

MT. AIRY CLAY BREAKERS GARDEN  
CLUB

MINUTES - MARCH 9, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by President Mary Jane Bishop. Mr Josh Taylor introduced us to the art of photographing flowers and Landscapes. The following are some factors which are considered when photographing these subjects.

(1) Composition i.e. how the picture fits together. The center of interest should always be kept in mind. The subject should not occupy the center or clash with the background. A foreground feature and Simplicity are important.

2. Subject Enhancement We should explore the subject by taking time and looking for the best light on the subject. He suggested that it's best to photograph flowers in the mornings because they do not photograph well in bright light.

3 In the case of capturing flowers on film, he recommends that we should look for groupings of threes. It's best to photograph things in odd numbers. If two subjects are chosen, make sure they are close together. A mass of color and a diagonal shot are two features that create drama.

4. In doing close up shots we should look for the best specimen. Move in as close as possible and choose the smallest

aperture. A point shoot camera is preferred.

He was able to show through personal pictures taken that landscapes are best captured horizontally. He also pointed out that if the subject includes a flagpole or other tall things, we should get them lined up straight. In the case of portraits a vertical <sup>shot</sup> is more flattering.

REFRESHMENTS: Following refreshments provided by Sonia Johnson we proceeded to deal with matters of business. Fifteen members and third time visitor Dorothy Ann Shaffer were present.

MINUTES. Elaine moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. This was seconded by Mary Beth.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mary Beth informed us that an incorrect figure was reported in January. She said the actual balance as of January 12, 2006 should have been reported as \$1,379.00. The present balance as of March 9, 2006 is \$1,221.50

HORTICULTURE. Armintha encouraged us to start our spring clean up at this time. She reminded us that litter harbors disease, fungus, and pest. She pointed out 3 techniques of clean up which are cutting shearing and raking. She also mentioned the need to attend to the following tasks at this time. (1) Cutting back ornamental

grasses. (2) Raking before young shoots start sprouting (3) Cutting away dead and brownish leaves from the bottom of the helebore. (4) Shearing the top of the liriope. (5) Pruning hydrangea which involves cutting out the dead canes and leaving the buds. Elaine asked about the best time to cut back butterfly bush and Crape Myrtle, to which Marian and Armintha answered that now is the time for such a task.

**CIVIC DEVELOPMENT.** Lorraine reported and informed us on the following events. She mentioned that our club received a number of awards at <sup>the</sup> District I meeting held on March 9, 2006. She further reminded us of the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs general meeting to be held on March 28, 2006 at the U.S. National Arboretum. The program will feature an introduction to Chinese gardens given by Dr. Thomas Elias. She also mentioned the floral design workshop to be hosted by District I on April 5, 2006 at the National Arboretum. We were told about a tour of Fern Valley at the Arboretum on April 13, 2006 to be conducted by the Curator. Again, we were reminded of the planned tour of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens on June 15, 2006. Lorraine also brought to our attention that there were pecans and gloves left over for sale. She suggested drawing up a calendar for work to be done on the upkeep of Holloway Park.

WAYS AND MEANS: Pam suggested that we have four to six volunteers to work at the plant and white elephant sale on April 29, 2006. She also said that four tables will be needed.

OLD BUSINESS: Armenta reminded us that the Prince Georges Beautification application for 2006 is ~~now~~ available at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Marian suggested having our Lunch Social at the Pirate's Cove instead of the West Lawn. This was agreed upon. Lorraine suggested moving the next meeting from April 13 to April 20, so as to accommodate Holy Thursday activities. This would be further discussed at the Lunch Social. Dorothy Ann indicated her intention to join the Club. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Sonia Johnson, Recording Secretary.