

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club was hosted by Marian Moreland on 14 February 2013 at 7:00 pm with 17 members present.

**PROGRAM:** President Gilda Allen introduced the evening's speaker—Dr. Amy Rossman, Research Leader, USDA Research Services. She is the head of a lab at the Beltsville MD Agricultural Research Center, working with five mycologists studying fungi on plants and plant diseases. She spoke on the topic of fungi, which fall into two major groups: the first group is basidiomycetes, common in gardens, which include mushrooms such as the edible puffball, the oyster mushroom and the chicken of the woods. The second group of fungi, the Ascomycetes, includes molds, black spot of roses, and leaf spot of tomatoes. She distributed an informative handout with pictures of the various fungi.

The club acknowledged Lorraine Leonard and Linda Millette for their February birthdays. President Allen organized a visitation list for Joyce Myer, who is ill.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** Responses to the roll call with names of plants members regretted planting included violets, purple loosestrife, and chocolate mint. Esther Neckere, recording secretary, read the minutes of the February meeting which were approved. A thank you note from Arminta Donavon was also read. Carol Ober, treasurer, reported a balance of \$735.15 in the club's account, and noted that dues were due by the March meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CONSERVATION:** Diana Morse reported on invasive animals such as the brown rat nutria, as well as the European wild boars, which have been introduced into the Great Smokey Mountains.

**HORTICULTURE:** Jessica Sherlock chose a quotation by Shakespeare, "A Rose by any other name," as her presentation theme. Shakespeare was probably referring to older roses such as the Alba or Gallica, which were very fragrant. However, roses were cultivated in Persia and China as early as 500 BCE. The Dutch started hybridizing roses in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The currently popular Knockout Roses are more disease resistant and more like the older roses.



MEMBERSHIP: Sonia Johnson reported that Mary Woodruff has resigned her membership in the club. Thanks went to Sonia for the winter club newsletter.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

FUNDRAISERS: Linda Millette offered plant hanging hooks for sale at \$3.00 each. Proceeds will go to the club. She also passed out the order forms for the plant sale, which will include quarts and gallon sized perennials. She requested that the forms and checks be returned at the March meeting. The plants will be delivered at ~~the May meeting~~ *in April*.

The club sponsored bus tour to Winterthur will be held the last week in September. The charge will be \$90 per person. Gilda Allen has lined up the bus transportation. Publicity will follow.

NCAGC: The posters featuring Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl drawn by children from club members' families have been submitted for judging. Gilda announced a dinner for David Healy, the new president of the National Capitol Area Garden Clubs, replacing outgoing president Vicky Godwin.

COUNTY: Applications for the Prince County Beautification awards are due on the following dates: 1 April for a spring garden, and 20 May for a summer garden.

The next club meeting will be on 14 March at the home of Pam Smart. Barbara Glickman will speak on Gardens, Parks, and Historical Homes.

The meeting ended with a 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,



Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary.