**Hardy Garden Club Meeting**

**December 3 , 2019**

**Towson Presbyterian church**

**Meeting Summary**

**MANY THANKS and MORE…..**

* Many thanks to our hostesses for an wonderful lunch: Beth Purvis, Barbara Gould. Sherry Jordan, and Donna Reid
* Also many thanks to Maureen Flynn and Maria Eagan and their amazing Ladew committee: Carol Werner, Joan Miller, Nancy Hudson, and Nancy Powell. Their leadership with the Ladew Christmas decorating and the organization of the club meeting workshop was perfect.  Members that attended the meeting contributed necessary plant materials and helped with creating the decorations.  The resulting Ladew dining room was just amazing!! Once again, the Hardy GC ladies demonstrated their designing talents and their ability to work as a team.
* Our November Photography Show was a great success – Many thanks to Sherry Jordan (her husband Corbin) and Beth Purvis.
* We made $95 from the amaryllis raffle at the November meeting. Many thanks to Leslie and Ann Donnell for their contributions that made the raffle a success.

These small but very affective fund raisers really contribute to the annual income of Hardy

Don’t forget about your Brent and Becky bulb orders – we get 25% of every order!!

* Hort. Minute: Bliss McCord

Maryvale Entrance Garden – the Hort. Com., led by Bliss are taking this on. They will design the garden then let us know when we can jump in and help with the installation. Maryvale will pay for the plants etc.

* Conservation Minute: Joan Moore

Joan gave a very informative talk on how to reduce your carbon imprint from clothes.  Please see below for a summary of her presentation.

* Artistic Minute: Carol Warner:

Carol announced the Maryland Horticulture Society will host Jane Godshalk, a noted floral designer and teacher in the floral design program at Longwood Gardens.  Jane will present a holiday design  demonstration focusing on her fresh, uncomplicated, and uniquely American design style on Tuesday, 12/10, 7:30PM, at the Cylburn Vollmer Center

**Next Club Meeting – January 14, 2020 at Oregon Ridge Nature Center**

**Kelly Billing will be speaking about her version of  “ Water Gardening”  - no pond needed!**

Conservation Minute - Reduce your carbon footprint by altering your fashion habits.

Don’t buy fast fashion.  There used to be 4 fashion cycles per year:  winter, spring, summer, and fall.  Now there are 12 to 15 ‘seasons’, an endless cycle of must-have new trends at very low prices. Fashion retailers have created these cycles to sell more clothing items.  In our consumer society, we think of fashion, among other things, as disposable.  And when they are so cheap, why not buy more? Tons of clothing ends up in the landfill, often to justify buying the latest styles.

There are 15 million tons of textile waste.

Issue of contamination.  Almost half of our clothing is cotton, and unless its labeled “organic” cotton, it’s probably genetically modified, sprayed with pesticides, some known as carcinogenic.  This can affect neighboring non-GMO crops, cause water contamination, reduce biodiversity, and have negative impacts on our health.

Clothes made of polyester, spandex, acrylic, etc are non-biodegradable.  They take up to 200 years to decompose.

In addition, anything made overseas has a huge environmental impact.  Shipping across the ocean, chemical runoff from factories.  If that’s not enough, the labor force is largely made up of children.

Alternatives: re-purpose old clothing, choose locally handmade garments, fair trade and ethically responsible garments, buy vintage, participate in clothing swaps, rent or borrow for  occassional wear items.

Some other fun facts:

40% of the clothes we buy are rarely or never worn.

It takes 720 gallons of water to make one t-shirt.  That’s how much one person normally drinks in a 3 year period.

If you wear a clothing item for 9 more months instead of throwing it away, the carbon, water, and waste footprint of that item will be reduced by 20%-30%.

Think what an impact each of us could make if we wore all of our clothes for a longer period of time and held off on restocking our closets so often.