

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club

Breaking News

Summer 2018



Calendar of



Upcoming Events

August 16

Potluck Picnic

September 13

Monthly Meeting

September 15

District 1 Fall Meeting

November 2

Morning of Design

Items of Note:

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Editor: Deborah Determan
Next issue will have a new editor—Mary Woodruff. She will be sending information out soon on when input is due for the next edition.



Annual Potluck Picnic Thursday, August 16 at Linda Millette's house 2-5pm

Bring a piece of labeled horticulture in a green bottle and a gardening object to exchange!

Kaila Odura Asante is the recipient of the Mount Airy Clay Breakers scholarship award of \$50.

Nomination from Kaila's teacher:

It is my pleasure to nominate Kaila Odura Asante for the Gardening Award. Kaila is a very responsible, motivated and confident student. She comes to school each day with an excitement for learning and a dedication for going above and beyond at school. Kaila pays close attention to details and makes sure that her daily work is not only accurate, but also of the utmost quality.

In addition to her academic excellence, Kaila is also a model leader who sets a positive example for her FFA peers. Kaila enjoys working in the greenhouse, and is a dependable student during our biggest fundraiser, the Annual Spring Plant Sale. Kaila is a wonderful young lady and it has been my pleasure to be her teacher and FFA Advisor for the past three years.

*Danita Matthews MEd. Science Department Chair
Gwynn Park High School*



Esther presenting scholarship to Kaila Odura Asante

President's Corner

"I will not move my army without onions," General Ulysses S. Grant wrote in a message to the War Department. Three trainloads of this necessity arrived the next day. The earliest civilizations sustained themselves on onions and other basic food stuffs. Egyptians who built the pyramids subsisted on bread, onions, and beer! These and other interesting facts about fruit and vegetables are found in the book *The Carrot Purple and Other Curious Stories About the Food We Eat* by Joel E. Denker. The book, which ties into our theme this past year, "**Growing for the Table**," makes great summertime reading.

We are looking forward to our potluck picnic on August 16, to be held at 2:00 pm at Linda Millette's home. Deborah Determan and Gilda Allen cohost. Please let Linda know what you will be bringing so she can estimate the setup space.

The rain we have had this summer has encouraged our gardens to burst out with an overabundance of plants. Please consider sharing some of your excess in our plant exchange at the picnic. See you there.

Esther



Our Club Website

At the time of this newsletter, all but 4 of our club scrapbooks have been scanned and are available on our club website—and Linda and I will have all of the books scanned and available by the middle of August. Thanks to all who helped: **Esther, Dot, Diana...and especially Linda!**

Linda not only will have helped scan 17 of the books at my house by the time we are done, she also went to UPS and scanned 5 of the larger books that wouldn't fit on my scanner by herself (donating not only her time, but the cost, for the effort). Linda contributed to scanning 26 years of the 38 years we have scrapbooks for—an amazing contribution toward this effort and I cannot thank her enough.

If you haven't signed up for an account on our website, please go to <http://claybreakers77.wixsite.com/mysite> and click on the Login/Sign up link at the bottom right of the picture and follow instructions.

Please take a look at what we have on the website and provide feedback—this is **our** site and all comments and suggestions are not only welcome, but valuable in making this a useful site for us all.

I especially ask that you look at the page for our Scrapbook 2017-2018 (from the top of the main page, click on the tab for **More** and then click on **Scrapbooks**, then scroll down and click on the button that says **2017-2018**). Any buttons that have a blue background have documents that you can open (and download or print if you want) or take you to the information on another webpage. You can also click on any of the photos and it will tell you more about it. And, you can click on any photo, then advance through all the photos in that group by clicking on the arrow to the left or right. As you can see, I am missing a few handouts from this past year, so if anyone has one of the items I show as pending, please send them to me or give them to me at the picnic,—that would be greatly appreciated. Also, I am still looking for photos and information from the Hillwood tour in September.

Thanks again to everyone who is helping to make this website a reality!

Article provided by Deborah Determan

June 21 - Suitland Bog Tour

Pam Smart, who arranged the tour, along with Linda Millette and Deborah Determan toured the Suitland Bog Natural Area with Park Ranger Chris Garrett from the Upper Marlboro Office for MNCPPC. Ranger Garrett gave a wonderful and informative tour, explaining that the Suitland Bog (which means wet, spongy ground with soil composed mainly of decayed vegetable matter) has over 300 species of plants, 20 which are designated as rare, threatened, or endangered--and several plants which are carnivorous. The bog is a unique wetland habitat and the tour showcased a huge variety of plants and was a wonderful way to spend a morning.



Ranger Chris Garrett, Club Members Deborah Determan and Linda Millette

Swamp Pink Azalea



Red Milkweed

Article and photos provided by Pam Smart

June Meeting at Chevy's Restaurant



Front table: Iona. Back Table: Connie, Elaine, Mary Beth, Linda, Lucille listening to talks



Esther reading a story



Guest Cherie Lejeune NCAGC
1st Vice-President

Photos provided by Pam Smart

PG Home & Garden Tour

You read an article on this event in our Spring Issue of Breaking News. The following experience of Bob and Carol Ober was too late for that publication, but is felt to still be relevant and maybe inspire some of you to visit these sites when available.

On Saturday April 21, 2018 my husband Bob and I started our afternoon at the suggested first stop, The Chapel of Incarnation, built in 1916. Garden club member, Pam Smart, greeted us and conducted a tour of the Mission-style building. We also spoke with some well informed Chapel members about the building's history and ongoing restoration.

From the Chapel located on Brandywine Road, we went a short way to the William W. Early House on Cherry Tree Crossing Road. There we were greeted very quickly by several friendly volunteers and the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Race Dowling. After a brief historical background of the area and William Early, the man that settled the Village of Brandywine and built the railroad running through it, we were given a tour of the wonderfully restored Queen Anne style home. The gardens and grounds surrounding the house have also been restored to be as historically accurate as possible. Touring this house alone was well worth the cost of the tour.

Next, we briefly visited the Connick's Folly and Cemetery. This house was well restored and kept in the Original Federal style with some well-done updates. The owners were very friendly and informative. The time was fleeing fast so we high tailed it to Romano Vineyard and Winery to pick up lunch, good sandwiches, bottled water, chips and cookie.

From there we stopped at the Williams' house on Croom Road. It's a beautiful farm style home built in 1986 with a stunning wrap around porch. Inside the tastefully decorated home were many wonderful antiques. An addition was built in 1999 including a huge gourmet kitchen, more porch area, a pool and a pool house. The outdoor living space was wonderful and makes you want to move right in.

The next stop listed in the guide book, we were given at the start of our tour, was St. Mary's Rectory on Aquasco Road. The home was built in 1856 and an addition was completed in 1876. The exterior is an example of adapted Greek and Italianate styles. It was the area's community center during the development of the farming community of Woodville Aquasco until it was sold to private owners in 1977. The current owners, Kerri Childress and Allen Johnson were gracious hosts and gave us a wonderful showing and explained the historical preservation and up dates to the property made by the previous owners.

The last stop was just wonderful to complete our tour. The P. A. Bowen Farmstead on Dr. Bowen Road is a two-story house set on a hill and is surrounded by a working dairy farm that the Geoffrey Morell family lovingly operate. They renovated and restored the home throughout. The original house was built in the late 1600's. That now serves as the pantry. The very large, grand Federal style house, combined with Italianate detailing boasts 13 foot high ceilings and an impressive three story staircase and a large enclosed porch inside the huge gourmet kitchen. The house is fittingly decorated with many period antiques. We stopped at the farm store next to the house, and found it to be worth visiting. We will return there one day.

Ladies, the flower arrangements at each stop were very well done, and beautiful. I was proud to be a member of our garden club at each stop on the tour, and told the owners about my friends that made them.

Article provided by Carol Ober

Recognition and Appreciation

Message from Jack Thompson, Chair for the 2018 House & Garden Pilgrimage
I would like to thank the following individuals who had leading roles to ensure a fine event:
Pamela Smart and the Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club
For the lovely donated floral arrangements

SURRATT'S HOUSE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER



Julie Harrison at our table—lots of plants for sale!



Esther Neckere and Connie Dalpra at our table

On June 23rd, our club participated in a Festival at the historic Surratt's House in Clinton MD. The space and tables were furnished free of charge. As you can see from the pictures, we had many plants for sale. There were also garden gloves for sale as well as packets of seeds which were created and supplied by Pam. In addition, we also sold Humming Bird Feeders for the NCAGC.

Thank you Esther for arranging, coordinating and working this event. Thanks also to Esther, Julie, Pam, Marilyn, and Linda for supplying plants (please forgive me if I've forgotten someone); and to Connie, Elaine, Julie and Linda for helping set-up, sell, and BUY. It was an OK event for us, but we learned some thing things: 1. Folks think of planting in the Spring more than in June. 2. Many people told us how they had a pile of garden gloves or had just bought a pair. 3. No one wants DEER plants. 4. Bring HERB plants if we do this again. With this said, a lot of persuading and cajoling and convincing got customers to provide our coffers with \$130.

Article and photos provided by Linda Millette

Pictures from Linda's Summer Garden

Hydrangea



Calla Lily

Fungus



AUTUMN

EARLY AUTUMN

- Hoe weeds regularly throughout autumn.
- Water all crops regularly.
- Harvest onions and bend down the necks of the remainder to prevent seeding.
- Continue to lift potatoes.
- Expose the fruit of outdoor tomatoes to the sun by removing the covering leaves.
- Maintain the succession of seed sowing for late or winter crops.
- Plant late season crops raised under cover.

MID-AUTUMN

- After beans and peas have been harvested, turn the soil over and leave it fallow over the winter.
- Lift root vegetables when their tops fade.
- Cut down asparagus foliage when mature.
- Onions and turnip beds should be thinned.
- Clear the last of the potatoes and store them.
- Earth up celery and leeks.
- Plant out late-season crops and protect tender types such as cauliflower.

LATE AUTUMN

- Get the soil ready for spring sowing.
- Protect crowns of tender crops with a mulch of leaves.
- Lift the last of the beetroot and carrots.
- Earth up celery and leeks if not already done.
- Spinach will continue to crop as it is thinned.
- Dry off the late potatoes for seed stock next year.
- Continue to plant out late-season crops and protect tender types such as cauliflower.

EARLY AUTUMN

- Wall fruit that has ripened will need protecting.
- Fruit trees may be budded and light pruning continued.
- Early varieties of apples and pears that do not keep well should be gathered.
- Prune currants and gooseberries to keep them in shape. Raspberry canes that have fruited should be removed to make room for the new growth.
- Strawberries should have unwanted runners removed to give space to the main plants.

MID-AUTUMN

- Look though the nursery catalogues and order fruit stock, then prepare the ground and remove stock to be replaced.
- Move any trees or bushes that are in the wrong place.
- Apples and pears can now be gathered.
- Apricots, cherries, currants and gooseberries should be pruned and the cuttings burnt.
- Loganberries and raspberries should be planted now.

LATE AUTUMN

- This is the time to plant fruit trees in well-prepared ground.
- Begin winter pruning of fruit trees.
- Plant currants and gooseberries.
- Figs will need thinning.
- Spread manure between rows of new strawberry plants.

EARLY AUTUMN

- Harvest seed as it ripens.
- Harvest leaves and stems as required.
- Cut back herbaceous types to stimulate new growth.

MID-AUTUMN

- Harvest seed as it ripens.
- Tidy away dead material.
- Protect tender herbs.
- Plant shrubby and herbaceous types until late autumn.
- Move tender container herbs under some protection.
- Divide herbaceous herbs until late autumn.

LATE AUTUMN

- Prepare ground for planting when conditions allow.

Chemistry Cachet's Easy Homemade Plant Food (Miracle Grow Replacement)

- 1.5 tbsp magnesium sulfate (Epsom Salt – $MgSO_4$)
- 1.5 tsp sodium bicarbonate (Baking Soda – $NaHCO_3$)
- 0.25 – 0.5 tsp Ammonium Hydroxide (Ammonia – NH_4OH)***
- 1 gallon of water (H_2O)

In a water container, add all the ingredients. Top with one gallon of water and stir. I water about 5 or 6 big plants with this. You don't want to add this entire amount to one plant. A little goes a long way!

***Many have asked why such a small amount of ammonia and why the variance in the amount. Ammonia can be potent, so a little tiny bit goes a long way. With hot summer temperatures, I usually go with the 0.25 tsp of ammonia. I don't want to give the potted plant too much that may risk burning leaves. This is very unlikely to happen however. You can use up to 0.5 tsp of ammonia and the solution will be just fine. It will be a little stronger, but equally as safe for plants.

Make Your Own Organic Gardening Spray

- 1/2 cup of water
- 3-4 cloves of garlic
- 3-4 hot chili peppers
- Prepare the beds if you have grass by tilling or removing the sod with a straight edge shovel. Three months before starting your garden you can do sheet mulching which is placing layers of cardboard, compost, leaves, grass or other waste.
- Blend all ingredients, strain the blended liquid
- Put liquid in spray bottle
- Add 1/4 cup of dish soap
- Fill remaining bottle with water

Caution- don't spray in direct sunlight and use gloves. Fumes may be present!

Information provided by Dot Lower

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I took over the newsletter in Fall 2014, so I have been doing this for 4 years now...with my upcoming schedule I need to step away and let someone else take the helm. This is my last issue as editor, as Mary Woodruff will be taking over beginning with the next edition.

I truly appreciate everyone's support in providing input and wonderful photos to make the newsletter meaningful and enjoyable for all of us. I know Mary will do an excellent job, and I know all of you will continue to provide her with the material that becomes the foundation of our newsletter.

Again, thank you for all you've done to make our newsletter something we can all be proud of.

Deborah