

Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club
Meeting minutes: 13 October 2011

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met 13 October 2011 at the home of Elaine Arnold with 19 members present and one guest. Thanks to Arminta Donovan who prepared the minutes for the September meeting.

PROGRAM The program was presented by Joe Mud, Prince George's Master Gardener and owner of Bank Landscaping Company: His topic was integrated pest management, which addressed the issues of the right plant, in the right place, in the right soil, with the right pest control to deal with common pest problems. Continuing with pest management, he gave an example of the azalea, which if planted in deep shade or full sun in nonacid soil may attract lace bugs, which along with cabbage loupers, can be controlled with the chemical pyrethron dust. He discussed other non-chemical ways of controlling insect pests: when bringing house plants inside, instead of using chemical sprays to destroy aphids, to dunk the plant in soapy water. Control of stink bugs with a mint solution was recommended, and ants can be destroyed by mixing sugar and instant grits placed on ant hills. Not piling up mulch around trees and pruning properly were other ways to control pests such as borers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Holloway Gardens
Awards: Linda Millette was awarded the silver platter for her winning entry of a container garden in a shoe. The Claybreakers Garden Club, Arminta Donovan and Iona Black were given a beautification awards for four years of sustained yard maintenance, Julie Harrison and Concordia Lutheran Church won the beautification award for two years of sustained yard maintenance, and Sonia Johnson was awarded the beautification award of one year of sustained maintenance. Marion Moreland was awarded the National Capital Area State Life Membership.

Treasurers Report: Carol Ober, the new treasurer, and Elaine Arnold, outgoing treasurer, reported a balance of \$932.20 in the treasury. The projected budget is \$1,682.00 and the projected income is \$1,358.00.

Committee Reports:

Conservation: Diana Morse reported on the value and functions of wetlands, including bird watching, water filtering, attracting animals, and storing floodwaters. She described the four types of wetlands: Marsh, swamp, bog, and fen.

Design: Linda Millette explained terms used in design: "pot de fleur,"—rooted plants or cut materials in a vase; "vignette"—a space especially set aside to display a flower, plant, fruits and vegetable arrangements. She also described methods of preserving plant material—such as air drying, silica gel, kitty litter, microwaving, glycerizing.

Horticulture: Elaine Arnold talked about some imported "aliens among us," such as Japanese beetles, which have no predators, stink bugs, as well as plants such as kudzu and ailanthus.

OLD BUSINESS: A secret pal drawing was held; cans were collected for the flower arrangements for Bradford Oaks on 22 October at 0930;

NEW BUSINESS: a District One Christmas trip to Richmond area on 3 December was announced. Cost is \$85. The new District I president is Danielle Barbizon, who will be replacing David Healy; a trip to Franklin's store on 8 November was announced. Franklins will give a percentage of garden club members' purchases to clubs. New courses in environmental studies and landscape design were announced. The 50/50 drawing was won by Carol Ober. Next meeting will be at Jackie George's home. Speaker will be Gene Sumi of Homestead Gardens who will present the topic of "Gardening to Protect the Environment." The meeting was concluded at 0935.

Respectfully submitted, Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary