

# CLAY BREAKING NEWS

MOUNT AIRY CLAY BREAKERS GARDEN CLUB

Member of National Capital Area Garden Clubs. The National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### “ Classic Principles of Gardening “



**Gilda Allen: President Mt Airy Clay Breakers.**

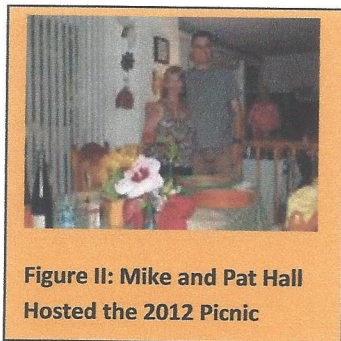
Ladies, it is wonderful to be back after our summer break. I had the opportunity to speak at the Five Hills Garden Club in Vienna, Virginia on September 18. They asked me to talk about children's gardens. I provided them with ideas on various kinds of gardens and talked about the benefits of learning about the environment and engaging children in hands-on outdoor nature study. I shared with them some of my experiences in creating children's gardens while working in D.C. I informed them about the Mount Airy Clay Breakers award winning, successful children's garden program with the After Care School Children at Concordia Lutheran Church in Upper Marlboro. I also encouraged them to create outdoor play spaces and gardens for their own young children and grandchildren by showing them a slide show of Parker's Place, the outdoor gardens and natural play area created for my grandson.

While they became enthusiastic about the work they are about to undertake at a local school, they allowed me to see how their club operated and how it is organized. Their club is twice the size of ours, is very efficient and has many avenues for rapid and effective communication. I felt very proud of our club, its activities and programs as I witnessed their meeting and activities. They provided me with a copy of their newsletter, yearbook, and monthly financial statement. They also talked with me about their website which they have had for the last three years. I was very appreciative of their sharing those aspects of their club and I will endeavor to share them with you. It was a great exchange of knowledge and information. I look forward to visiting another club sometime in the future and hope those of you who have not visited another club will do so as well.

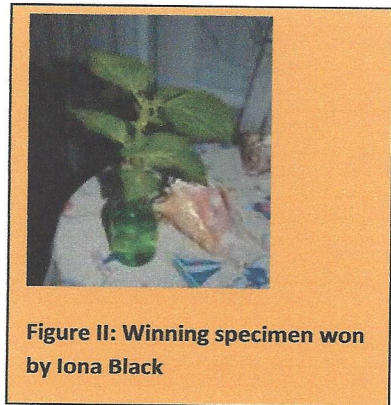
Gilda Allen, President

## ANNUAL PICNIC

The ladies gathered at the home of Pat Hall on Saturday, July 21, 2012, for their annual picnic. It was a wonderful evening of socializing indoors despite the rainy conditions outside. Indeed, it was a full house-about thirty three persons- consisting of the ladies, their husbands, children, other relatives and friends. We all feasted on the sumptuous dishes provided by the ladies, and enjoyed a Mini Flower Show in which specimens of horticulture from the gardens of some of the ladies were displayed. The judging was done by our fellow member and Master Accredited Flower Show Judge Anne DeBoeser, who critiqued the entries, and told us how much they line up with the Standards of a Flower Show. Iona Black came away with the Blue Ribbon.



**Figure II: Mike and Pat Hall  
Hosted the 2012 Picnic**



**Figure II: Winning specimen won  
by Iona Black**

**BLUE RIBBONS:** Four of the ladies from the club entered the Flower Show of the Prince George's County Fair held September 6-9, 2012 and all were awarded blue ribbons for their horticulture submissions. Lorraine Leonard entered a Lobelia Siphilitica specimen, Arminta Donovan an Acuba Japonica, Sonia Johnson a Cosmos Sulphureus, and Julie Harrison a Citronella plant and a Lantana for which she won two blue ribbons. Lorraine also came away with a white ribbon for her vegetable arrangement around the theme "A Chicken in every Pot". Carrots, celery and onion made up her arrangement.

CONGRATULATIONS!



## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The new season started with a BANG! The meeting in September was held at the home of Esther Neckere. Guest speaker Ann Young, Master Gardener gave a stimulating talk on Herb Gardening. We were treated to samples of Aloe, Variegated Sage, Boxwood Basil, Dill, Oregano and Chive. Emphasis was placed on recipes in which these herbs can be incorporated such as Vinegar and Chive. If we consider planting these herbs from seeds, it was suggested that pouring boiling water over the soil aids in sterilization.

HORTICULTURE: Chairman Jessica Sherlock gave us an eye opening talk on the history of some Heirloom Plants, and the reasons for their introduction. The English Ivy was selected, and it was pointed out that this plant served as a thermal shield for houses, which insulated them against the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter. To grow Heirloom Ivy, one has to train it. English Ivy is not now recommended for planting on the structures of buildings.

CONSERVATION: Chairman Diana Morse opened the new season with an interesting presentation on "Invasive Species" which will cover plants and animals. Diana pointed to invasive plants such as Garlic Mustard, Periwinkle, English Ivy and Purple Loosestrife. She suggested education as still a vehicle to stem the introduction of these species into the environment.

PUBLICITY                      Marian Moreland, Chairman

The following article was submitted and included in the Monthly Publication of the Marlton Community Advocate.

JULY, 2012 Publication

Julie Harrison Honored

The Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club recently honored Julie Harrison, a long time Marlton resident who has been a 29-year member of the club, and its out-going President. She has been an inspiration to all and has truly kept us "on the path".

Kyle Musselman Recognized

Kyle Musselman, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader from St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic School in Upper Marlboro was recently recognized by the Clay Breakers for winning the poetry contest sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. This year's theme was "Colorful Fruits" and "Tasty Vegetables". Kyle's poem was entitled, "Grapes Greening Greatly".

Work to Continue at Children's Program

Members will be working with the After School Children's Program at Concordia Lutheran Church in Upper Marlboro. The theme this year is "Butterfly Gardens".

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT: Chairman Mary Beth Cecil organized some of the ladies for a seasonal weeding of the Holloway Park Garden which is maintained by the club. Thanks Iona, Lorraine, Julie, Sonia, Gilda, Linda, and Mary Beth for a job well done. The garden is now groomed, and enhanced with some yellow Chrysanthemums.

#### CLAYBREAKERS TALENT ON DISPLAY

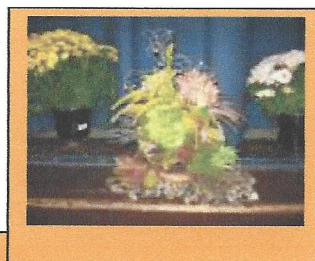
Flower arrangements were made by some of the ladies of the club for the District 1 and NCA Fall Meetings. The arrangement which graced the refreshment table at the District 1 meeting was made by Sonia Johnson. The meeting was held on September 13, 2012 at the U.S National Arboretum. Guest speaker Ulrich Lorimer gave an interesting presentation on The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens New Native Flora Garden. Mary Beth, Julie, Gilda, and Sonia attended the meeting. For the NCA meeting, arrangements made by Arminta Donovan, Jessica Sherlock, Lorraine Leonard and Joyce Meyer were prominently displayed on a stage against a blue background. The designs which depicted the theme of "weather" were so creatively done and had interesting features. Certificates of recognition were given to the ladies and Joyce won a cup. The meeting had as its main speaker Barbara Glickman of District 1's Acorn Garden Club. A wonderful presentation featured a slide which showed gardens of our area such as the Enid Haupt Garden of the Smithsonian, Merridian Hill Park, the US National Arboretum, Meadowlark, Tudor House, River Farm, US Botanic. Our club was represented by Joyce, Gilda, Sonia, Linda, Mary Beth and Julie.

Arrangement by Arminta Donovan

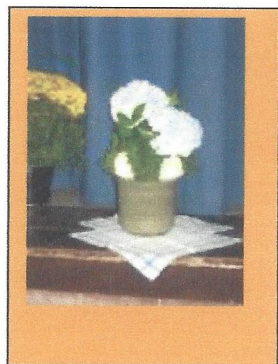
Arrangement by Jessica Sherlock



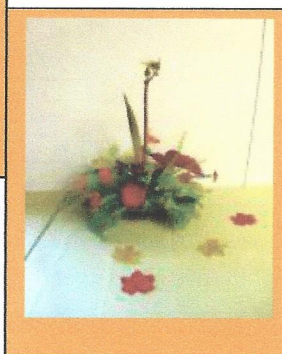
Arrangement by  
Joyce Meyer



Arrangement by Lorraine  
Leonard



Arrangement by Sonia  
Johnson





### BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prince George's Beautification Awards was held on September 26, 2012. Iona Black and Arminta Donovan, two of our fellow club members were presented Golden Trowel Awards for five consecutive years of superior sustained maintenance. Holloway Park, one of the gardens maintained by the club also received the Golden Trowel Award. Julie Harrison, and Sonia Johnson received Awards for three and two years of superior sustained maintenance respectively. Concordia Lutheran Church Children's garden, maintained by the club also came away with an Award for three years of superior sustained maintenance. Pat Hall received an Award as a first time entrant.



**Figure III: Some of the Beautification Award winners, enjoying a delicious meal before receiving their awards. From the left side of the table are: Pat Hall, Sonia Johnson, Arminta Donovan and Julie Harrison fifth from the left.**

## A BIT OF FACT

### ABOUT ARBOR HOUSE

Arbor House Gift Shop is located at the US National Arboretum. The National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. operates Arbor House as a way of supporting the Arboretum. The current manager is fellow garden club member Mary Beth Cecil, a position she has held since 2009. The position was previously held by Lorraine Leonard from 2006-2009, another Clay Breaker. Arbor House functions with the voluntary support of garden club members from the Washington, Maryland and Virginia area. The Trunk Shows are a way of taking the items of the shop to the customers and serve to enhance the profitability in the operation of the shop. Volunteers are especially needed during the busy time of March-May, the time it reopens after its winter break. Interested volunteers can contact Lorraine Leonard, Arbor House Volunteer Coordinator.

### PERSONAL NEWS

On June 14, 2012 some of ladies of the club met at the Royal Tea Room in LaPlata, MD to celebrate the retirement of Esther Neckere. It was a delightful affair in which the ladies enjoyed warm scones and cream, soup, sandwiches, sweets and fresh fruits.



**Figure V: Esther Neckere enjoying her retirement tea.**



**Figure IV: Joining Esther at her retirement tea is: Dot Lower, Elaine Arnold and Julie Harrison.**

#### Fall Gardening Checklist:

- a) Fall is the best time to repair, re-plant, and renovate your lawn. Seeding, fertilizing, adding lime, dethatching and core aerating are all good fall projects.

- b) Plant spring blooming bulbs in November if possible. As long as the ground is not frozen, it is not too late to plant.
- c) Treat houseplants that had been moved outdoors with an insecticide just before moving them indoors.
- d) Dig up tender summer bulbs like Cannas and Elephant ears, remove soil, pack loosely in peat moss in paper bags with holes, and store in a cool (not freezing) and dark location until it's time to plant again in late April next year.

#### FALL CALENDER: 2012

Wednesday, October, 10, Morning of Design hosted by District 1 with the NCAGC Council of Accredited Flower Show Judges, at St. John's Episcopal Church Broad Creek, 9801 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Environmental Studies School, November 8 & 9 Derwood, MD

Saturday, November, 10, Clay Breakers preparation and delivery of flower arrangements to the Bradford Oaks Nursing Home, Clinton, MD.

Tuesday, November, 13, District 1 Fundraiser at Franklin's, 5123 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville, MD.