The Mt Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club met at 1:00 p.m on March 8, 2018 at the home of Esther Neckere. Joyce Meyer was co-host. There were 16 members present and 1 guest.

**Opening Remarks by the President**: According to the Old Farmers Almanac, the flower of-the-month is the Wisteria. This plant is beautiful when in bloom, but it can be invasive. So you must be very careful when deciding what variety to plant in your garden.

**Program**: No program for this month because the speaker is ill and will be rescheduled for a later date.

Esther thanked Dot Lower for her delicious cookies and extended birthday greetings to Deborah Determan and Joyce Meyer. Linda Millette introduced her cousin-in-law, Delores Washington and Esther thanked her for joining us.

**Horticulture**: Esther had several beautiful spring flower arrangements displayed throughout her house.

**Treasurer Report**: The present balance is $895.95 . This amount will increase when additional funds from the bulb sale dues are deposited. Members were asked to give annual dues to Dot Lower or send them directly to Pat.

**Sunshine**: Arminta, unfortunately, broke her little finger and members were asked to send her a get well card. Linda thanked members for their thoughtful birthday and get well cards .

**Conservation:** Elaine mentioned that in California straws are banned and violators are assessed hefty fines..

**Design**: Connie Dalpar recapitulated the elements and principles of design outlined in a handout previously given to members. She emphasized to keep eye movement, strategically place different colors throughout your arrangement; use a variety of smooth and rough textures; and make sure the arrangement does not obstruct one’s view if placed at a dinner table. But most importantly, she emphasized, you should enjoy your arrangement and do what makes you happy.

**Horticulture:** Julie ‘s advice for dying hydrangeas was to pick them at the peak of color and just put them in a vase. And for fresh flowers, just add a little gin or vodka to the water to make them last longer.

Diane discussed plant collectors. The lives of plant collectors are sometimes liken to Indiana Jones, facing snakes, insects, and diseases. Plant explorer and collector E. H. Wilson began in China in the early 1900s. His work includes 60 rhododendron species as well as ornamental flowering cherries. Originally, plant research was for food plants. Today, research in the Southwest is for plants with a high degree of drought tolerance.

**Telephone Committee:** The President thanked members for responding to the callers because it really helps the hostess to gauge the amount of food to prepare.

**Technology**: Deborah informed member to please provide articles for the newsletter ASAP but no later than April 15th. There ws no update on the website. She thanked Diana for her help and asked for more volunteers to assist in scanning year books.

**Ways and Means**: The plant sale will be at Julie’s this year. However, she will be out of town on our usual date so she suggested either changing the place or changing the date to the 19th of May. A motion was made by Carol and second by Iona to change the date of the plant sale to the 19th of May. The motion was passed by members. Additionally, Julie asked for 3 volunteers for the Plant Sale Committee

**Old Business:**

Esther asked for volunteers for the Arbor House for the months of June, July, Aug and Sep. Gilda volunteered for Aug. and Julie for Sep. We still need someone for June and July.

Pam said she will confirm if Arminta and Pat will be making arrangements for Home and Garden Tour. Lorraine volunteered to help distribute arrangements that will be dropped off on the 19th of April at the Chapel of the Incarnation in Brandywine. Tickets are available there for $30.00. Esther will forward flyer on the event.

**NEW BUSINESS**:

Linda, Gilda and Deborah will co-host the Annual Potluck Picnic this year. It will be at Linda’s. Date and time TBD.

April’s meeting will be at Homestead Gardens at 1:00 P.M. The topic will be Trees.

Esther recommended lunch beforehand at Killarney’s Irish Pub at 11:00 A.M. Members can go on line to view the menu beforehand. If you did not sign up for the luncheon at the meeting, please let Esther know so she can give an accurate count to the restaurant.

Esther mentioned the Suratts-Clinton Library has some very informative Spring Gardening Work Shops scheduled: April 21st – Shade Plants and May 12th – Vertical Gardening, just to

mention a few.

Lorraine reminded members that the Prince George’s County Beautification Award application is available and due the end of May. Master Gardeners will be the judges this year.

Julie reminded members of the District 1 Meeting on March 10th. Refreshments at 10:00 A.M and the meeting starts at 10:30 A.M. Be at her house at 8:30 A.M. if you need a ride. She also reminded members of the NCAGC Conference on April 14.

Please note that Iona’s new email address is: iona.black @aol.com and Carol’s new email address is carole@oberhouse.us

Don’t forget to bring your “ Flower Arrangement in a Can” to May’s meeting!

Esther won the 50/50 . The meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Iona J. Black