



# Takoma Horticultural Club

A Hardy Perennial Since 1916

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

May 2013

## Upcoming May Event: Members Only Plant Swap

Takoma Horticultural Club's Spring Plant Exchange is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2:30 to 4:00 pm, at Heffner Park on Oswego Ave., very close to the leaf mold (mulch) pile. Please, please label your plants: common name and Latin also, if possible. Include light requirements and growth habit. If your plant spreads/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, do some research or post a question on the Listserv. You'll get plenty of opinions! Native plants are especially desirable these days!\*

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, interesting (clean) pots, garden ornaments/tools and of course finger food (brownies?) and drinks. By the way, it is not too early to start potting up. To keep these potted plants in good shape, remember to keep them watered.

Help us out: please wear a recycled name tag if you have one. This helps us get to know each other, especially new members and it saves trees and the club money. We also suggest: sun screen, hats, and water. If you are able, please bring a chair. We always run out of chairs. Remember, you must be a club member to participate in the Plant Exchange. Bring a \$12 check made out to THC if you want to join or renew your membership at this event. Go to our

website: [www.takomahort.org/](http://www.takomahort.org/) for more details as we get closer to May 19. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please get in touch ~ Carole Galati ~ [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com)

\* *Although poison ivy is considered native, please leave it home!*

## April Event: Glenn Dale Azaleas

THC's April speaker was Bill Miller an ardent azalea aficionado who spoke on Benjamin Y. Morrison and his work in creating the Glenn Dale Azaleas. Mr. Miller's azalea hobby began in the '70s for this career biologist with the NIH. Miller was active with the Azalea Society of America and served as president of the Brookside Gardens chapter in the '80s.

### Officers

**Coordinators:** Carole Galati  
Diane Svenonius  
**Secretary:** Becky Lavash  
**Treasurer:** Taffy Turner

### Committee Chairs and Contacts

**Membership:** Carole Galati  
**Listserv:** Anne Hardman  
**Newsletter:** Becky Lavash  
**Public Relations:** Kathy Jentz  
**Webmaster:** Karen Helfert  
& Cynthia Walczak

## April Event: Glenn Dale Azaleas (continued from Page 1)

Mr. Miller has written and published many articles about azaleas, and introduced four azalea cultivars of his own, including one called 'Brookside'.

Benjamin Y. Morrison developed the hybridized Glenn Dale azaleas over a 25-year period, starting in 1929. Glenn Dale azaleas are winter-hardy, with large flowers and were bred to thrive in the mid-Atlantic climate. These azaleas were created by crossing large-



flowered, tender azaleas with hardy northern azaleas. Some examples of the many varieties of Glenn Dale azaleas are shown through out this article.

Mr. Morrison developed his 454 Glenn Dale azalea types at the USDA facility located in Glenn Dale Maryland. When WWII started for the US, he was asked to remove all the azaleas from the USDA to make way for war-related needs. Mr. Morrison moved his prized azaleas to his home on Piney Branch Road, to his friends' homes in Takoma Park, to the National Arboretum on



New York Avenue, as well as other gardens in the area. More than 10,000 individual azaleas were planted in the National Arboretum. Later in his career, Benjamin Morrison became the Director of the National Arboretum.

After the talk, many in the audience wanted to know if they had Glenn Dale azaleas in their gardens.

In short, there is no way to know, but educated guesses are possible. For example, if you can make an estimate of the age of the azalea, perhaps by the size and maturity of the plant, and if the color and pattern of the flowers seems to match one of the 454 known varieties, you may have an Glenn Dale. But we can not be certain, unless you have some clear documentation or information about the source of your azaleas.



For more information on the many varieties of Glenn Dale azalea, visit the [National Arboretum](#) and [Azalea Society](#) websites.

## Takoma Hort Club Has a Lovely Meeting Venue in the Takoma Historic Society Building

Since February, the Takoma Horticultural Club has enjoyed the use of the large and light-filled headquarters of Historic Takoma Inc. (HTI) at 7328 Carroll Avenue for its meetings. HTI's spacious quarters, furnished with big white-covered chairs and walls of shelving for its historical archives, are a little bit living room, a little bit library and perhaps a touch of ballroom. And, when augmented with chairs and a projector, it is a delightful venue for a talk with refreshments to follow.



*Historic Takoma Interior Today*

*Photo courtesy of HTI*

HTI, a non-profit organization that was incorporated to help preserve and document Takoma Park's historic places, bought this empty 1930s storefront in 2004, extensively restored it, and opened its new headquarters there in July. Before 2004, the building had been a Piggly Wiggly grocery, and then a roasting facility for Barcelona Nuts from the '40s to the 80's. We are very grateful to Historic Takoma's President, Diana Kohn and Vice President Lorraine Pearsall, for allowing us to use the facility, and for helping us arrange a joint meeting in April, with the talk on the Glenn Dale azaleas which are in the yards of many old Takoma houses.



*Barcelona Nuts Storefront*

*Photo courtesy of HTI*

Several of the boxes of archival material concern the doings of the Takoma Horticultural Club, during periods when there was considerable overlap between HTI and THC leadership, and they've asked us to help them review and index the material. Meanwhile, the club thanks Diana and Lorraine for making their pleasant space available to us.

### **Membership and Dues**

This is a great time to pay your 2013 THC dues, or join the club. We have our famous Spring Plant Exchange on Sunday, May 19, for members only. Let me know if you need to check your membership status. Speaking of joining, please welcome our newest members: Sue Tavela and Deborah O'Leary. And let's welcome back an old friend, T.J. Mathews! I hope you all take advantage of our wonderful monthly events, including Garden Lectures, Plant Exchanges, Open Gardens, Potluck Gatherings and more. Always check our website for updates and the latest club news: [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org)

### **Behnke's Garden Party, Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Behnke's Nursery, Beltsville**

Come see our Takoma Horticultural Club table, as well as 7 other clubs at Behnke's third annual Garden Party. This all day event includes garden clubs, plant societies, garden vendors, Master Gardeners, a wine tasting and Behnke door prizes. The first event is a Plant Swap. Bring your labeled plants from 9am to 10:30am. The actual Plant Swap begins at 10:30.

But the main event is a huge raffle to benefit Friends of Brookside Gardens. Attendees can buy raffle tickets from 9am to 2:30pm. Raffle winners will be announced at 3:00 and you don't have to be present to win. In the previous two

events, the raffle raised almost \$3,000 for Brookside Gardens – a worthy cause, we all agree! Several of our club members won great raffle prizes last year, include the biggest one: a large, teak garden chair, won by Linette Lander. And Country Casual, the donor of last year's chair, has agreed to donate another chair this year – valued at about \$400 (I think). THC will probably donate a nice plant. If you would like to donate something or be a garden vendor, let me know. We will post more details in a few weeks. Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)

### **Save the Date**

*Friday, May 10, Smithsonian GardenFest, 11am-7pm, Washington, DC*

This annual event takes place on the National Mall in Washington, DC, in coordination with National Public Gardens Day. Activities include composting demos, plant art crafts, a container contest, and much more. It is free to attend and open to the public. Kathy Jentz, Editor/Publisher of *Washington Gardener Magazine*, will be a presenter and have a seed matching activity table. Event details can be found on the Smithsonian website: <http://gardens.si.edu/whats-happening/garden-fest.html>.

*Wednesday, May 22 Beltsville Garden Club Meeting 7:30 pm, James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville*

The Beltsville Garden Club presents Montgomery County Master Gardener and retired engineer, Joe Ginther, who will present a talk entitled Garden Tools: A General Discussion of Types, Uses, Maintenance, and Sharpening.

A Master Gardener for 20 years, Joe Ginther enjoys working in the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden in

Derwood, Maryland. He describes himself as a "Jack of all Trades", who attends to garden construction and maintenance, and care of tools and machinery.

*Monday, May 20, Eat Your Roses: Edible Flowers, 8:00 pm, Brookside Gardens, Visitors Center/Education Building, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, Maryland*

Find out what edible flowers you can cultivate to add a bit of color and flavor to your cooking. Our featured speaker is author Denise Schreiber. This talk is hosted by the Silver Spring Garden Club. Doors open at 7:30pm. This event is Free. It is open to the public. For directions visit the Brookside website at: <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/>

### **Plant Sales**

*Saturday, May 11, , 8 am, Beltsville Garden Club Spring Plant Sale, High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland*

The second of two of BGC's annual Spring plant sales. Don't miss this one if you missed the first one!

*Saturday, May 11, GardenMart, 9:00am-1:00pm, Wheaton, MD*

The annual Silver Spring Garden Club GardenMart benefit plant sale held at Brookside Gardens features locally sourced and grown plants including unique varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. The club also sells special selections of native plants, deer-resistant plants, and shade-loving plants. The sale benefits the club's educational activities. For more information, contact: Kathy Jentz, SSGC President, 301-588- 6894 or [Laserblast@aol.com](mailto:Laserblast@aol.com). Directions and details at [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org)