



# TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB NEWS

February, 2010 Edition

[www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

March 17

*Paths, Plants and Punctuation: The Artistry of Garden Design*

John Gordon

SEE THE FULL 2010 PROGRAM, PAGE 4

## Dining and Dishing at the THC Potluck-Plant Exchange

The Takoma Gastronomical.... (ahem...) Horticultural Club held its annual winter pot luck and indoor plant exchange on January 20 at Heffner Park. Many thanks to Anne Hardman, who organized the event, and the members who helped with setup and equipment for the evening.

Tables were decked with colorful cloths and votives, lights were dimmed... sort of... and about 25 THC members had a chance to catch up with one another's adventures and enjoy the bounty. There were savory pots and platters, appetizers and desserts, and everything was, as usual, delicious.

After dinner, the warmed-up and well-fed attendees took turns choosing from an array of plants, garden supplies and books offered up for adoption. Several went for the unusual poppy seeds brought by a member from her travels- we'll be looking for these giants in Takoma gardens this summer.

### TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB NEWS

is published on the 1st of each month. Photos, events, articles and comments are welcome. If you would like to write a short piece on some garden topic, let editor Diane Svenonius know at [dbsvenonius@msn.com](mailto:dbsvenonius@msn.com) or (301) 585- 1566

## February Club Events

### Designing Gardens

### Using Native Plants

*Landscape Designer Carla Thomas speaks to the Club on Wednesday, February 17*

Don't miss Wednesday, Feb.17 at 7:30 pm for a Takoma Horticultural Club talk: "Designing Gardens Using Native Plants". Carla Thomas and her husband,



Randee Wilson are co-owners of Nature By Design, a garden center and landscaping company specializing in native plants of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

A former software engineer, Carla

began designing residential landscapes in 1999. She has lectured on sustainable landscaping, habitat design, and wildlife ecology at Patuxent River Wildlife Refuge, George Washington University, the National Arboretum's Lahr Native Plant Symposium, area garden clubs, and the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, where she is an instructor for the Landscape Design School.

Carla's talk will be followed by a question/answer session. This THC monthly meeting will be held at the Takoma Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call Kit Gage, (301) 587-7442

### **Members Field Trip :**

**USDA National Agricultural Library,  
Beltsville, MD, Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>,  
1:00pm-4:00pm**

Members of THC, Silver Spring and other local garden clubs may tour the National Agricultural Library (a.k.a. the tall building across Route 1 from IKEA) on February 6 from 1- 4 pm. After a tour of the facility there will be time for attendees to explore the library's unique collections.

The clubs sponsored this tour last year and folks are STILL talking about it. Don't miss this rare opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's gardening knowledge repository. NAL will be selling products from their collection at 10% off for us that afternoon only. They accept cash or checks only. A preview of what is on sale is at this link: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/specoll/products.html>.

Normally open only during business hours, the Library will open especially for the local garden clubs who banded together to cover the costs of overtime for the NAL security desk. NAL is a secure government facility. **An RSVP is required to attend, and your Photo ID is required to enter.** Be sure to have ID with you. To RSVP, email to: [Nal-events@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Nal-events@ars.usda.gov) with your full name by February 1. Note: This event is invitation only for our garden club members and Maryland/DC Master Gardeners. Please do not forward this on outside these groups. *Please arrive on time!*   
—Kathy Jentz

*Picture credits: American beautyberry (callicarpa americana), www.nps.gov; drawings, Tim Svenonius; daffodils, editor's photo .*

### **Don't Let Your Dues Bring You The Blues!**

— Carole Galati

Takoma Horticultural Club 2010 membership dues were due January 1<sup>st</sup>, a date we carefully chose in order to extract money from unsuspecting gardeners, hopefully well before the spring gardening catalogs arrive, rendering members penniless after their purchases.

As of January 27th, our plan has been somewhat successful, with 56 renewing club members and 30 Life Time Members, bringing our total 2010 dues-paying club members to 86. Perhaps the remaining 90 members are still hibernating!

Your \$12 club dues are a real bargain. This money is used for speakers, club supplies, and donations, such as Brookside Gardens and our local libraries. Please send me a Valentine! Make your check out to "THC", and send it to Carole Galati, 106 Mebourne Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901.

If you're not quite sure whether you've paid your 2010 dues, please email Sherrell at [sherrell901@yahoo.com](mailto:sherrell901@yahoo.com); she's covering for me until February 14, when I get back to my computer. Thanks for your attention to this. Your continued participation and support help make our club so wonderful!



### **Welcome To Our Newest Club Members**

Please welcome our new members: Lisa Deline, Jennifer Brown, Wendy Bruno and Joan Frye. Joan joined as a Life Time Member. She will never have to worry about paying dues again! Check our website for details: [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org)

## *Gardening Events of Interest in the Community*

### ***Brookside Gardens***

Free programs for Community Gardeners

#### **How Does Your Garden Grow?**

Sat., February 6, 10-11:30am

Cindy Brown, Assistant Director, Green Spring Gardens, talks about planting schedules, varieties, growing from seed.

#### **Benefits of Compost and Compost Tea**

Sat., February 13, 10-11:30am

Patrick Harwood, Compost Manager, Montgomery County Parks

#### **Common Pests and Controls for the Vegetable Gardener**

Sat. February 20, 10-11:30am Michael J. Raupp, PhD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland.

All in Visitors Center Auditorium.

All FREE, no registration required.

### **Green Matters: Food For Thought**

**Fri., February 26, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

A full day of speakers focused on food!! Experts on vegetable gardening, edible landscapes, and more include Anna Lappe, Nora Pouillon, Jon Traunfeld. For information on cost, registration:

[http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/green\\_matters\\_symposium.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/green_matters_symposium.shtm)

### ***Great Sunflower Bee Project***

On average, home gardeners saw a bee pollinate every 2.6 minutes, but 20% never saw a bee at all. In response to reported bee declines, data about US bee populations is being gathered by participants in the Great Sunflower Bee Project, based at San Francisco State University. Free Lemon Queen sunflower seeds will be mailed in March for 2010 counts, or plant your own Lemon Queens and report your observations (15 minutes twice each month) to the Project. Register and read lots more at:

<http://www.greatsunflower.org/>

### ***Montgomery Community Gardens***

Montgomery Parks continues to expand the popular Community Garden Program.

Applications are now being accepted for 100 plots at Briggs Chaney Garden, 2161 Briggs Chaney Rd, Silver Spring. There are plans to open three or more locations for Summer 2010, including a site or two down county. To get more information contact the Coordinator Ursula Sabia Sukinic

[Ursula.SabiaSukinic@MontgomeryParks.org](mailto:Ursula.SabiaSukinic@MontgomeryParks.org) .

### ***Green Spring Gardens***

**4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Va**  
**Winter Lecture Series Continues**

**February 14** *Africans and Native Americans in Virginia: Culinary Connections and Historic Foodways* 1:30-3pm. Michael Twitty, culinary historian and educator.

**February 21** *Bulbs as Companion Plants* 1:30-3pm. Brent Heath on combining bulbs with perennials, annuals for four seasons of bloom.

**February 28** *Moving Towards Natives*. Sandra Clinton on integrating natives into the designed landscape.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/events.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/events.htm)

Admission \$10 each talk



### ***U.S. Botanic Garden***

#### **Winter Tree Tour of Capitol Grounds**

**February 20 (snow/rain date Feb. 27)**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm** Melanie Choukas Bradley, author of *City of Trees*, will lead a walk around the Capitol; participants can admire and learn about its magnificent trees from around the country and the world. Learn how to identify Kentucky coffee trees, the Japanese pagoda tree, beeches, magnolias and dogwoods during winter. Binoculars optional, but recommended. Register (202) 225-1116

### ***National Arboretum***

#### **“Where in the World Did That Come From?”**

**February 6, 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Auditorium and Grounds**

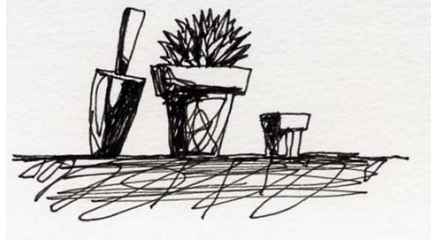
Gardeners might be surprised to learn that some of the more outlandish looking conifers come from their own back yard. The arboretum’s conifer expert will lead a tour of the Gotelli Collection of Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifers and focus on the origins of these plants. She will also visit some wild-collected plants, pointing to those especially well-adapted to our area.

Registration and fee \$12 (FONA \$10)

[www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov)

# *Takoma Horticultural Club 2010 Program at a Glance*

M- Members only      O- Open to all



Sat. Feb. 6  
1:00-4:00 pm

**National Agricultural Library**, Beltsville, Md.  
Open House, Tour and Talk    **M**

Wed. Feb. 17  
7:30 pm

Talk, “**Designing Gardens Using Native Plants**”  
Carla Thomas, Nature by Design    **O**  
Lilac Room, TP Community Center

Wed., Mar. 17  
7:30 pm

Talk, “**Paths, Plants and Punctuation: Artistry of Garden Design**”  
John Gorton    Lilac Room, TP Community Center    **O**

Wed., April 21  
7:30 pm

Panel, “**Including Edibles in our Landscape Gardens**”  
Montgomery County Master Gardener Panel    **O**

Sat., May 16  
2 pm-4 pm

**Spring Plant Exchange**  
Heffner Park    **M**

Sat., May 29  
11am - 1 pm

**Nick Weber’s Heritage Rosarium Tour**, Ashton MD  
[not confirmed] Brown bag lunch    **M**

Thurs., June 3  
All Day Trip

Trip to **Chanticleer**, Wayne, Pa.  
with Beltsville Garden Club    **M**

Sun., June 13  
11am to 1 pm

**THC Open Garden Tour**    **M**

July – Date TBA

**Rain Garden Event: Kit Gage and Wendy Bell**    **O**

Sun, Aug. TBA  
4 - 7 pm

**Summer Potluck**, Wendy Bell’s    **M**

Wed., Sept. 15  
7:30 pm

Talk, “**Gardening with Conifers**”, Fran McClure    **O**

Sunday, Oct. 3  
10 am to 5 pm

**THC Bulb Sale** at the Takoma Street Festival

Sun. Oct. 17  
2 - 4 pm

**Fall Plant Exchange**    **M**  
Heffner Park

Wed. Nov. 17  
7:30 p.m.

Talk, “**Trees**”, Todd Bolton    **O**