

MT. AIRY CLAY BREAKERS GARDEN CLUB
Phyllis Tucker

The Mt. Airy Garden Club met February 12 at the home of Mrs. Betty Abercrombie. Mrs. Peggy Martin, president, introduced club members to the guest speaker, Mrs. Marilyn Guerra. Mrs. Guerra is a landscape architect and in charge of street tree planting and property maintenance of public grounds, Prince George's County, DPWP. Mrs. Guerra is also a member of the County's Beautification Committee. Mrs. Guerra presented slides of the City of Upper Marlboro -- how the city streets appeared several years ago and the landscaping changes that have occurred. In June 1977 the Beautification Committee dedicated the Miazga Garden located at the County Administration Building, named for the founder and former chairman of the Committee. This area is used as a quiet resting place for County employees and the public, and as a demonstration area for our County tree (Bradford Pear), shrub (Glen Dale Azalea) and flower (Daffodil). After Mrs. Guerra's slide presentation, she talked about the future restoration plans for the City of Upper Marlboro. Although the restoration completion is still some time away, a major start has been made.

Jimmie Nell Findley gave a report on broadleaved evergreens. She stated that rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, hollies, magnolia, are all suited to the Maryland climate and soil. These shrubs keep their leaves all year, therefore making them desirable plants in landscaping of home grounds. Azaleas, perhaps one of the most popular broadleaves, like an acid soil and are tolerant of light shade. Most gardeners prefer broadleaf evergreens because of their spring blooms.

Our thanks to Mrs. White for conducting a very successful auction of donated garden items. Mrs. Abercrombie's flower design consisted of dried wildflower branches and red carnations in a freeform arrangement. At the March meeting, Caroline Beane will talk about plants for garden makers.