



Takoma Horticultural Club

A Hardy Perennial Since 1916

www.takomahort.org

September 2011



Camassia scilloides, bulb native to Maryland

THC Annual Bulb Sale October 2

Takoma Park Street Festival

Sunday, October 2, 10 am - 5 pm

—Nancy Newton

Even if you missed the Takoma Horticultural Club listserv bulb order in June, it's not too late to have those beautiful bulbs for your garden. Look for our THC bulb sale booth at the Takoma Park Street Festival. We will have daffodils (Disdained by Deer!), North America's only native bulb *camassia*, and of course species and hybrid tulips, crocus, hyacinth, and more. Come early for the best selection.

This is the club's one and only fundraiser. Club members will receive a 10% discount. (If you are in arrears on your dues, take action now...see page 2 and www.takomahort.org).

Volunteers Needed!

Contact Nancy Newton if you're able to help with the sale, setting up and assisting customers. The sale is a lot of fun... the street fair is a blast and it's a great experience to be part of this community event. Shifts are: 9 am to 11 am (4 folks to set up and open); 11 am to 1 pm (3 people), 1 pm to 3 pm (3 people) and 3 pm to 5 pm (3, with one more to help pack up at 5 pm). Reach Nancy at n.newton@verizon.net.

September Club Meeting

Entomology Professor Michael Raupp will Talk on “How Insects Make the World Go Round”

7:30-9:00pm, Wednesday, September 21, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. FREE and Open to the Public

—Taffy Turner

Insects provide a wide variety of services to humans living in cities, suburbs and rural areas. These include pollination of plants, cycling of nutrients and control of important pests.

So what have bugs done for you lately? Join us on September 21 for a look at insects from “the Bug Guy”. Learn about the roles insects play in our gardens and landscapes, not only as bad guys but also as good guys that make the world go around.

Mike Raupp is University of Maryland Professor of Entomology and Extension Specialist. He has been a guest on many local and national radio and TV shows, sharing his knowledge and expertise on the fascinating world of insects. Check out his “Bug of the Week” website: <http://www.bugoftheweek.com>. His talk is co-



The good guys?

sponsored by the Takoma Horticultural Club and the City of Takoma Park.

As usual, snacks to share are most welcome and greatly appreciated. And to be really “beneficial”, bring your own name tag.



Summer potluck

THC's Summer Potluck

Photos by Kathy Jentz
Text by Carole Galati

Our Summer Potluck was such a great time for all! Thank You to Sara Hisel-McCoy for being the perfect host. Her family rearranged the house just for the occasion. The weather behaved, Sara's gardens were lovely and the food was delicious. And the gossip was not bad either! About half of the 28 who attended each went home with a door prize. Thanks to everyone, especially the members who put it together and to everyone who brought wonderful food to share. Our winter potluck in January seems so far away, but it is fun to look forward to, especially the plant and re-gifting swap. It was fun to meet new member Bridget Brodie at the Potluck. We love to see new members "jump right in"!



Carole and Sara draw for prizes

Membership and Dues

We have updated our membership list. If you did not pay your 2011 dues, your name has been removed (but not forgotten). Go to our website: www.takomahort.org to get instructions for paying dues or joining the club. If you want to join (first time), you pay only \$6 for the rest of 2011. Add another \$12, and you are paid up until January, 2013. Two more members-only events are coming up in 2011: the Fall Plant Exchange, October 16, and our November 16 meeting featuring Anne Brooks demonstrating holiday displays using natural materials. As a THC member, you also get a 10% discount on bulbs at the October 2 Takoma Park Street Fair.

One more thing: please remember that when you join the club, you are not automatically on the Listserv. You need to go to our website and follow the instructions to join our Yahoo Listerv. Don't miss out on club events, free plant offerings, monthly Newsletters, gardening announcements, resources of experienced gardeners and opportunities to connect with our local ever-growing garden community.

Carole Galati

THC COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 16
Fall Plant Exchange In Heffner Park
(members only)

NOVEMBER 10
Talk at the D.C. Library, Takoma,
by Kathy Jentz, celebrating the Club's
donation of garden books

NOVEMBER 16
Club Meeting
Anne Brooks demonstrates
holiday decorations from natural materials
(members only)

details coming www.takomahort.org & listserv



Bobbing for apples?

BAMBO!!

by Angie Secrest

“Woodland garden”.....say it, and the term brings to mind the most beautiful, serene images. Large azaleas and rhododendrons blooming in vibrant colors that seem to sparkle in the shade... dogwoods in soft white accenting the new green of spring leaves.... The floor is a mix of moss, crocus, daffodils and hyacinths that perfume the spring air, the leaves are damp under foot as you wander the meandering path. Woodland gardens are cool and magical in the summer; their rich greens surround you with a peace and tranquility seldom found in the bright summer sun. Hosta greens and yellows mix happily with the delicate blue flowers of brunnera; the epimediuums’ dainty yellow flowers seem to dance in the gentle breeze.

Then reality hits you like a ton of leaves in the fall!

Living in the woods and trying to create this

woodland garden vision is challenging at best. For starters, unless you’ve got a spring running through your property, chances are all those big beautiful trees are going to suck that lush ground bone dry. Of course they do this with matted, tangled masses of roots, roots that run on the surface, roots that run down deep into the soil. The more trees, the more roots.

In the fall all those majestic trees that shade everything so nicely are going to drop leaves, mounds and mounds and mounds of leaves. Leaves that if left alone to multiply will grow thick enough to suffocate all plant life that is under them. Leaves that, once they get wet, triple in weight and become near impossible to move!

Still the vision remains firmly rooted--until I realize that I’ve got something far more sinister working against me. Something so troubling, something that is impossible to control, something that can devastate my garden in a matter of nights... BAMBO!

Laugh if you will but this is a, yes, A, as in ONE deer, with attitude! I’m religious about very few things in my life, but spraying the plants that I don’t want munched down to stems is one of them. Ten years ago when I moved here, I referred to the yard as Morticia’s Garden. The previous owners were lovers of hostas, azaleas and hollies; they too were after the “Woodland Dream”. However I think the deer loved that dream far more, as each plant would be meticulously picked clean of all foliage leaving behind nothing but stems. What an absolute delight for them, to find an all-you-can-eat buffet right here in the middle of the woods.

I found that the noxious liquid spray, Deer Away (you know the one that smells of rotten eggs, garlic and hot pepper?) would allow me to have a beautiful, although temporarily smelly, thriving woodland

(see BAMBO, page 4)

(BAMBO, from page 3)

garden. So I sprayed and I sprayed religiously, to make sure that the deer got the message, this food is tainted! You can't possible want to eat this, it's putrid; certainly the neighbor has something much more appealing. Look, there are gallons of weeds and violets that you are welcome too, eat all the bittersweet you want. Up until this year I had them all convinced. That's when Bambo came to visit and apparently, stay.

Bambo has taken to eating plants that have been sprayed, in some cases just hours earlier. I suspect that it has developed a love of garlic and pepper flavored plants, it finds the flavor and aroma delectable. Upon the realization that my trusted companion in the spray wasn't working, I purchased HavaHart Deer Repellents. These little gems come in sets of 3 and are battery operated to give a little shock to the wet nose of Bambo, when it takes a sniff of that lovely "Acorn" scent. Well, I guess Bambo doesn't have a taste for acorns because it just eats around them ignoring the scent entirely! With no protection from Bambo I moved into face to face combat. Yet, this deer actually refuses to leave the yard it stands and looks at me like, 'yeah what are going to do?' I swear I saw a camouflage headband around its ears. I tried talking to this deer, explaining that I'd be happy to put out corn for it, if it would lay off the plants. I tried yelling at Bambo and chasing it across the yard, my arms flailing wildly. The deer run into the wood edge only to turn around and look back at me, flipping its white tail as if to say, "You can't catch me!" I finally lost all manner of civility and started sending my dog Zoe out after Bambo. At this point I'd even welcome the Cullens to my neighborhood.

Bambo hasn't just eaten the deer favorites that I've been protecting. No, its eating

Officers, Committee Chairs and Contacts

President: *Sherrell Goggin*

Vice President: *Carole Galati*

Listserv: *Anne Hardman*

Membership & Program Coordinator:

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Newsletter: *Diane Svenonius*

Public Relations: *Kathy Jentz*

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& *Sherrell Goggin*

things that are on the "Deer Don't Like" list. woodland poppies, old fashioned hydrangeas, Black-Eyed Susans, asters, balloon flowers, anise hyssops and heuchera are no more. The clumps of Joe Pye weed that usually stand six feet tall are a meager two, with their heads eaten off. Plants that I was hopeful to identify this year don't even look like plants thanks to Bambo's ravenous appetite. Odd stalks, stems and bits of leaves are all that remain in some cases. I'm not sure that even Morticia would find the de-leaved and de-bloomed garden attractive.

So the Woodland Dream has become a Woodland Nightmare. My garden has been ingested by Bambo and I've surrendered to the fact that my dream garden will not be happening this year. Of course being a gardener, I'm an eternal optimist, I've been eyeing up bulbs for fall planting and seeds for next year's garden. It has to be better next year, right?

The **Takoma Horticultural Club News** is issued each month on the listserv. Previous issues can be found at www.takomahort.org

Comments and contributions of articles and photos are most welcome. Contact the editor at dbsvenonius@msn.com

Gardening Events in the Community

National Arboretum

Horseradish Named Herb of the Year! Under The Arbor: Horsin' around with Horseradish

Saturday, September 24, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
National Herb Garden

Horseradish has been chosen as the 2011 “Herb of the Year” by the Herb Society of America. This simple, ancient root crop provides a spicy-hot flavor to a number of popular dishes and can be grown in our area. Herb Society members will demonstrate how to prepare and use horseradish in a variety of recipes at this outdoor drop-in presentation in the National Herb Garden. Presented by the Mason Dixon Unit of the Herb Society of America. Free.

Behnke's Beltsville Nursery

Back to the Garden Seminar Event

Saturday, September 3, 10am-1pm

[Washington Gardener Magazine](#) and [Behnke Nuseries](#) offers this morning of FREE workshops to get gardeners back into the growing frame of mind and ready for the busy fall season. Come to hear all or just one or two of the sessions.
10:00am Jim Dronenburg, From The Ground Up—A Garden from a Bare Hillside.
10:30am Elizabeth Olson,
Edibles for the Fall Season
11:00am Cheval Force Opp,
Using Native Plants in Your Flower Beds
12:00 noon Kathy Jentz,
Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter
12:30pm Cheval Force Opp & Kathy Jentz.
Day Trips to Local Gardens

Brookside Gardens

Friends of Brookside Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, September 10, 10:00am-3:00pm
Sponsored by the [Friends of Brookside Gardens](#)
Outside the Visitors Center

Children's Day

Saturday, September 17, 2011, 11:00am- 4:00pm
The theme for this year is “Adventures with Food – “Let’s Move and Groove!” Visitors learn about healthy food choices, gardening, and keeping fit through a variety of planned hands-on activities. Free; No registration required

Azalea Auction

Sponsored by the [Brookside Gardens Chapter of the Azalea Society](#)

Sunday, September 18, preview 10:30am, auction runs from 11:00am-2:30pm (or until completed). Outside the Visitors Center

Dahlia Show/Sale, Sponsored by the [National Capital Dahlia Society](#)

Saturday, September 24, 2:00-5:00pm

Sunday, September 25, 9:00am-3:00pm
Cut blooms will be sold after the close of the show at 3:00pm

Common Good City Farm

V Street, NW, between 2nd and 4th Streets, NW.

Autumn Herb Walk.

September 13: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Are you curious about the herbs growing on the farm? An “herb walk” is the traditional way to learn about herbs: bring your questions and we’ll walk and talk, focusing on what’s in season. Herbalist & Health Coach Tricia McCauley of <http://www.nutriciaconsulting.com/>. [Register Now!](#) Fee may apply.

Green Springs Gardens

www.greenspring.org

Basic Gardening, Fall and Winter Interest

Friday, September 9, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Beginning gardeners usually focus on how their garden beds look in spring and summer, and sometimes forget about fall and winter. Don’t stare at a flat bed of mulch this winter. Learn strategies for incorporating plants with interesting bark, late blooms, evergreen foliage or are berry-producing that will look good in the “off” season. Fee \$12.

Seed Collecting Workshop

Saturday, September 10 10:00 am – noon.

A gardener who saves seed saves money and prepares for the future. Learn the basics of seed saving, including: seed harvest, drying, cleaning and storage. Venture into our gardens with Mary Frogale, propagation horticulturist and collect seed. Fee \$24.

Photo credits p. 1 Wikimedia, p.2 Kathy Jentz, page 3 web