

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Central Atlantic Region
The National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. – District 1

WINTER, 2018

Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club
Newsletter

The President's Corner

Now that the leaves have been gathered up and the year fades into its longest days, it's time to take stock of our club. by creating our club's vision and mission statement--where are we heading and what is our purpose. As you scurry about preparing for the holidays, I ask each one of you to consider submitting your ideas for discussion at the January meeting. In the meantime, I wish you have a happy and memorable holiday season, and all the cookies you can eat.

Best wishes for the New Year!

Esther Neckere



Edito

Mary Woodruff & Pamela Smart

MOUNT AIRY GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS VISIT

Villa de Alpaca

Angel Forbes Simmons put out a phenomenal spread for us to lunch on on the back porch of the Victorian house, from her family, built in 1802. Here are a few photos to share in several emails. The first building is the loom house. The loom is the most expensive model made worldwide. The second building is the original Victorian farmhouse, where lunch was offered and the shop with alpaca products and clothing are available for purchase. The photos of the animals show the more curious and friendly guard animals, llamas, in front and the less friendly alpacas towards the back of the herd.



PHOTOS AND COPY BY PAMELA SMART



Witch Hazel

Each fall, this large native shrub gives you two shows for the price of one. First, its leaves turn bright yellow. After they drop, you start to notice small fragrant yellow flowers with crinkly petals lining the branches. The common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginia*) gets its name because its branches, which divide to form V shapes, were used by Native Americans as “witching” or “divining” rods to locate water. Witch hazel is a valuable landscaping plant. Its extreme cold hardiness and resistance to insects and disease make witch hazel a good choice for a low maintenance planting. Because it is shade tolerant it is often used for naturalizing wooded areas. It needs partial sun and acid, well-drained soil. Choose its planting carefully. It may grow 25 feet tall if not routinely pruned in the spring.

An astringent extract made from the bark is a popular treatment for many skin ailments. Its medicinal properties were first discovered by the Oneida Indians of New York state, who found it useful in treating burns and boils. Today witch hazel is harvested and a lotion is commercially produced by various companies in Connecticut. More than a million gallons of witch hazel are sold each year in the United States, making it one of the most popular natural remedies.

Sources:

Southern Living, November 2018

The Old Farmer’s Almanac, October, 2018

2019 Meeting Schedule

January - Home of Carol Ober
A Start-up Chesnut and PawPaw Orchard.- Colin Dunphy, Owner Wyoming Farm, LLC

February - Home of Elaine Arnold
Birds of a Feather - Birds of the Atlantic Flyway

March - Home of Lucille Gwynn
What’s in Your Dirt? - Valerie Cohen, NRCS

April - Homestead Gardens
Stop Those Four-Footed Munching Machines

May - Home of Iona Black
Club Planning - Annual Plant Exchange

June - Hanobi Japanese Grill
Installation of New Officers and Recognition of Members 4:30 p.m.

July - Garden Club Picnic



President - Esther Neckere

Vice-President - Dot Lower

Treasurer - Pat Hall

Recording Secretary - Iona Black

Historian - Deborah Determan

Morning of Design- November 2, 2018



Connie Richards



District I hosted Morning of Design on November 2, 2018. It was a great success with around seventy people attending.

NCAGC President Robin Hammer, Connie Richards and Margaret Stevens did a marvelous job of explaining and showing how their designs were put together and sharing information about products that could be used. Each designer made it look easy and fun. The designs made were perfect for fall and Christmas. The program gave each of us the incentive to start decorating for the holidays.

NCAGAC Pres. Robin Hammer



Margaret Stevens



**Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club
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November 8, 2018

Our garden club was honored to have Frank Robinson as our speaker. He educated us on the history of farming in Maryland.

Diane Morse was our hostess for the afternoon.



FRANK ROBINSON, JR.
SAG-AFTRA, AEA

Our Christmas Party was held at the home of Dot Lower. Her home was beautifully decorated. We had fun sharing food, gifts, wreathes, stories and just being together for the Christmas season.



Holly from the garden of Dot Lower.

Wreath made by Julie Harrison.

And our beautiful hostess - Dot Lower.



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