

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met at the home of Lorraine Leonard on 10 January 2013 with 15 members present. Roll call elicited a number of "snake stories."

PROGRAM: Vice President Iona Black introduced Jimmy Dick, the speaker of the evening's program on Living Walls and Green Rooftops. Mr. Dick, an employee of the Furbish Company of Baltimore, illustrated through a slide show some of the company's local commercial projects. Blue Pacific Evergreen plantings were used on retaining walls at the Shops at Dakota Crossing and a new Costco site for erosion control. Rooftop applications, which aided heat reduction, extended the life of the roof, and helped in wastewater management were used on the Dirksen Senate Office Building and the healing garden at the National Institutes of Health. The speaker recommended sedum as a desirable plant material, although other grasses and flowers could be used.

BUSINESS MEETING: President Gilda Allen opened the business meeting. The December minutes were read and approved. Esther Neckere will assume the position of club **secretary** for the remainder of the year. Carol Ober, treasurer, reported a bank balance of \$792.15. Carol also presented a detailed spreadsheet of club revenues and expenses for 2012. The club voted to donate \$50 each to the NCAGC Scholarship fund, Fern Valley at the National Arboretum, the Save the Bay Foundation, and World Gardening. Pam Smart, club historian, mentioned a club article in the Marlton Advocate, with a picture of Iona Black.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Diana Morse, **conservation** chair, reported on invasive ~~animals~~ <sup>reptiles</sup> and birds. The brown snake caused the extinction of many birds in Guam. Boa constrictors and monitor lizards, introduced by the pet trade and released by owners into the wild, are a growing problem in Florida. Invasive bird species include the mute swans, Canada geese, and rock pigeons. Following a discussion involving club bylaws and membership issues, Sonia Johnson, **membership** chair, will follow up with three members who have not been attending.

NEW BUSINESS: President Allen asked for a volunteer to chair the **Ways and Means** Committee. The club dues of \$20 are payable no later than the March meeting. Four fundraisers were suggested by the Ways and Means committee members: Two that have been successful in the past-- the annual plant sale and the perennial plant sale--will be continued. Elaine Arnold moved and Carol Ober seconded the proposal for the club to sponsor an April bus trip to Winterthur. Julie Harrison moved and Linda Millette seconded making and selling



Thanksgiving table arrangements at the farmers' market at St. Thomas Church in Croom in November. Lorraine Leonard requested that members encourage children in their families or schools to participate in the NCAGC call for conservation posters featuring Smokey the Bear or Woodsy Owl. Linda Millette announced that she will be on the television program "Chesapeake Collectibles" on 31 January.

Next month's meeting on 14 February will be hosted by Marian Moreland. The program will be on Mushrooms, by Dr. Amy Rossman of the US Department of Agriculture. The meeting was adjourned followed by the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther Neckere". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary