

1983 - 1984

This has been a rewarding year with many happy memories for the Clay Breakers. Anne DeBoeser, President during 1982 - 1983, graciously agreed to continue for another term and the other officers followed suit.

Our annual picnic was hosted this August by Earliene and Donald Rawe, and although for the first time it rained on our picnic, our spirits were not dampened and our moveable feast was enjoyed in the Rawe family room. A wonderful time was had by all. Most members and husbands were present.

Our programs this year have been varied and interesting. They have included a lecture and slides on the Avalynne Tawes Garden in Annapolis, Md.; Spring Beauty from Bulbs by Tim Worman, County Agent; Holiday Ideas by the Accokeek Garden Center; a program by Col. Thompson on bulbs, held at the Hospitality Room at Bob Hall Inc., Upper Marlboro, Md. In April Anne De Boeser presented a program on modified and contrived flower containers with emphasis on thoughts for flower shows. We also held an auction of old flower containers at this meeting. In May Mrs Evelyn Suski gave a program on plant propagation and a plant exchange was included at this time.

For the Christmas meeting there was a workshop to construct various wreaths and garlands in preparation for decorating the Mary Surratt House (which the Club was invited to do) for their annual Candlelight Tour held just prior to Christmas. Also, in December we enjoyed a lovely Christmas Party at the home of Vivian and John Lynn. The house was beautifully decorated for the holiday season, the food was delicious and everyone had a delightful time.

The Horticulture Study for the year has been on the Rosa Family. Karen Somers has given a very interesting and in-depth study of this subject. An Education segment was added this year and we've discussed such subjects as: end of summer chores, autumn leaves - why they change color, ground covers, birds in the garden, award winning new seeds and plants for 1984.

This year it was decided to have field trips separate from our regular meetings and these will generally be planned for the Thursday following our monthly meeting - one in the fall and one in the spring. In October three members and two guests enjoyed a visit to the Waterford Ho<sup>M</sup> Tour and Craft Exhibit in Waterford, Virginia. Several of us also accepted in invitation from Hilltop Garden Club to join their tour of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. In May a group of members toured the London Towne Gardens and the Avalynne Tawes Garden in Annapolis, Maryland followed by lunch at Harbor House.

Three awards were won by the Clay Breakers this year; a Citation for Outstanding Achievement, the Yearbook Certificate of Merit and a Citation of Merit from CARE for support of the public service in behalf of the needy people of the World. We have continued our annual donations to World Gardening, the Van Dorsal Scholarship Fund and to the Melwood Training Center of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

In October the Club helped to provide refreshments for the Prince Georges County Beautification Awards Ceremony which was held at the Calvert Mansion, Riverdale, Maryland. At this ceremony Joan and Wayne Davis won an award for their newly landscaped home, as did the Melwood Professional Building of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, - landscape design by Joyce Meyers.

With some weeding and a lot of watering all the shrubs at the Club's Park project survived the blistering draught of 1983. In May 1984 three members with the help of Grey Singleton and an interested Brookwood neighbor, Roger Neilan, installed the bicycle path directly behind the plantings at the Park entrance. Annuals, geraniums and ageratum, donated by Hilltop Garden Club were also set out. Park and Planning has also set out some spring flowering trees which will certainly add to the beauty of this spot in our neighborhood.

Members have continued their studies at Flower Show School #5 and Landscape Design School #3. Many ribbons have been awarded members of our group at various flower shows in the Capital Area, and Betty and Al Abercrombie won an award of appreciation for their Purple Martin exhibit in April at the Hilltop Garden Club Flower Show.

We again had people this year who were willing to give time to hostess at both the Christmas Greens Show and also at the Woodlawn Needlecraft and Quilt Exhibit at Woodlawn Plantation, Virginia.

In all it has been a very busy year!