

Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club meeting, 14 April, 2011.

The April meeting of the Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club was held at MaryBeth Cecil's home on 14 April with 20 members in attendance. Guests were Lorraine Leonard's mother, Dorothy Yashinski and MaryBeth Cecil's mother, Ann Williams, a charter member of the garden club.

The program—"Bats: Myth and Reality"—was delivered by Betty Akerson Lyons, a wildlife biologist from the DC Department of Environment. She described the bats in the DC area: Spotted, Ghost Faced, Big Eared, Flying Fox, Big Brown, Eastern Pipperelle, and Little Brown. After rodents, bats are the largest group of animal mammals. Benefits of bats: Bats eat beetles, moths, and centipedes; pollinate plants and disperse seeds; and the enzyme in bats' saliva will help stroke patients. Ms. Lyons and her husband brought along a bat house and demonstrated its use. The myth that bats carry rabies is true of only one half of one percent of bats.

Old Business: Marsha Kirschner, corresponding secretary, read a thank you note from Marion Moreland on the birthday festivity held last month for her and Joyce Myers, who also expressed her thanks verbally at the meeting. Marsha read a thank you note from Mary Alden for the club's contribution for the NCAGC fundraising effort for the convention. Treasurer Elaine Arnold reported a current balance of \$1,650.56 in the club treasury. The plant sale fundraiser netted the club \$300 in profit. Plants ordered through this fundraiser were available for pickup that evening. Civic Development chair, Carol Ober, reported that the club project garden in Holloway is looking good. Gilda Allen reported on the garden club project in the after-school care program at Concordia Lutheran Church. The children called their club the "Sunset Garden Club." Children were given seed packets of corn, cauliflower, broccoli, and groups did research on the plants, their germination, sowing depth, and sun/shade requirements. A simple yet effective gardening project was to put a wet paper towel in a clear plastic baggy, sprinkle radish seeds on top, and put in a sunny window to see how quickly the seeds would sprout.

Lorraine Leonard

New Business: Linda Millette, nominating committee chair, reported success in forming a club officer roster for next year and options for future years. Club members decided to hold their annual plant sale of plants from their own gardens on 7 May at Julie Harrison's house. The need for advertising was expressed. Members were to bring their already-priced items to Julie's house, preferably the day before. Convention volunteers are needed on Friday, 27 May. The cost is \$15.00. So far Joyce, Linda, Sonia, and MaryBeth have volunteered. Members were asked to bring one piece of horticulture in a green bottle (previously distributed) to the next meeting, which will be at Diana Morse's home. The name of the plant should be taped to the bottle. President Julie Harrison announced that the club received certificates for its contributions to Fern Valley, Friendship Garden, Activities accomplished by a Club of 24 Members or fewer, Arbor House, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The club adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary