

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met on 14 May 2015 at 6:30 at the home of Elaine Arnold with 20 members present. In addition to the refreshments provided by the hostess, Iona Black offered appetizers. Members toured the gardens of Pam Smart, Iona Black, and Elaine Arnold at 6:00 pm before the meeting. Plants remaining from the plant sale were available for exchange.

**PROGRAM:** Members participated in a floral design contest using arrangements in unusual containers. The judges were Jessica Sherlock, Marilyn Burkut, and MaryBeth Cecil. Winners included Dot Lower (arrangement in a chamber pot), Esther Neckere (arrangement in a Dutch cow candy bag), and Julie Harrison, (arrangement in a toy truck). Other entries included arrangements in a mini-bathtub, a mixing bowl, teapots, a candle, and a boot.

MaryBeth Cecil and Diana Morse celebrated May birthdays.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

- The e-mailed minutes of the April meeting submitted by Recording Secretary Esther Neckere were approved.
- Dot Lower, Corresponding Secretary, read a thank-you note from Marian Moreland's daughter for the club's commemorative donation. She also sent a thank you note to Susan Baily for her gift to the club in memory of Marian.
- According to Carol Ober, Treasurer, the plant sale at Julie Harrison's home on 2 May netted \$510.00, making a current bank balance of \$1901.92.
- Historian Lorraine Leonard reported that the Marlton Advocate did not print the report on Marian Moreland; however, she will give her report during the June meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Design: Julie Harrison presented "A flower and a Leaf" arrangement using a tree peony in a vase previously owned by Marian Moreland.
- Horticulture: Jessica Sherlock gave an overview of **Azaleas**, which are actually a type of Rhododendron, a shrub that has grown in Asia over 1,000 years. In China, these plants represented elegance and wealth. Although some azaleas are evergreen, most US varieties are deciduous. Azaleas like acidic soil—between 5 ½ and 6 ph. Lace bugs and spider mites attack azaleas under the leaf. Use a pump sprayer pointing up. The plant is toxic; one superstition believes that azaleas in a black vase present a death threat. The first US azaleas were planted in Charleston, SC, in the 1830's, and they are still a popular tourist destination in the spring.
- Membership: Elaine Arnold reported that the club has two openings for new members.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Esther Neckere reported on the mini-Areca Palms donated to the Surratts-Clinton library during their spring gardening project during March and April. The library personnel requested to keep several of the palms on display in the library.
- Mataponi Elementary school project: Three club members participated in the Earth Day Cleanup in the stream in back of the school. According to the principal, the school will call us to volunteer for help with the native plant sun garden and the vegetable garden at a later date.
- All club dues have been paid.
- The spring club newsletter, edited by Deborah Determan and Lenay O'Quinn, has been published.
- The NCAGC installation luncheon was a success, helped by the Claybreakers who attended.
- Julie Harrison reported that the raised planting boxes at the Lutheran Church need to be weeded and cleared for the butterfly plants. The club will participate from 9:30 to 10:30 on 18 May.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Pat Hall will host the annual club picnic on 1 August at 2:00pm, (not 25 July as earlier stated). A White Elephant fund raiser will be held at the picnic. Lorraine Leonard and Arminta Donovan will coach members on how to enter the Prince George's County Fair held at the beginning of September. Bring samples of plant materials for advice on presentation.
- Elected officers for the 2015-2016 year include the following:
  - President: Lenay O'Quinn
  - Vice President: Gilda Allen
  - Treasurer: Patricia Hall
  - Recording Secretary: Mary Jane Bishop
  - Historian: Pamela Smart
- Installation of the new officers will be held on 11 June at 6:00 pm at Mama Roma restaurant in Brandywine Crossing. (15908 Crain Highway). Money and menu selections go to Carol Ober.
- Stepping Stone workshops will be held at the home of Lenay O'Quinn on 13 June and 18 June from 10:00 to 12:00. Please bring \$5.00 for materials and a plant saucer.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Lavender Farm tour will be held 9 June. See Iona Black if you are interested.
- Elaine Arnold announced that The Community Support Systems is planning to start a community garden to grow produce for the local food pantry.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm; Dot Lower won the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted, Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary

**Esther Neckere**