

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club

Breaking News

Winter 2014/2015



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Feb 14

Chesapeake Native
Plant Workshop

Feb 28

Root DC

Feb 28-March 8

Philadelphia Flower
Show

May 2

Annual Plant Sale

May 9

Photographing
Gardens and Plants

Editors: Lenay O'Quinn
and Deborah Determan.
Spring edition will be
published in Apr 2015.
Please send input to
Lenay and Deborah by
Apr 6th, and include
captions for any photos.

Earth's Treasures

Horticulture — Organic Vegetable Production



Dr Ruby Lathon provided an excellent presentation on Nutrition and Plant-based Foods at our January meeting. Did you know that organic food sales now represent approximately two percent of US food sales? Organic production requires a different approach than traditional gardening, primarily in requiring a more physical input and a different approach to pest management and soil fertility. The University of Maryland's College of Agriculture & Natural Resources has a downloadable "Organic Vegetable

Production Manual" on their website. You can download the entire manual or just chapters of interest. The chapters are:

- * MD Organic Vegetable Growers
- * Organic Certification
- * Marketing Organic Vegetables
- * Seed Selection & Transplant Production
- * Soil Health & Cover Crops
- * Soil Fertility
- * Disease Management
- * Insect Pest Management
- * Weed Management
- * High Tunnel Vegetable Production
- * Equipment Needs for Small Farms
- * Tillage Practices

The website is: <http://extension.umd.edu/mdvegetables/organic-vegetable-production/organic-vegetable-production-manual>.

Article by Deborah Determan

President's Corner

Do something different this year; something new, maybe even exciting. It doesn't have to cost a lot, although it could. It could be life changing or adventurous. Do something that brings you joy or give joy to someone else. It doesn't have to be on your bucket list although it might be. It could be as simple as taking a computer course, deciding to meditate every day, teaching a child to read, or putting in a woodland garden.

This year I plan on sewing, putting in an arbor and building a loom in my grandson's outdoor play space. I also want to grow some things I haven't tried before, like maybe honeydew melon, peanuts and peonies. Whatever you do and no matter how old you get, never stop learning, creating and growing.

A very prosperous, healthy and joyous New Year to each of you!

Gilda

St. Thomas Fund-Raiser-Nov 22nd

ORGANIZERS: Linda Millette, Connie Dalpar, Pam Smart
HELPER: Arminta Donovan

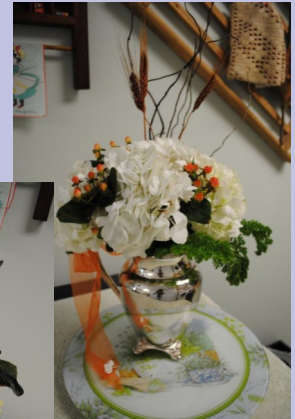
ARRANGEMENTS: Gilda Allen (1—dried); Elaine Arnold (2); Connie Dalpar (1); Arminta Donovan (3); Jackie George (2—dried); Pat Hall (3); Julie Harrison (3); Linda Millette (4); Carol Ober (2); Pam Smart (5); Joyce gave a donation. Out of a total of 26 arrangements, all but 6 sold.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. Arrangements in baskets (3) did not sell.
2. Anything looking like Christmas does NOT sell.
3. Of the 6 left, 2 were tall. Lower arrangements did better, as several people wanted table arrangements.

PRICING: Arrangements were priced \$10, \$15, \$20, and one large, beautiful one by Elaine for \$25.

MADE \$285 - \$15 FOR TABLE = **PROFIT OF \$270**



Article by Linda Millette

An Old Book, But What a Gem!

Last year I was helping out at the U.S. National Arboretum as an Arbor House Volunteer, when I wandered over to a bookcase of used books that were being sold by the Friends of the National Arboretum, you may have them referred to as "FONA." One little volume caught my eye. It was called "The Flower Garden Day by Day" by Mrs. Francis King. It had a bookplate inside the front cover from the Washington Cathedral Library and the copyright date was 1927. The forward was by Gertrude Jekyll, well known garden designer and writer. (Side note: Gertrude's father was good friends with Robert Lewis Stevenson who may have used his name for the book "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.") The FONA volunteer and I had a nice little conversation about the book and its author. The author, Louisa Yeomans King gives a little tip for each day of the year. They are a joy to read! Some samples:

January 15. Seeds of some slow-growing annuals should be sown late this month in the hot bed. Among these are lobelias and verbenas. The most interesting dwarf lobelias in color are Cambridge Blue (light blue) and Crystal Palace (dark blue). Unlike many flowers so described in the seed catalogs, these, with verbenas, actually bloom from spring to frost. Get seed of a good dark purple verbenas, without an eye (what does that mean?), and of a rich rose pink. These plants will prove treasures of color later.

January 30. Cut now a few short branches of cherry, apple and plum, place in water in the house and force them into bloom. This is a cheerful winter experiment.

She is a real believer in planting seeds so you'll read about planting pansy seeds in August and see cultivation tips in September. (Things one doesn't hear of too much these days!)

I'll bring this book to our next meeting. I'm sure you'll all get a kick out of it!

Article by Lorraine Leonard



Article by Pam Smart

Iona, Carol, and Pam volunteered at our January meeting to look into Club “White Elephant” sales and decided to hold them 4 times a year—at the March, August picnic, and October meetings, and then the fourth will be an after Christmas sale in January. So, for these meetings, bring any items you would like to donate to the sale —proceeds will go back into the club. Our first one will be in March at Iona’s house. She’ll have a card table set up for the sale (please mark your items with the sale price before the meeting), and we can shop before the meeting during refreshments. Do you have any spring or Easter decorations you no longer need? Plants and pots/containers also may be a good sale item.

Please think about items you no longer need that someone else in the club may enjoy!



Nursing Home Gifts

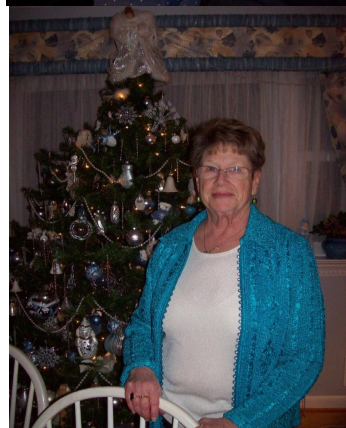
Photos provided by Julie Harrison

Correction! The photos Pam provided for the Autumn edition were of plants that were deer-proof and did well in her gardens. “They have all done marvelously over many years of intense deer browsing in Marshall, VA.” She also sent another photo of a plant she started using this past summer—leucothoe. She likes the variegated variety and it is deer resistant and has winter color! Wayside Gardens has it on-line if interested.



Leucothoe (variegated)

Holiday Party



OPPORTUNITIES!!!

Lots of upcoming opportunities, from classes to a fun trip to Pams!

Register Now for Rooting D.C. Forum!

The 8th Annual Forum will be held Saturday, February 28th from 9am-4pm at Wilson High School located at 3950 Chesapeake Street Washington DC. There will be 80 workshops from permaculture design to cooking unconventional edibles, and 50 info tables. Free, but donation of \$10 encouraged. Register online (Gilda provided the link).

Photographing Gardens and Plants



Another great opportunity! On **May 9th** at the Greenway Walking Trail in Warrenton, McChanahan Camera is offering a free class on photographing gardens and plants. Pam took this class 2 years ago at Rady Park and is letting us know about this year's class. She is also offering to plan a fun day around the class, with a tour of Rady Park (which has a great variety of deer-proof trees, bushes, and plants), a trip to her favorite consignment shop (the White Elephant), a tour of old town Warrenton and maybe lunch out or at her place. She also says she could put a few ladies up overnight or arrange for stay at a nice hotel. Class starts at 9am and is about 1.5 hours away. Please let Pam know if you are interested, as she would need to personally sign up each member since it is offered through Fauquier Co Parks and she has an account.

Travel Opportunities:

Did you know Adkins Arboretum offers guided walks on the first Saturday of each month? Explore the Arboretum's diverse plant communities led by docent naturalist. Free with admission. Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, Jul 4, Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5. Start at visitor center and last ~ 1 hour. Or, if interested, guided walks for groups of 10 or more can be scheduled with their Adult Programs Office.

Orchid Extravaganza at Longwood Gardens Jan 24—March 29.

Philadelphia Flower Show Feb 28-March 8.

Closer to Home

Feb 14 Chesapeake Native Plant Workshop—Planning Your Chesapeake Native Garden
Or Feb 21 Mt Airy Mansion Greenhouse; 9:30-3:00. Register via email to
 chesnatives@gmail.com