

RECORDING SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The July 26th meeting of the La Plata Community Garden Club took place at the La Plata Firehouse. The meeting was called to order by President Dianne Shisler at 7:10 pm.

Dianne asked members to wear a nametag during the meeting . A guest, Mary Pat Berry, was introduced. Dianne asked whether members were receiving the newsletter. All those present indicated that they were receiving their newsletter on time.

The Minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved as they appeared in the newsletter with no additions or corrections.

Committee Reports:

Barbie Walter said that members were not showing up at the Star Garden to assume their duties during the week assigned to them to work in the garden. She stressed that a member could switch dates with another member or call one of the Star Garden Committee members if they were unable to work on their assigned week. She has tried many ways to remind members of this important obligation and asked the group for any additional ideas that they thought might help people to remember. It was suggested that the people who had just finished their week could call the people who were scheduled for the next week. Barbie said that the two most important things to do in the garden were to water the planters long and deep and to dead head the flowers.

Judy Ruth informed the group of the Design Workshop which is to be held on Dec. 1st. at Christ Church in La Plata. She hopes to sell 100 tickets . The price of a ticket has not as yet been decided, but will probable be \$8 or \$10. The workshop will include demonstrations by members of how to make Christmas decorations for the home, vendors selling their wares, a silent auction, and a yard sale to which members are encouraged to donate items. All members will be asked to donate cookies for the workshop.

Old Business:

Joyce Rose informed the members that reservations for the Evening Garden Party Under the Stars were not going to reach 100 people as first hoped. There was a question of whether or not to proceed with the event and it was decided to go forward as just five more couples were needed to make the party possible. Joyce encouraged members to invite a friend and to sign up with Jean Middleton after the meeting.

Dianne encouraged members to sign up for the bus trip to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The bus trip will be on October 5th. The cost of the trip will be \$55.00 per person. Dianne has sent out an email to all members with detailed information and a registration form which is to be sent to her by September 24th.

A sign up sheet was also available after the meeting. Dianne encouraged members to bring friends and family along on the trip.

New Business:

Dianne informed members that District II will hold a Topiary Design Workshop on September 8th in Severna Park. The cost of the workshop will be \$15.00 per person for supplies.

She also announced that there would be a drawing for Azaleas exhibited during the program for \$2.00 a ticket.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Program:

Joyce Rose introduced Carol Flowers who is a member of our club and also a member of the Rhododendron and Azalea Societies. Carol first shared beautiful pictures of Azaleas and Rhododendrons which she has taken during trips around the country and in her own back yard. She showed the group a variety of books on Azaleas and Rhododendrons which she has collected and found useful. Pamphlets from the Azalea Society of America were made available to members. Carol said that many people join the society just to receive the excellent journals which are sent out to members. Carol said that in the 1700's explorers were sent to America by wealthy Europeans who brought back seeds of wild Azaleas and Rhododendrons. In the 20th century, wealthy Americans wanted these plants and so seeds and cuttings of the same plants traveled back to America. Carol described how as a young girl growing up and attending college on Long Island, she fell in love with the beautiful Azaleas and Rhododendrons which she observed in the gardens of large estates on the island. She displayed a floral design comprised of Azalea and Rhododendron leaves, Queen Anne's Lace and Black Eyed Susans. The different leaf styles were very evident. Carol suggested that these plants be an integral part of your garden design because of the many different leaf shapes. Carol discussed how to propagate Azaleas. She said to pick 4 or 5 sprouts from the new growth. Leave 4 or 5 leaves at the top of each sprout. Poke holes in the sides and bottom of an empty milk jug. Fill the jug with soil that is half perlite and half peat moss. Soil should be moist. Place the sprouts in the side holes. Place the jug in a zip lock bag under a tree where it will receive filtered sun. Moisture should bead up inside. After 6 or 8 weeks, the Azaleas should be rooted and can be placed in pots. When propagating Rhododendrons, also keep 4 or 5 leaves at the top of the sprout, but cut the leaves in half. Add root tone to the soil mixture. Cuttings for propagation should be taken early in the morning. Cuttings can be kept in a baggie with a wet paper towel in your refrigerator. Carol advised that when planting an Azalea or Rhododendron, always make the hole twice the size and depth of the plant. Be sure to spread out the roots, fill the hole half with peat moss, mound up, water and mulch. The blooming time for Azaleas and Rhododendrons is April 1st. to July and the best time to propagate is July.

After the program, refreshments were served by the Host Committee: Patrick McGarry, Jennie Lewis, Marian Bruemmer, Jean Middleton, and Debra Jones.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane E. O'Farrell, Recording Secretary