

The meeting of the Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Gilda Allen on 11 September 2014 at the home of Lorraine Leonard. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Thanks went to Lenay O'Quinn for hosting the annual club picnic in August. Pink and white floral arrangements made by Joyce Meyer decorated tables on the lawn, and attendees enjoyed the potluck dinner, the "give and take" table, and a horticulture display.

The new yearbook, which featured pictures of all of the members and a calendar of future gardening events, was distributed. Pam Smart, historian, circulated the history scrapbook containing memorabilia of the past year. The club welcomed back Mary Jane Bishop and acknowledged the birthdays of Elaine Arnold and Arminta Donovan. Linda Millette is on the sick list. *Fractured tibia.*

PROGRAM: Dot Lower introduced herb associations and discussed different types of herbs—culinary, medicinal, and sacred, with the evening's focus on the culinary. A reference handout entitled "11 Herbs Every Cook Should Use" was distributed. Carol Ober passed around samples of fresh and dried herbs, including lemon grass, sorrel, chives, rosemary, oregano, thyme, parsley, and dill. Her suggestions for using herbs were as follows: Just a pinch of dry herbs will do; use dry herbs within a year, but stick cinnamon will last longer. Members contributed to an herb "tasting table" where participants sampled food using herbs such as caprese salad, pasta with pesto, and various tomato dishes, and a summer vegetable salad.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Carol Ober reported a balance of \$~~1,035.~~ ^{\$} 1379.90

Corresponding Secretary: Dot Lower read a thank you note from District I Director Danielle Brabazon for inviting her to the annual club June dinner at the Silver Skewer Restaurant in Waldorf MD.

Civic Development: Pam Smart reported that Holloway Garden plants such as Hellebores, Black-eyed Susan, and Lariope were doing well. Lenay O'Quinn and Iona Black volunteered to help Pam with maintenance.

Conservation: In keeping with the herbal theme of the program, Deborah Determan talked about herbs that repel pests: pennyroyal repels ants, chiggers and ticks; catnip, chives, rue, and tansy keep flies away; and mosquitoes avoid basil, lavender, and chamomile. For expert advice about herbs' protective qualities, log on to Jim Dulley's website-- www.dulley.com.

Design: Julie Harrison emphasized simplicity in her arrangement of hydrangeas from her garden, advising to "use what you have." She recommended using sugar and vodka in arrangement water to keep it clear.

Horticulture: Jessica Sherlock discussed the Mexican origins of Dahlias and the fact that the bulbs were eaten by Mexican natives. The Spanish Conquistadors brought them to Europe. The flowers are named after a French man named Dahl—a student of Linnaeus, a famous botanist.

yearbook: Deborah Determan + Linda Millette were applauded for their work on the new yearbook - which featured pictures of members, a yearly calendar of gardening events, and a new format.

Although dahlias come in a variety of sizes colors, so far there is no BLUE Dahlia yet. A reward of 200 British pounds is available for someone who breeds one.

Newsletter: A recent District I newsletter contained a Claybreakers article submitted by Gilda Allen on the stepping stone hypertufa, and flower workshops sponsored by the club. Future submissions (text and/or pictures) should be saved as pdf files. Several of these workshops will be repeated: Flower workshop at Marilyn Berkut's on 23 September, and a hypertufa workshop at Lenay O'Quinn's on 8 October.

Sunshine: Arminta Donovan sent out 12 cards to members over the past several months: thinking of you, birthday, and sympathy. They are much appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ways and Means: Fliers and catalogs for potential fundraisers were circulated, and a questionnaire was distributed as to which type(s) of fundraisers club members would like to support. Possibilities included selling bulbs, perennials from a wholesale supplier, and a variety of baked goods. Results of the survey will be announced in October. Members are asked to contribute flower arrangements for sale at the St. Thomas Church Fall Festival to be held on 22 November.

Prince Georges Beautification Awards Dinner will be held 24 September at the Newton White Mansion. Our own Julie Harrison will get the Golden Trowel Award. Reservations can be made on PG Co. website.

Newsletter: Lenay O'Quinn and Deborah Determan will be in charge of publishing our newsletter. It will be a quarterly publication with two pages, front and back. Deborah has made a template. They are asking for pictures as well as text, saved to a pdf file before submitting. THE DEADLINE FOR THE FIRST ISSUE IS 26 SEPTEMBER. Please send your contributions to Lenay or Deborah.

District I meeting Saturday, November 13. Topic is "Bees" Directions to follow.

Morning of Design hosted by District I will be held Monday, 20 November from 10:30 to 12:30 at the White Oak Community Center, 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904. The theme is "Holiday Expressions." There will be a \$3.00 donation at the door. More info and directions to follow.

Prince George's County Fair: Lorraine Leonard assisted by Arminta Donovan will sponsor a project to encourage club participation in next year's fair.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm followed by a 50/50 drawing won by Esther Neckere.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Neckere

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary