a good rain.	Water runs out after a week or so.	Holds water for a long period of time without puddling.
<i>Drainage, Infiltration</i>	Water lays for a long time, evaporates more than drains, always very wet ground.	Water lays for short period of time, eventually drains.	No ponding, no runoff, water moves through soil steadily. Soil not too wet, not too dry.
<i>Crop Condition (How well it grows)</i>	Problem growing throughout season, poor growth, yellow or purple color.	Fair growth, spots in field different, medium green color.	Normal healthy dark green color, excellent growth all season, across field.
<i>pH</i>	Hard to correct for desired crop.	Easily correctable.	Proper pH for crop.
<i>Nutrient Holding Capacity</i>	Soil tests dropping with more fertilizer applied than crops used.	Little change or slow down trend.	Soil tests trending up in relation to fertilizer applied and crop harvested.



CELEBRATING OUR 40TH YEAR

WHY ARE WE? WHEN DID WE BECOME? WHO ARE WE?

The winter of 1977 was moving into history when, in early spring, nine female amateur gardeners got together, and our garden club was born. It seems that a “seed” for such a gathering had been “planted” by Peggy Martin, who was a member of the Hilltop Garden Club, which was an established club that had members from DC and MD. She, and others felt there needed to be a club of their own in this area. And so, she hosted the very first meeting in Upper Marlboro that sunny day of March 26, 1977. The name “Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club” was chosen because Mt. Airy Plantation – now known as Mt. Airy Mansion – was in the area, and the soil that these gardeners were working was, as we all know, CLAY. It was decided that the club would meet once a month on the FIRST Thursday. (Again, as we all know, this was later changed to the second Thursday.) Dues were set at \$5.00 a year.

The original nine members were:

Mrs. Milton Martin (Peggy)
Mrs. Edward Rosenfeld (Janine)
Mrs. Stewart Munsee (Jan)

Mrs. Cloyd Sellers (Tommie)
Mrs. James Clarkson (Ann)
Mrs. James McGhee (Patty)

Mrs. Garland White (Marie)
Mrs. Michael Mayo (Nellie)
Mrs. Roy Williams (Ann – Mary
Beth Cecil’s Mother)

The first Officers of this club were:

Mrs. Cloyd Sellers
Mrs. Garland White
Mrs. James Clarkson
Mrs. Stewart Munsee
Mrs. Edward Rosenfeld
Mrs. Milton Martin
Mrs. Roy Williams

President
Vice President
Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary and Treasurer
Historian and Telephone
Programs
Committee Chairman

These nine members held monthly meetings, except for July and August, and the club expanded to a membership of 15 by March of 1978. The stated purpose of the club was: “..to enlarge our knowledge, to promote interest in better gardens, to participate in and promote all activities and projects of the Club, and to beautify our Community.” This purpose stayed intact until 2015-2016 when it changed to: “..to promote the love of gardening through education, environmental stewardship, floral design and community projects.”

On March 3rd of 1978 the club petitioned for membership in the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and on March 28th six club members attended their first Federation meeting at the Arboretum. In 2007, the Federation’s name was changed to The National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.

Through the years, membership has fluctuated, falling to a low of 8 and rising to a high of 24 – the maximum allowed, as directed by the capacity of our homes and later written into the By-Laws.

So ends the first in this series of history that will continue through our year 2016-2017 in the newsletters and meetings to renew memories and take pride in all that has been done over the past 40 years. The anniversary will end in a celebration in 2017 (date and details yet to be determined).

Linda



Plant Sale

by
Julie Harrison

Jessica did a beautiful job redoing our Plant Sale Sign. It makes a lovely statement as cars drive by. Our Plant Sale was Saturday, May 7, and we made \$415.50.

My deepest appreciation to each of you that donated plants or money or worked. A big thank you to Deborah and Lenay for helping to set up for the sale and to Linda, Iona, Dot, Elaine, Connie, MaryBeth and Diana, Lenay and Joyce who did an awesome job selling our plants.

Thank you Elaine for volunteering to sell some of our remaining plants and to Lenay for taking them and helping Elaine at the yard sale the following Saturday.

Thanks to all of you for all that you do for the club!

Julie

New Regulation in Maryland On Invasive Plants Recently Went into Effect

Tier Two Invasive

As of Jul 12, 2016 retail outlets selling the following plants are required to post a sign identifying them as such:

- Euonymus alatus (burning bush)
- Ligustrum obtusifolium (blunt-leaved or border privet)
- Wisteria sinensis (Chinese wisteria)
- Wisteria floribunda (Japanese wisteria)
- Wisteria x formosa (floribunda x sinensis hybrids)

Tier One Invasive

As of April, 11, 2016, a person may not acquire a Tier One invasive plant in Maryland. As of April 12, 2017, a person may not propagate, import, transfer, sell, purchase, transport, or introduce any living part of a Tier 1 invasive plant in the state.

- Ficaria verna (fig buttercup)
- Geranium lucidum (shining cranesbill)
- Iris pseudacorus (yellow flag iris)



Flower Show

By Linda Millette

On June 11, 2016 District I, of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. held A Small Standard Flower Show titled "Summer Serenade" at the home of Shirley and Frank Nicolai in Fort Washington, Maryland. Their home provided a beautiful and perfect venue for this event.

To make the event even more interesting, Connie asked Elaine and I to serve as clerks to the judges. What does that mean? Well, Connie provided each of us a basket containing the ribbons, stickers, hole punch, pencils, ruler and other items that the judges needed as they did the judging. We followed the judges as they went through the various rooms and our job was to move, hold up, or re-position an item if needed, as they were not permitted to touch the entries. Likewise, we were not permitted to speak to the judges, so Connie accompanied us in case we had questions or needed something. Thank you Connie! During the judging, we attached placement stickers or placed a ribbon – whichever was called for - and punched a hole in the identified placement for all horticulture entries. This experience was quite valuable in that the judges' discussion sometimes gave us information on how to make our future entries better.

Five of our members participated in the flower show, but, unfortunately, there were only two who entered the show: Julie and myself. Julie took two First Place finishes in Horticulture and I had a Second Place finish. In the Class 4 Design Competition only four entries were allowed. This category was "Dining Al Fresco" – a functional luncheon tray. Julie took First Place and also got The Novice Ribbon, and I received Second Place. Julie also participated in Class 2 "Hot Hot Hot" design. She received a Third Place ribbon for her vase of Hot-colored flowers.



Julie's 1st Place Tray in the Class 4



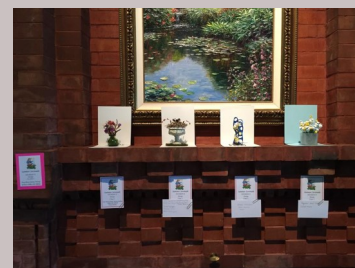
Linda's 2nd Place Tray in the Class 4



Julie's 3rd Place arrangement in the Class 2 Hot Hot Hot Design

I learned a BIG lesson: READ THE CRITERIA AND DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY, TAKING IN ALL THAT IS BEING ASKED FOR. When I put my tray together, I thought it would be fun, since it was an outdoor luncheon, to add a few plastic flies I had in my inventory. WRONG!!! In the General Rules of the brochure it states: "Living members of the animal Kingdom and taxidermal representations of the same may not be used." I guess my flies were taxidermal??? Oh well... I'll NEVER do that again!!!! I was grateful that I received Second Place.

My next lesson was due to my brain reading, but not taking in, some measurements. I had entered a miniature in the "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" Class 3 Design. The arrangement and container cannot be more than 5". I used a small urn and lots of different dried plants for the arrangement. (Plants had to be dried, not fresh). What I neglected to take in was that they would be displayed on a mantel that was 58 inches from the floor. The urn was mostly what the judges saw. They couldn't see the design. Also, I had no yellow in it. I could have painted something, but didn't realize this. Oh well. Again, READ, LISTEN, and LEARN. The picture shows me having an honorable mention ribbon. I wasn't awarded this, but Elaine wanted me to have it. Thanks, Elaine.



Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini Class 3 Design entries (Linda's 2nd from left)

I think I can speak for both Elaine and I when I say this experience was educational, rewarding and fun. Thank you, Connie, for this opportunity and, thank you Shirley and Frank for hosting the show. Also, thank you, Mary Beth, for being a volunteer helper. The show was a success. Well done, Julie!!!!

Raising Kids to Love Nature while Gardening for the Anacostia River

Gilda Allen, a member of the Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club, teamed up with Ms. Shelia Woods, the kindergarten teacher at Dupont Park Elementary School in the summer of 2015 to acquaint the school's kindergarten class with nature. Dupont Park is a parochial title 1 school located in southeast Washington D.C. just 15 minutes away from the Anacostia River. A proposal was written and a grant awarded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust to create a children's edible and wildlife garden and to teach environmental education, making a connection between how one gardens and the affects gardening has on the Anacostia River. Additional funding was donated by a Clay Breakers garden club member and in-kind contributions were made by volunteer parents, members of the Capitol Hill Seventh-Day Adventist church and the Jewish Community Center of Washington, D.C. totaling \$5,363 for the project.

A total of 23 lessons were taught to 15 kindergarten children and two lessons to the lower school. The students learned about birds of prey, the eagles and fish of the Anacostia and what people do to pollute the river. They made an eagle's nest and measured the wing span of eagles, toured the Aquatic Resource Center filled with fish and other animals found along and in the Anacostia River. After visiting a butterfly garden, one kindergartener said, "I am not afraid of butterflies anymore." A chrysalis turned into a monarch butterfly right in the class. The students released it so it could make its long journey to Mexico and sang the metamorphosis song. The students are organically growing broccoli, squash, strawberries, lettuce, scallions and a number of other vegetables and herbs. The kindergarten students had a year of hands-on interactive fun and learning, digging through the soil to find composting critters, playing running games to learn about pollution and soil, making snacks like kale smoothies, quinoa salad and jelly fish cookies, takings trips to the insect zoo, an urban farm and the Smithsonian's Ocean exhibit. They saw live ant and bee colonies in the classroom as well as DVD's. They did experiments to see what foods ants were most attracted to. They played in piles of leaves and identified leaves, caterpillars and butterflies through games. But most of all they put plants in their gardens, watered them, worked together, and were proud of their achievement. "Truly these young children have been placed where the wonderful lesson book of nature has been opened before them. They have been acquainted with the wonders of earth and sea."

Six raised cedar beds were built, along with the installation of two rain barrels beautifully painted to reflect the insects that were studied and the hand prints of the kindergarten class. A composter has been assembled and installed. Two work-days were established to create the gardens and build an outdoor classroom. The Clay Breakers garden club assisted the children in painting signage for the garden, starting plants from seeds for the vegetable garden, making 21 stepping stones and donating plants for the wildlife gardens. Says, Lenay O'Quinn, President of the garden club, "We are investing in the next generation of young gardeners helping them to garden sustainably."

Additional projects included the study and planting of 90 native plants to attract bees, birds, butterflies, and other small animals. A tipi was erected to be planted with vines, and an herb garden was planted. Dr. George Thornton, principal of Dupont Park Adventist school says, "We are seeking to inspire and create a group of young gardeners who will love and protect the environment.

Article and Photos provided by Gilda Allen





Dupont Park Wildlife Garden—early photo



Dupont Park Wildlife Garden—recent photo (provided by Lenay O'Quinn)



Dupont Park potatoes, squash, and flowers in the raised beds



Dupont Park Elementary School Stepping Stones

A great big thank you to Lenay, Dot, Mary Beth, and Iona for helping the Dupont Park kindergarten class make 21 stepping stones for the wildlife garden.

We finished the second work-day on May 1st. In spite of the rain, 22 volunteers came who were really hard workers. We removed a stump and planted a 2" Red Bud tree in place of the previously damaged tree. We made a bench, planted some plants in a large container and put up a sign in the edible garden. We repaired the sandbox, built a bird feeder, made a teepee, planted 7 large plants and painted plant labels for the wild life garden. The 4 outside tables for the outdoor classroom were also built. Below are some pictures of the stepping stones. Thanks again for everyone's participation.

Gilda



Photos of children making their stepping stones



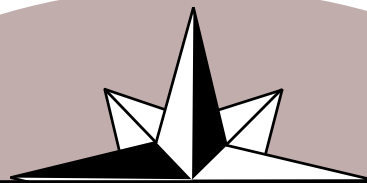
HERE'S A HINT TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR FLOWERS

Provided by Esther Neckere

Mix the following:

1 quart (4 cups) warm water
2 tablespoons white vinegar
1 teaspoon sugar

Pour the water into a vase, then add the vinegar and sugar to it. Stir to make sure the sugar dissolves completely. After trimming the flower stalks, place your flowers in the vase or container.

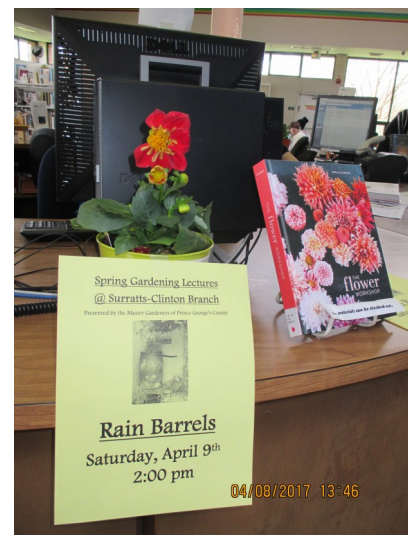


Hidden Acres Nursery Trip

On May 2nd, we had a group of 8 ladies carpool to Hidden Acres Amish Nursery. It was a beautiful day and a successful trip—everyone left with a carload of plants! If anyone missed the trip and would like to go, here are the directions:

Take Rt 301 and make left onto Leonardtown Rd, follow Leonardtown Rd and make right onto Oliver Shop Rd, follow and cross Rt 6, On the other side of Rt 6 the road becomes Trinity Church Rd, follow Trinity Church Rd until you see sign on left hand side for the nursery. You will turn left onto a farm (Old Farm Rd?). Anyway...turn left at the sign...follow road and small signs to nursery...around...down...and back up...then you will see some greenhouses...park where you can and...enjoy!

Article provided by Lenay O'Quinn

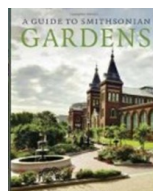
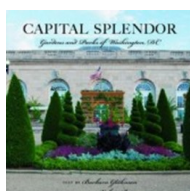
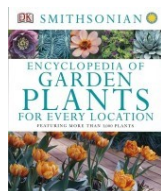


Photos of the plants Esther took to the Surratts-Clinton Library in support of their Spring gardening programs during the months of April and May. The only blooming plants she could find were some miniature dahlias. She put them into colorful pots, which she also donated to the librarians, and labeled as being from the Mt. Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club. Linda Millette loaned the kalanchoe plant for the exhibit. Note also that the fliers under the plants advertised the first workshop--"Rain Barrels." (Article and photos provided by Esther Neckere)

Summer is for Gardens

Some Local Garden Resources

(from dcgardens.com)



Washington Gardener Magazine has a clear vision: To “help your Washington DC area garden grow!”

Smithsonian's Encyclopedia of Garden Plants for Every Location by James Gagliardi includes more than 2,000 recommendations from gardening experts for over 30 types of sites, from notoriously dry ground by a hedge or fence to cracks in walls or paving, explains how to assess site and soil, and presents a stunning range of plant partners and planting schemes. It's an [Amazon Best Book for 2014](#).

Capital Splendor: Stunning photos and in-depth essays on more than 30 of Washington, D.C.'s gardens, some famous and other little-known gems, make this book a must-have for visitors and residents alike. By [Barbara Glickman](#), author, and [Valerie Brown](#), photographer.

A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens by veteran garden writer Carole Otteson. From a reviewer on Dave's Garden: *A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens* is an excellent addition to the gardener's library and a valuable tool if visiting Washington D. C. It is highly recommended for gardener or traveler.”

The one-hour documentary, **A Community of Gardeners**, produced by local filmmaker Cintia Cabib, explores the vital role of seven community gardens in Washington, D.C. as sources of fresh, nutritious food, outdoor classrooms, places of healing, links to immigrants' native countries, centers of social interaction, and oases of beauty and calm in inner-city neighborhoods. *A Community of Gardeners* has aired on PBS, screened at numerous venues throughout the U.S., and is available for purchase.

[Catherine Zimmerman](#) (The Meadow Project) has teamed up with [Doug Tallamy, PhD](#) and the [Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council](#) to produce a new film on native plants called ***Hometown Habitat!***



Mike McGrath's radio show **You Bet Your Garden** can be [heard live on NPR stations, or online](#). A trusted expert, always organic.

Andre Viette from Fishersville, VA conducts a weekly three-hour call-in radio program, **In the Garden**, on Saturdays mornings, WFVA, AM 1230 in Fredericksburg. You can stream it on the Web or listen to pod-casts.

Mark Viette, son of Andre, conducts a two-hour show, Easy Gardening Sunday mornings on WOR Radio Network. He has also produced numerous 60-second gardening videos which can be viewed on You Tube. The [website is here](#) but warning – *turn down speakers first*.

More Photos From Dot's Garden



Left: Blackberry Lily
Right: Butterfly on Blackberry Lily

*We love to see our flowers grow!!
Please consider sending photos of
your garden for our next edition!!
If you do, please also identify
the plant name.*

Esther's Jackmanii Clematis



Eight members of the garden club plus three relatives/friends had a wonderful time at the District 1-sponsored trip to the Cats Meow Daylily Garden on Jul 13th. The garden is an official American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) Display Garden, a certified Bay - Wise Environmentally Sound Landscape and a North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Garden, based in the rural country setting of Manchester, Carroll County, Maryland. We saw many varieties of daylilies and the raindrops did not deter several members from identifying clumps to take home. We had a wonderful tea luncheon with cucumber soup, an herbal mint iced tea, sandwiches and scones with an ice cream dessert—all made fresh on-site. This may be an excursion the club may want to take again in the future.

Linda



Photos from Cats
Meow Daylily
Gardens provided
by Lenay O'Quinn