

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met at 6:30 pm on 9 October 2014 at the home of Diana Morse with 17 members present. Marsha Kirchoff and Pam Smart are celebrating October birthdays. Lorraine Leonard, a club member, presented the program on her career in meteorology, along with a discussion of weather in the local Upper Marlboro area.

Program: In college, Lorraine majored in meteorology with a concentration in mathematics. Upon graduation, she worked for the US Air Force in the field of aviation weather, determining issues such as wind velocity, turbulence, and visibility in order for airplanes to fly safely. Her field of specialty is in coastal forecasting. Applying her knowledge to gardening, specifically in the local area, Lorraine said that the US Department of Agriculture, which has identified zones of lowest average temperature reports that the Southern Maryland/Upper Marlboro zone currently is 7-A (0-5 degrees above zero). Plants identified as at or above the zone "zone" are likely to survive. Weather observations are conducted at local airports. You can find the weather in any location throughout the US by putting in your zip code at *Weather.gov*. The *weatherbug* app on your I-phone is also good as is the *extension.umd.edu* site. The metro section in *The Washington Post* gives both local and international weather information. Discussion on topics such as cold and warm fronts, European/American weather models, and global warming followed.

Business Meeting:

- **Treasurer** Carol Ober reported a balance of \$1,130.04 in the club account. Budget donations include \$100 each to the Scholarship Fund, Save the Bay, and the Arboretum's Fern Valley
- **Recording Secretary** Esther Neckere's e-mail minutes were approved as read with corrections.
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Dot Lower Esther Neckere's thank you note for a coleus plant.

Committee reports:

- **Conservation:** Deborah Determan reported on the **Bay Wise Yardstick**, a checklist used to determine if your landscaping and vegetable garden are beneficial to the Chesapeake Bay. Some of the many criteria are that homeowners must use are depending on natural rainfall (no watering) and using no fertilizer. Homeowners self-score, giving themselves one "inch" on the yardstick for each criterion met. To be certified, a yard must meet a score of 36" or above. Club member Linda Millette has passed her certification; others are encouraged to follow. Charles County has approved a 50% reduction of residents' rain tax, and members are urged to write to their councilman to give a similar tax credit for being Bay Wise. More information is available from local representative Esther Mitchell (301) 868-8761
- **Design:** Julie Harrison presented a creative Halloween arrangement in a ceramic pumpkin with nandina, marigolds, and other seasonal material from her garden.
- **Ways and Means:** Dot Lower collected fundraiser orders for flower bulbs, which as of now have been received. Pick them up from Dot or she will bring them to the November meeting.
- **Newsletter:** Deborah Determan and Lenay O'Quinn have produced their first club newsletter. They would like everyone to consider submitting information, pictures, or articles for the next issue.

Old Business:

- Elaine Arnold, Dot Lower, Iona Black, Connie Dalpar, and Deborah Determan will meet on 22 October on a revision of the club's bylaws.

New Business:

- Club members will meet to make 25 arrangements for the Bradford Oaks Nursing Home at President Gilda Allen's home on Wednesday, 19 November, at 9:00 am. Marilyn Burkut will call to see if other organizations are already contributing flowers at this time.
- Next meeting presenters for November table settings program are Arminta Donovan, Lorraine Leonard, and Gilda Allen
- Information for Award 18 and Best Program discussion was held. All members' garden club activities, such as volunteering at the Arbor House, should be reported to Gilda to be included in her report.

Announcements:

- Floral design show at the US Arboretum 18-19 October
- Franklin Store Fundraiser 11 November
- Morning of Design 20 November at White Oak Community Center.
- St. Thomas Church Fundraiser 22 November
- Christmas in Washington – District 1 trip to be announced.
- Next month's meeting at the home of Arminta Donovan: topic is table settings

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The winner of the 50/50 was Lenay O'Quinn.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Neckere

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary

Climate Upper Marlboro - Maryland

°C | °F

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average high in °F:	43	46	55	66	74	83
Average low in °F:	24	26	33	43	53	62
Av. precipitation in inch:	2.87	2.72	3.78	3.54	4.33	4.06
Days with precipitation:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours of sunshine:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average snowfall in inch:	7	6	1	0	0	0

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °F:	87	86	79	68	58	47
Average low in °F:	66	64	56	44	36	28
Av. precipitation in inch:	4.02	3.7	3.98	3.58	3.46	3.15
Days with precipitation:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours of sunshine:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average snowfall in inch:	0	0	0	0	0	2

Upper Marlboro weather averages

Annual high temperature:	66°F
Annual low temperature:	44.6°F
Average temperature:	55.3°F
Average annual precipitation - rainfall:	43.19 inch
Days per year with precipitation - rainfall:	-
Annual hours of sunshine:	-
Av. annual snowfall:	16 inch

8+1

0

zone 7a : 0-5°F
 WWW.weather.gov
 Weather Bug app
 (phone)
 extension.umd.edu

Upper Marlboro Climate Graph - Maryland Climate Chart

