

Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club November Meeting Minutes

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met on 10 November 2011 at the home of Jackie George with 17 members present. The program featured Gene Sumi, an educator from Homestead Gardens. He spoke on avoiding planting invasive plants such as purple loosestrife and Canadian thistle, and recommended trying native plants instead, such as the Northern Bayberry, Blueberries (such as the "Sunshine Blue" variety) and Winterberry Holly. He brought along the actual plants to demonstrate size and shape. He also recommended using organic disease and fungus control such as "Serenade," which works well on peonies, dogwoods, and lilacs. Environmentally products such as corn gluten can help to prevent weeds, and milky spore will work on grubs and beetles. Mr. Sumi concluded his program by answering questions and distributing coupons for 20% off at Homestead Gardens for the following two weeks.

Old Business: In October Club members created and delivered 20 floral arrangements to the Bradford Oaks Nursing Home in Clinton, MD. Marybeth Cecil, manager of the Arbor House at the National Arboretum, asked for volunteers to help in the gift shop, reminding members that the club earns points for volunteering and helping with trunk shows. There is also a currently a 20% off sale on Arbor House merchandise. Eight members of the Garden Club will participate in the District 1 "Old Dominion" bus trip to Richmond. Seats are still available.

New Business: The winning name for the club's newsletter is "Claybreaking News," entered by Linda Millette. A new member, Mary Schoenfuchs (now Mary Woodruff) was welcomed into the club. Pam Smart read the article in the Marlton Advocate on the Claybreakers' October meeting written by Marion Moreland.

Treasurers Report (Carl Ober) The balance in the club treasury stands at \$892.42. The club voted on a budget of projected expenses as follows: President, \$200; Vice President, \$200; Corresponding Secretary, \$15; Historian, \$75; Ways & Means, \$25; Book, \$75; Misc/Picnic, \$100; Federation dues, \$192; Dinner, \$150; Donations \$250; ??? \$200.

Design (Linda Millette) discussed the principles of design: Beauty, Harmony, Distinction, Expression; as well as the elements of design: light, space, form, pattern, color, line, and texture.

Horticulture (Elaine Arnold) discussed the topic of "When is a native plant truly a "native?" since many have adapted to our environment, such as the kudzu. She also recommended broadening foundation landscaping to decrease the lawn area.

Sunshine Aminta Donavon read a thank you note from Lenay O'Quinn for the sympathy card the club sent

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 at the home of Marilyn Burket. Members are asked to bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange and also a gift for their secret pals. Vicki Godwin, President, National Capitol Area Garden Clubs, will attend the January meeting. The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club is the featured club on the NAGC website. Joyce Myers won the 50/50 drawing, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary