

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Club

September 16, 2021

Minutes

Start time for the meeting was 12:30 p.m.

"Gardening is a very humbling experience." Martha Stewart

During the hospitality time, our testimony was given by Pam Smart.

Pam's maternal parents lived outside Boston and often took her to Boston. Her grandmother had a big vegetable garden and Pam got her green thumb from her. Pam and her Dad shared an interest in gardening. While as a real estate agent, he used to plant vegetables at vacant houses. Years ago vegetable plots opened up to the public at minimal cost on Bock Road where it was then considered Oxon Hill. There was no water available so all the vegetable plot renters had to haul it from home.

In 1987. Pam and her husband Don bought their house on Dale Drive and at that time, they were the youngest family on the block. Members of the Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club, the late Marian Moreland and Peggy Martin, would walk by her home and Pam started walking with them. They mentioned the garden club to her but she was fearful of hosting the meetings. The first meeting was a plant exchange and she became very interested and persuaded other ladies to join. Pam said she had fun on the rides to and from meetings. She values the friendships of the women she has met over the years associated with the garden club.

During the program, we got to view members' gardens in a power point presentation by Deborah.

Gilda said she enjoyed watching the praying mantis and toads (that eat slugs) in her garden. Gilda had a pod of kids this summer teaching them about insects, etc., found in the garden. She had a good return from her edible garden this year and made a beautiful bouquet of flowers also from her garden

Pam showed us a sitting area and a beautiful birdbath in her back yard. Her pet rabbit has a perch next to the kitchen. She had showy hydrangeas and lavender plants (that she made delicious cookies with) along with day lilies in her spacious back yard.

Linda's garden had a lovely golden chain tree along with flowering azaleas and a popcorn plant. Also a blooming mother-in-law tongue plant, astilbe, and knock out roses.

Julie's garden included plants that could survive the heat.

Diana's had lovely blue salvias on display, day lilies, variegated solomon's seal (which can take over your yard), caladiums, and primrose in a flower bed. She said the crab apple tree has to go! (showing its 65 years)

Lorraine said there is a proper place for the proper plant. She has lots of shade where caladiums and coleus plants are thriving.

Arminta showed us her large six- or seven-year-old fig tree that produces lots of figs that she cans but has to be covered with burlap in the winter. She has vinca that the deer don't like, an azalea plant 25' long, a Leyland cypress, and a butterfly bush.

Lucille's garden had black-eyed susans, a pretty butterfly bush, and large elephant ears.

Roll Call:

Present: Gilda, Elaine, Iona, Deborah, Arminta, Lucille, Julie, Lorraine, Dot, Linda, Diana, and Pam

Absent: Marilyn, Mary Beth, Connie, Esther, Carol, and Mary

Minutes were approved as submitted.

REPORTS;

Civic Development: No Report

Conservation: Elaine reported the yellow composting bins are picked up every Monday. She suggested keeping scrapes in the refrigerator and taking them out Sunday night or Monday morning.

Sunshine: Arminta sent birthday cards to Julie and Elaine

Design: Lorraine showed us a pretty arrangement of zinnias picked from her garden and peppers. She pointed out that zinnias don't have to be planted every year because they are self seeding.

Horticulture: Julie read us an article about caring for birds in the winter. Some birds fly South but there are many that live here all year round and need food, water, and shelter to survive. Help them by leaving leaf litter for them to look for insects. Clean out bird houses for them to have shelter and provide food: i.e., berries, grasses, and water throughout the winter months. Don't feed them bread--it's junk food to them!

Newsletter: No Report. Diana gave Pam kudos for her good photos.

Financial Report: Dot reported we have a balance of \$1,587.57.

Technology Committee: Deborah and Linda are working on the archive.

Deborah demonstrated how to access our web page. She gave excellent instructions and informed members if we wanted access to pictures to let her know. Transferring information to the web page is 90% accomplished.

Old Business: None

New Business.

Julie was submitted for the Perennial Bloom Award. We were impressed viewing pictures of Julie throughout the years and reading all her accomplishments.

Dedication of the oak tree planted in memory of Arleen Ankeny and the installation of the bronze plaque will be held in an outdoor reception on October 23 at the Riversdale House Museum. District I and Paint Branch Garden Club have worked together to honor Arleen.

Elaine has arranged for Laura Francis, owner of Floral Presentations, to be our guest speaker on October 14. Laura Francis is an accredited flower show judge for the Garden Club of Virginia and will give us three types of demonstrations: a wreath, garland, and a centerpiece.

Deborah offered to demonstrate how to "mute" after the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Iona Black
Secretary