

Murder In The Garden: Be Careful Out There

"Murder in the Garden" was the entertaining theme of the October program for the Bermuda Run Garden Club.

The program was presented by Amanda Lanier, curator of education at Reynolda Gardens. Her presentation on poisonous plants, toxic foods, and killer plants was appropriate for Halloween time.

Did you know a weed killed Abraham Lincoln's mother? A white snakeroot eaten by cows created a toxin in the milk, and that toxin, or poison, killed her.

Toxic compounds are by-products manufactured by plants in their regular daily cycle, she said. "In the Dark Ages plant poisons were used extensively and caused gruesome death. Plants can be poisonous if eaten or their oils can be irritating to the skin.

Most are familiar with poison ivy oil irritation. Ficus tree or rubber tree secretions can be harmful to people who are allergic to latex. The seeds of these two trees contain cyanide, which can be deadly. The skin of cashew nuts is removed before being packaged for sale because it's oil is similar

to that of poison ivy. Eating green-colored potatoes can cause heart problems. Foxglove secretion can irritate the skin but it can also provide digitalis which is a helpful product.

Morning glory and jimson weed, if eaten, can cause hallucination; 69,000 people a year are poisoned by plants, Lanier said.

The Venus Fly Trap is a true killer plant. Native to North Carolina exclusively, it consumes insects. This and other slides shown by Mrs. Lanier made for an interesting program.

The garden club concluded the meeting with reports on the successful blanket and pajama drive for Storehouse for Jesus.

The report on container plants, horticulture specimens, and antiques entered in the Dixie Classic Fair by garden club members indicated a bounty of ribbons was earned.

Final plans were made for the Thanksgiving luncheon for the special needs children of Davie County and for the December bouquets for Davie County Meals on Wheels.



Shelby Nichols and Judy Mack collect for A Storehouse for Jesus.



Plants in the Garden

A Micked World of Plants
Amanda Lanier, curator of the
Reynolds Gardens

Vice President Alice Bostrom presenting speaker
Amanda Lanier with a gift of appreciation



Eleanor Salley and Pat Minacca meeting
hostesses