

RECORDING SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The May 23rd meeting of the La Plata Community Garden Club took place at Waverly Creek Flower Farm in Newburg, Maryland. Mary Beth Chandler introduced the owners, Debbie and Willie Rawlings to the members. Willie told of the farm's beginning eight years ago as a hobby and how it has grown into a large flower farm that boasts some 800 customers a year. The farm has four buildings for growing flowers and three years ago added fields for strawberry plants. The Rawlings raise most of their plants from plugs, not seed. The plugs are purchased through a special plant broker and come from as far away as Canada. Plants are offered for sale in five different sized containers. Planting begins around the end of January and the farm opens for business in April. Willie said that every year is a learning experience. The flower farm is open Monday through Friday from 1pm to 7pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. The farm closes around the 4th of July. The Rawlings pride themselves in that they use very few chemicals in the process of growing their plants. Willie is also a commercial waterman and Debbie is a teacher.

Garden Club President, Dianne Shisler, opened the business portion of the meeting at 7pm. Dianne passed out yearbooks to any members who had not as yet received one and welcomed several guests to the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the March Meeting which appeared in the May Newsletter were approved.

Dianne stressed the importance of each member checking the Memorial Star Patio Garden Maintenance Schedule and the Guidelines for Maintenance which have been prepared by Barbie Walter. It is up to the members to contact each other and work out the schedule for their week. If you cannot work on the week assigned to you, you are responsible for finding someone else to take your place.

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business:

Dianne reminded everyone of the Hammond-Harwood House Secret Garden Tour in Annapolis on June 3rd. Sharon Suiter is gathering information for this tour and will E-mail members.

A Fall bus trip is in the planning stages. Dianne asked for several more members to serve on the committee.

The June 28th meeting of Garden Club will most likely be changed from the La Plata Town Hall to the Fire Station. Watch your E-mail for confirmation.

Joyce Rose announced that a Wine and Cheese Party is being planned for sometime in July. The party will be a fund raiser and will be limited to members and their spouses.

Several more people are needed to work on the committee. The party will be held under the stars at the Memorial Star Patio Garden.

Dianne adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.

After the meeting, the members enjoyed touring the greenhouses, purchasing plants for their gardens, and picking strawberries. Refreshments were served outside under the trees.

The refreshments were provided by the Host Committee, Mary Paesch, Sharon Vaughan, Barbie Walter, Cindi Barnhart, and Linda Sackie.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane E. O'Farrell, Recording Secretary