



# Takoma Horticultural Club

A Hardy Perennial Since 1916

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

May 2011



Club trip to Mt. Cuba Center- detail from photo by Carole Galati

## SAVE THESE JUNE DATES

### BEHNKE'S GARDEN DAY

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 4pm

\* Raffle for Friends of Brookside \* Garden Clubs \* Plant Societies \* Garden Venders \* Master Gardeners \* Grow It Eat It Salad Table \* Plant Swap \* Speaker: David Culp \*  
\* Special Behnke's Sale \* Food for Sale \*  
See you in June!

## Members-Only Tour of City Gardens on June 12

This year, on the annual Takoma Horticultural Club garden tour, members will visit several Takoma Park city gardens, led by Mike Welsh, the City Gardener. We're very fortunate to have Mike guide us through these gardens, located throughout Takoma Park, that you may not know even exist. Put the date on your calendars - Sunday, June 12 at 10am - and make plans to join us. More details soon at [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org) and in the June newsletter.

## May Club Event

### Annual Members-Only Spring Plant Exchange

May 15, 1:30 to 3:30 pm at

Heffner Park, 31 Oswego Ave.

—by Carole Galati

Takoma Horticultural Club's Spring Plant Exchange will take place Sunday, May 15 at Heffner Park on Oswego Avenue, very close to the leaf mold (mulch) pile. Please, please label your plants: common name (*Latin* also, if possible), light requirements, growth habit, and your name if you want to give more information. If your plant spreads, or grows quickly, let the gardener be forewarned. Please don't bring plants considered invasive, such as common orange daylilies and English ivy. If you are not sure, post a question on the Listserv. You'll get plenty of opinions! Native plants are especially desirable these days! (Although poison ivy is considered native, please leave it home!) It is not too early to start potting up. To keep these potted plants in good shape, remember to water them.

If you are a new gardener or just don't have extra plants or time to dig, you are welcome to bring: gardening magazines, cookbooks, (see *Exchange*, p. 4 )

## ~The President's Plot~

—by Sherrell Goggin

Dear Fellow THC Members,  
For those unable to attend, I'd like to mention what a success the bamboo workshop was—a great time had by all, with a satisfying "home-grown" appeal—organized and taught by club members. I'd love to repeat this experience, so if you have any ideas for projects, or a special interest which has the makings for a good workshop, please don't hesitate to send them to me at [THC\\_webmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:THC_webmaster@yahoo.com). I also think hands-on workshops are a nice departure from passively listening to a lecturer, and I hope you'll agree, for we have several hands-on events in the coming months, such as our spring plant exchange (in a mere two weeks!), a tour of the TP city gardens in June, a tour of local rain gardens and storm water management projects come July, and a grand finale with our summertime August potluck. I hope you'll be able to participate in at least one of these events, as they also provide a wonderful opportunity to meet your fellow club members, reacquaint yourself with old friends, and find out what exactly are eating your tomatoes!

### *Officers, Committee Chairs and Contacts*

**President:** *Sherrell Goggin*

**Vice President:** *Carole Galati*

**Listserv:** *Anne Hardman*

**Membership & Program Coordinator:**  
*Carole Galati*

**Newsletter:** *Diane Svenonius*

**Public Relations:** *Kathy Jentz*

**Secretary:** *Becky Lavash*

**Treasurer:** *Taffy Turner*

**Webmasters:** *Karen Helfert  
& Sherrell Goggin*

## April Club Event

### Jealous of Her Trellis?

### Here's How It Went Up...

THC members turned tangles of sisal and monster stalks of bamboo into sturdy garden supports at the April bamboo trellis workshop at Heffner Park. Cindy Walczak, Sherrell Goggin and Anne Hardman demonstrated how to tie the lengths of fiber to achieve a stable structure. Taffy Turner and others brought their trellises from an earlier practice session as inspiration. Attacking the poles with loppers and knotting away like sailors, everyone had a good time and a good-looking result by the end of the evening. Photos below are by Sherrell Goggin. Her pictures of the highly artistic final results will be available soon on the website

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



*Getting started- Martha Feldman, Cindy Walczak*



*Progress- Jennifer Betts*

## Gardening Events Elsewhere: NYC's High Line

For those who occasionally Bolt (or Amtrak or shuttle) to New York City, watch for an unusual gardening event later this spring. The High Line, New York's aerial garden of native plants and great city views, which currently runs from Gansevoort Street to West 20<sup>th</sup> Street, will open another section, extending on to West 34<sup>th</sup> Street. You can think of it as an mile-long container garden suspended 30 feet in the air, with fourth-story views of the Hudson River on one side and of the Meatpacking District, Chelsea and other neighborhoods on the opposite side.



The High Line was an elevated freight railway built in the 1930s to eliminate the accidents between freight trains and street traffic in New York's industrial district, so bad that men on horseback called "West Side Cowboys" rode 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue waving red flags before the trains. No longer used for freight after 1980, the railway became a wild meadow as seeds blew or were dropped and rooted among the tracks. When it was acquired by the city in 2005 (by donation from CSX), and saved from planned demolition, it was landscaped to replicate the informal 'scape of grasses and wildflowers that had spontaneously grown there. Creating the park was hardly spontaneous, however. The rails were lifted and stored, concrete strips were placed to form a continuous path that allowed diversion of rainwater into beds at the side, irrigation was installed and then tracks were replaced here and there among the soil and plants that were lifted from below.



Of more than 200 species initially designated for Section One, which opened in 2009, 160 were native to New York, according to the High Line web site. There have been some changes over time as plants that fail to flourish are replaced with alternatives. The park includes spaces for sitting and zoning out, performances and art, food vendors, and at one point runs through a hotel. Section Two will include a section with trees and larger plants, called the Chelsea Thicket; a patch of lawn grass (!) at neighbors' request; and a spot that gives a river-to-river (Hudson to East) view. An "opening benefit" concert is scheduled for May 16. For more information, and a video of the construction of Section Two, see [www.thehighline.org](http://www.thehighline.org). — Diane Svenonius

## One Rainy Spring Evening, or Love the Rain

—Carole Galati

Can't plant in mud  
Can prune in rain  
Mats of leaves  
Wedged by wicked winds  
Packed in small shrubs  
Naked branches hide secrets  
*Daphne odora* broadcasts  
For all to smell  
Whiffs of heaven right here  
Tiny treasures squeal  
We made it – once again  
Adolescent spring  
Pollinators with their mission  
In hot pursuit  
Miracle – once again  
Thank God? Heaven? Allah? Whoever. . . . .  
Friends, eager to share  
Garden Club – always there!

*(Exchange, continued)*

interesting (clean) pots, garden ornaments/tools, and of course finger food (brownies?) and drinks. Let me know if you can come at 1:00 to help us set up tables and chairs and put them away after the exchange. The first four Early Birds to sign up get first choice choosing a plant. Please wear a recycled name tag if you have one. This helps us get to know each other, especially new members. Also, bring a chair if you are able. We always run out of chairs. Remember, you must be a club member to participate in the Plant Exchange. Bring a \$12 check - no cash - made out to THC if you want to join or renew your membership at this event. Check our site <http://www.takomahort.org/> for details. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, get in touch ~ [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com)

Here are the plant categories we use, but the list can be expanded. Cuttings can also be included.

*Ground Covers, Grasses & Vines*

*House Plants & Tropicals*

*Perennials- Shade*

*Perennials- Sun*

*Trees & Shrubs*

*Annuals*

*Seeds & Bulbs*

*Garden Items/Tools*

*Vegetables & Herbs*

*Pond & Rain Garden Plants*

### **Due Knot Forget: Membership Counts**

Time for me to come in from the garden to bug you once again. Here's the score: The dues are winning: 103 to 82. We have 103 members in good standing. But there are 82 who have not paid their 2011 dues. These names will be removed from our membership list as of June.

Not sure if you paid? Please ask. To join or pay dues go to [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org) for instructions. We have several Members-Only events coming soon: Spring Plant Exchange, THC Garden Tour; and summer potluck in August. Don't miss out!

Please welcome new and returning members: Vickie Choitz and Tamara Johnson.

Thanks, Carole ( [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com) )

## **Plant Sales in May**

As a service to members, a list of regional native and other plant sales now appears at [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org). There you can find locations, hours and contact information for the sales listed below, as well as events later in the year. Send sales you know about to [THC\\_webmaster@takomahort.org](mailto:THC_webmaster@takomahort.org).

**May 5** Bethesda Garden Club's annual plant sale, Bethesda Farm Women's Market, 7155 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD Thursday 7am-1pm.

**May 6-7** Washington National Cathedral's 72nd annual plant sale, corner of Mass. & Wisconsin Avenues, Wash., DC. Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm.

**May 7** Beltsville Garden Club's annual plant sale, High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD., Saturday 8am-noon.

**May 7** Annual Silver Spring Garden Mart, sponsored by the SS Garden Club. At the Brookside Gardens' Visitor Center, Wheaton, Maryland. Saturday **9am-1pm**.

**May 7-8** University of Virginia's Historic Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, VA. A huge plant and garden supply sale, Saturday-Sunday 9am-4:30pm.

**May 14** Spring Garden Day, Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA. (703) 642-5173. Saturday 9am-3pm.

**May 14** Hyattsville Elementary's PTA 2nd Annual Native Plant Sale, 5311 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20781. Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday 8am-noon.

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The **Takoma Horticultural Club News** is issued each month on the listserv. Previous issues can be found at [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org). Comments and contributions of articles and photos are most welcome. Contact the editor at [dbsvenonius@msn.com](mailto:dbsvenonius@msn.com)

*Photo credits: pp. 1 and 5, detail from photos by Carole Galati; p. 2, Sherrell Goggin; page 3, [www.Highline.org](http://www.Highline.org).*

## ***Gardening Events in the Community***

### ***City of Takoma Park and Friends of Sligo Creek***

May 22, 2 pm, Spring Park, Elm at Poplar  
Join the Friends of Sligo Creek, TP Mayor Bruce Williams, and the director of Community Wildlife Habitats for the National Wildlife Federation in this celebration of Takoma Park's designation as a "Community Wildlife Habitat" – the first in Maryland. The festivities include a tree planting, words of congratulations from the National Wildlife Federation, light refreshments, and fun activities. Spring Park is one of four public spaces in Takoma Park that is certified as wildlife habitat. One corner has been planted with native shrubs by volunteers with FOSC, using Takoma Foundation funds. By May 22 volunteers will add identifying labels to the park's native trees and shrubs. The park also features an actual bog and a rocky stream

### ***NFI & Community Forklift 2nd Annual Seedling Sale***

Every Saturday in May, 10am-1pm  
4671 Tanglewood Drive Edmonston, MD  
NFI partners with Community Forklift to host our 2nd annual seedling sale! Featuring organically grown tomato, pepper, and basil seedlings! All proceeds will benefit NFI, a non-profit educational urban farm project. For pre-ordering, contact [NeighborhoodFarm@gmail.com](mailto:NeighborhoodFarm@gmail.com)

### ***Brookside Gardens***

#### **Hosta Container Workshop**

Joan O'Rourke, Friends of Brookside Gardens  
May 17, 10:00-11:30am May 18, 10:00-11:30am  
Visitors Center Adult Workshop  
Don't give up on hosta because deer have taken over your garden! Deprive them of this tasty delicacy by keeping the perfect shade plant out of reach. Join Joan O'Rourke, Friends of Brookside Gardens, to add drama to your deck or patio with a unique container of beautiful hostas in the best colors. Fee includes all materials.

**May 17 Course 130251; May 18, Course 130252** Fee: \$44, Friends of BG: \$40; Registration required

### ***Smithsonian Garden Fest***

#### **National Public Gardens Day**

May 7 and 8, Enid A. Haupt Garden, National Mall  
<http://gardens.si.edu/gardenfest/>  
May 8, 1-5 pm

In celebration of National Public Gardens Day, Hillwood Estates and Gardens and other local public gardens will be on the Mall with programs for families, at the Smithsonian Institution's annual Garden Fest. At Hillwood's exhibit you can play a historic garden game, create your own garden scene, or leaf through a scrapbook of Hillwood's garden rooms—past and present. For other participating public gardens, see the link above.

### ***Hillwood Estate and Gardens Serene Sundays – Mother's Day***

May 8, 1-5pm

This is one of the select Sundays Hillwood is open during the year and it is always a favorite for our guests. Enjoy a stroll through the spring gardens and Mansion, and enjoy Sunday tea with those you love. Mother's Day is popular, so advance reservations at the Cafe are recommended.

### ***DC State Fair Seedling Swap***

May 14, 10 AM to noon

14th Street NW and Park Road NW (One block north of Columbia Heights Metro, Columbia Heights Community Marketplace ) Seedling swap of vegetables and herbs for area gardeners. Get new varieties, share tips with new and experienced growers, and learn a little more about DC State Fair. If you don't have seedlings to share, come by anyway, there will be extras to get you started on your DC State Fair entries for this fall. Free! Come promptly at 10 AM with your seedlings. For information:

[dcstatefair.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/swapping-seedlings](http://dcstatefair.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/swapping-seedlings) or email [kenneth@thedcstatefair.org](mailto:kenneth@thedcstatefair.org).



*Formal garden at Mt. Cuba – detail of photo by Carole Galati*