

2011

Mt. Airy Garden Club Minutes

The Mt. Airy Garden Club met 10 February at Pat Halls's house with 17 members present. The topic of the evening was a talk on Bluebirds and Hummingbirds, led by President Julie Harrison: Highlights were:

Bluebirds—Habitat is out in the open in fields or along fence lines. Loss of habitat is largely due to aggressive sparrows. They eat insects, wild fruits, esp. dogwood berries, mealworms. The birds need help to survive in winter's ice and snow. Boxes should be made of rough wood without a perch. They should be put about 100 yards from each other about the third week in February.

Hummingbirds are attracted by red, white, orange, yellow or blue flowers. They are tropical birds, and migrate to the east coast in the spring. They eat bugs and spiders when nectar from trumpet vines, cardinal vines, or rose of Sharon flowers is not available.

Program:

Birthday girl: Linda Millette, Guest: Rita? Pat Hall's neighbor

Old Business: Marsha read a thank you letter from the Fern Valley administrator thanking the club for its support. Elaine read the treasurer's report: \$1,154.52. Dues are \$20 and are due to her in March. Marion reported on conservation: February is plastic-free month. Restaurants are turning in grease and oil to make biodiesel fuel. She also suggested removing caps from plastic bottles before throwing them in recycle bins. Marybeth commented on the Larch trees growing along Old Crain Highway. They are a deciduous conifer, used for flooring, yachts, and paneling. The wood is waterproof and durable, resistant to rot, and the tree is fast growing 15-50 ft. tall. Arminta, in charge of Sunshine, sent two February Birthday cards. Julie asked for participants on the trip to the Druid Hill Park Conservatory in Baltimore. Several club members planned to go.

New Business: David Healy, President of District I Garden Clubs, asked for Garden Club information for the convention brochure. A motion was made and seconded to sponsor a half-page ad on behalf of the Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club in the NCAGC convention brochure at a cost of \$200. There was an invitation to enter/attend an event called "An Affair to Remember" hosted by the Wheaton Garden Club in Beltsville.

A plea was made for volunteers to be hostesses for the NCAGC convention: 24 May –greeters; 25 May 7:00 am – 5:00 pm 2 shifts of greeters; 26 May, again 2 shifts of greeters; 26 May 6-10 table hostesses; 27 May 8-10 greeters/ticket takers; 28 May Banquet. Address of the convention is 1331 Pennsylvania Ave; (Mariott Hotel). Volunteers must pay for their own parking and banquet tickets.

Ways and Means: Two events: (1) The plant fund raiser forms are available from Lenay O'Quinn. Each plant ordered will cost \$8 and they will be delivered to Marybeth Cecil's house at the 14 April meeting. \$4 of each sale will go to the club. (2) The club's annual plant sale of plants from members' gardens will be held on 7 May @ ?.

Marybeth asked for volunteers at Arbor House to clean and set out stock.

Winner of the 20/20 was Pam Smart. The meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted, Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary