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Subject: March minutes- some of you were not able to open these

Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2015 4:05 pm

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met on 12 March 2015 at the home of Iona Black. March birthdays included Deborah Determan, Mary Jane Bishop, and Joyce Meyer. President Gilda Allen sent a club condolence message in memory of Marian Moreland to the Lee Funeral Home website. **PROGRAM:** Mr. Gene Sumi, Education Coordinator at Homestead Gardens, spoke on the topic of Water Conservation. Some of his recommendations follow:

Use a watering can or watering "wand" to control the water pressure and to save water.

Water deeply so that water can collect below the root system. Let the top dry out so capillary action can kick in. Only water when plants wilt or lose their luster. Lawns in Maryland should be watered no more than once a week.

To calculate the extent of your sprinkler reach, set out three cans—one can away, one close, and one midpoint. Turn on sprinkler and you can see what the sprinkler puts out: x number of inches of water in x amount of time at each of the three positions.

Amend the soil with one part of peat moss or compost with the original dirt when planting. Don't baby plants with good soil right away. Make a gravel water "dam" in the hole in which you will be planting a tree or bush,

Use a wetting agent when watering a slope to keep water from running off.

Aerate your lawn by rolling an aeration drum (which can be rented) over it.

Mr. Sumi ended his talk by offering to serve as a consultant via e-mail. He also passed out Homestead Gardens 20% off coupons.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Attendance: 20 members were present and one guest, Ms. Sarafina Lease.

Recording Secretary Esther Neckere: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Carol Ober: Current balance is \$1,577.91. Donations of \$70 in memory of Marian Moreland were received. The club half of the 50/50 received in February was used to make change for the white elephant sale.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Civic Development: Pam Smart pruned the rosebush at Holloway Park. NCAPP put in snow sticks to ensure that they do not tear up the garden.

Conservation: Deborah Determan reported on the Environmental Protection Agency's Watersense

Program www.epa.gov/watersense. The agency now offers a Watersense Seal of Approval to support development of products and partners that save consumers water. They also offer tips on consumer watersense practices: Keep a container by all faucets to catch the "warm up" water that can be used to water plants.

Design: Julie Harrison demonstrated how removable decals can be used to seasonally customize a vase or platter. She exhibited a long lasting arrangement of baby's breath with greenery from a Peace Lily plant.

Sunshine: Arminta Donovan sent out three birthday cards in March.

Telephone: Jackie George and Joyce Meyer will continue to phone meeting reminders and report totals to the hostess of the month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Members approved the final version of the revised bylaws.

Esther Neckere reported on a project to donate plants in support of the Surrats-Clinton Library's March and April Spring Gardening program. Five mini Areca palms were paired with displays of gardening books throughout the library.

The Surratts-Clinton Library and Prince George's Master Gardeners is sponsoring the programs on the following topics: Native Plants for your Garden (March 14) Companion Planting of Herbs, Vegetables and Flowers (March 28). Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife (April 11) and Low Maintenance Gardening (April 18) The programs are all at 2:00 pm and open to the public, with registration at the information desk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Club project: A committee of Gilda Allen, Deborah Determan, Julie Harrison, Carol Ober, and Linda Millette was formed to research a club project.

A Memorial Committee was formed: Elaine Arnold, Linda Millette, Jackie George, and Gilda Allen will explore the possibility of a native plant garden with Mt. Airy's Chesapeake Native Plant Society contributing the plants and the club planting them to memorialize club members as they pass away.

In memory of Marian, it was decided to plant a memorial rosebush or azalea at Holloway Garden, and Pam Smart suggested that we plant lily bulbs from Marian's garden there as well.

Dues: Membership dues of \$25 are payable in April.

Donations: The club donated \$100 to each of the following organizations: NCAGC Scholarship Fund, Chesapeake Conservation, Fern Valley at the National Arboretum, and Save the Bay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

District 1 Meeting will be held at the US Arboretum on 14 March from 10-12 am to induct new District 1 Director Julie Harrison and to present the Lavender Award for Lenay O'Quinn.

The deadline for submissions for the newsletter is 6 April. Please send your information to Deborah Determan or Lenay O'Quinn. The next issue is due in July.

The annual plant sale is scheduled for 2 May.

The meeting was adjourned followed by a 50/50 drawing

The April meeting will be held at the home of Esther Neckere, 5900 Spell Road, Clinton, MD. The speaker is Deborah Determan on Weed Identification.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Neckere

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary.