

## BEGINNG OF MT. AIRY CLAYBREAKERS GARDEN CLUB

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club was founded in 1977. I am going to read you the minutes of that first meeting.

The other charter members were Ann Williams, Nellie Mayo and Patty McGhee. The Clubs main purpose is to increase the knowledge of it's members, to promote interest in better gardens, to participate in and promote all actives and projects of the club and to beautify the community.

The Club adopted the Mt. Airy part of their name from the historic pre-Revolutionary home called Mt Airy and the Claybreakers part came from the fact that most of the soil around Mt Airy is nothing but clay. Thus the name Mt Airy Claybreakers.

During the period between 1977 and 1980 the club participated in Craft days at the Mary Surratt House in Clinton Maryland where each year they sold fresh herb bread, herb jellies, vinegar's, spices, herbs, dried flower arrangements and various small hand crafted items pertaining to herbs and spices. In 1980 the club was responsible for the flower arrangements in the Surratt House when it was on the Prince George's County Garden Tour

As time went on the club decided to take on a project near the homes of it's members. Because everyone was community minded, and wanted to beautify the community and get others interested, a neighborhood park, Holloway Estates, needed some care. In the spring of 1982 a committee composed of Peggy Martin, Betty Abercrombie and Ann DeBoeser were appointed for an on-going endeavor, the beautification of Holloway Estates Park. With the help of the Maryland Park and Planning Commission the Club took the first steps.

Audrie Whitney who represented the Landscape Design Critics Council, designed a plan for a small garden and bike path in the area of the Parks entrance. The Holloway Park Project was set in motion in September of 1982 with the planting of 200 daffodil bulbs and in October a Kousa Dogwood tree was planted. In May of 1984, Roger Neiland, (an honary

member of the club) laid the bicycle path with black plastic, landscaping timbers and mulch.

Since the Parks projects inception, a lot of toil, sweat and loving care has gone into the planting of many flowers, scrubs and trees. When the rain failed to come the members brought water from their homes to water the plants. If you would like to enjoy the garden and meditate or rest your weary body there is a wooden bench to set upon that is dedicated in memory of past Club member Marie White.

Over the years, the club has held true to it's mission statement. All of us have gained a lot of knowledge through the monthly and educational programs, entering our flowers, plants and pictures in the County Fair where many of us have earned ribbons. Participating in Flower Shows where again many ribbons were won. The Club members have also volunteered their time and talents on many projects throughout the years. Congratulations Ladies for a job well done.

Read at 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of club  
2007