



Takoma Horticultural Club

A Hardy Perennial Since 1916

www.takomahort.org

April 2014

April Event: The New Victory Garden – Harmonizing Vegetables and Flowers

On Wednesday, April 16 from 7:30 pm to 9pm Takoma Hort will host a discussion by Erin Clark and Joe Brunetti, horticulturalists from the Smithsonian. The talk opens with a short history of Victory Gardens including how the US government encouraged victory gardens during the two world wars. The talk will then move on to more contemporary fruit, vegetable, and flower combinations.

Joe Brunetti is a SE Pennsylvania native with a BS in Horticulture from Temple University, whose passions since childhood have been planting and cultivating his own food, and eating home grown food. At the National Museum of American History he designs, installs and cares for multiple themed gardens related to exhibits inside the museum, two of which will be featured in the talk.

Erin Clark trained at Brigham Young University and has gardened for the past ten years in the mid-Atlantic. She is responsible for the Heirloom Garden at the National Museum of American History, designed with a palette of herbs, perennials, and annuals used in American Gardens in eras from colonial times to 1950.

This event is free and open to the public at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park. You are invited to wear your own name tag and to bring snacks to share. Please bring a check to renew/join the THC for 2014, if you have not done so already.

March Event Review – Alonso Abugattas: Piecing Together Nature’s Puzzle

In March the Takoma Hort Club presented guest speaker Alonso Abugattas who talked about the interconnectedness of nature. His talk was well received by all and led to lots of conversations on the listserv. Alonso has a blog so you can read more:

<http://www.capitalnaturalist.blogspot.com/>
and a Facebook page, Capitol Naturalist:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1428738304011660/>

THC Bulb Sale is On Again at the Takoma Street Festival in October

Takoma Hort Club will be back again at the Takoma Street Festival this October 5 with our annual bulb sale. You may choose to order bulbs in advance instead of waiting for the street fair. If you want to order in advance, our supplier, Jerry McNamara, will send out an order form and plant list soon. Look for more details in the THC newsletter as we get closer to October. If you have questions, email Nancy at n.newton@verizon.net.

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*

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What's Coming Up, Besides Daffodils?

Well, I think we made it through a rough one!! Now let's be patient and see what has survived, besides daffodils and hellebores! Looking forward, we have some wonderful events ahead. Our Spring Plant Exchange will be May 18. Since that is for Members Only, please check with me about your membership status, if you are not sure you paid your dues. Later in May begins our Open Garden Series: May 23, June 13, 20 and 27th. These events are free and open to the public.

Carole Galati cagalati@rcn.com

Behnke's Garden Party: June 7

The Fourth Annual Garden Party at Behnke Beltsville Nursery will be held on Saturday, June 7, 9 to 3. This all day event spotlights garden clubs, plant societies, green organizations and vendors, garden talks and door prizes and some free stuff. The center piece is the HUGE raffle benefiting Friends of Brookside Gardens. Our Takoma Horticultural Club will have a table, of course. This year we will display Teeny-Tiny Containers & Plants. Your donations are welcome!! Let us know if you would like to help host our table or contribute in any way.

Carole Galati cagalati@rcn.com

TakomaHort Plant Exchange is May 18

Takoma Hort's annual Spring plant exchange is coming up soon! This fun event is very popular and we always have a great turn out of people, plants, and garden objects. You must be a club member to attend and you can join at the event. But you can only join at the event if you pay by check, since we won't be able to make change at that time.

If you plan to attend you should start very soon to find and pot your plants. If you pot them several weeks in advance the plants will be healthier and more attractive for the swap. We look forward to seeing you at Hefner Park on May 18. Look for more details on start time in next month's newsletter.

Road Trip: Dale Chihuly at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona

Late last month I was lucky enough to have a business trip to Phoenix Arizona. On a day that Takoma Park had another late season snow storm, I was visiting Phoenix's Desert Botanical Garden on an 88 degree day and see glass sculptures by the glass artist Dale Chihuly. I have always wanted to see the desert in the Spring to see cacti and other Spring flowers in bloom and the timing of my trip was perfect! Palo Verde trees were blooming with thousands of tiny yellow flowers and Prickly Pears had large yellow flowers with red centers.



*Blooming Palo Verde Tree
Photo by Becky Lavash*

Paleo Verde trees are very unusual trees that are adapted for life in the desert. The trees have very small leaves that often fall off in the summer. The small leaves help to minimize transpiration that occurs in the extreme heat and dryness of the desert environment. But tree leaves provide a key

component for tree health by photosynthesizing sunlight. To compensate for the scanty, small leaves, Palo Verde (Green Skin) trees have light green bark and can photosynthesize light in their bark.



*Prickly Pear Blossoms
Photo by Becky Lavash*

The Chihuly sculptures in the exhibit are spread throughout the garden, and many of the pieces echoed the plant shapes. Some of the pieces were gigantic and it was a mystery how they were able to hang them securely. You can read more about the exhibit and the garden on [the website](#).



*Big Blue Chihuly Sculpture
Photo by Becky Lavash*



*Glass Spheres – Some Were 2-3 Feet in Diameter
Photo by Becky Lavash*

I saw the Desert Botanical Garden's annual Butterfly Exhibit during my visit. The small greenhouse was filled with hundreds of butterflies, like the Zebra Longwing shown here.



*Zebra Longwing Butterfly
Photo by Becky Lavash*

Arizona has lots of wildflowers in the Spring that are not present during the very hot summers. The Spring Flower Garden was in bloom during my visit and had a great variety of flowering plants that were drawing bees and other pollinators.

The Desert Botanical Garden is a great site to visit to see how different plants are in the southwest and to see them in a well designed landscape.



*Columbine – A Southwestern Spring Flower
Photo by Becky Lavash*



*Calliandra "Fairy Duster" – a Southwest Spring Flower
Photo by Becky Lavash*

2014 Plant Sales!!

Here's a list of all the plant sales we know about this year. Note that the events at Brookside Gardens are off for this year because of the major remodeling going on at Brookside.

April

April 10-12th Annual Spring Garden Market. American Horticultural Society, Alex, VA.

Dozens of regional vendors, as well as garden accessories, books, and botanically-themed art. Thursday 3-7pm (members only). Public hours Friday 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-4pm. For more info visit

<http://www.ahs.org/about-river-farm/events-programs/spring-garden-market> or call (703) 768-5700.

April 11-13th Native Plant Nursery Spring Opening & Sale, Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, Maryland. Friday 10am-4pm (members only). Open to the public Saturday (10am-4pm) & Sunday (noon-4pm).

Visit the Adkins Arboretum website http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/programs_events/plant_sales.htm for more info or to place presale orders (members only), or call (410) 634-2847.

April 12th Saturday 8am-noon. Beltsville Garden Club's annual plant sale. High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD

<http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org/> Held the second Saturday of every April.

April 25-26 Garden Fair and Plant Sale. U.S. National Arboretum, New York Avenue Parking Lot, Washington, DC. FONA members pre-sale, Friday 10am-1pm. Open to the public Friday 1-4pm and Saturday 9am-4pm.

Visit the National Arboretum website at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html> or call FONA at (202) 544-8733 for more info

April 25-26th Native Plant Sale at Black Hill Regional Park (Boyd's, MD).

Shop for nursery-propagated native wildflowers for your yard and garden, many of which are nectar and host plants for butterflies. Across from the park office, by the old maintenance yard. Contact Lynette Lenz at (301) 528-3484 for info on species and possible pre-orders. Friday 3pm-7pm; Saturday 10am-3pm; Sunday 1pm-3pm.

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/nature_centers/blackhill/seasonal_programs.shtm

April 26th Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale, 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA. Saturday 9am-2pm. For more info, please visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~sknudsen/> Sale held last Saturday in April.

April 26th, 9am-1pm, Audobon Society of Central Maryland's 16th Annual Native Plant Sale. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Road, Mount Airy, MD. For more info (such as plants that will be offered and other events taking place), please visit <http://www.centralmdaudubon.org/psinfo.htm> Sale held last Saturday in April.

Apr 26-27th Garden Guild Plant Sale. Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC (near Catholic University). Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 9am-3pm.

Roses, azaleas, dogwoods, crepe myrtles, stewartias, and other bushes and deciduous trees. There will be vendors on hand. For more info, see http://fmqg.org/?page_id=97

May

May 2-3rd Washington National Cathedral's 76th Annual Flower Mart. Corner of Massachusetts & Wisconsin Avenues, Wash, DC.

A benefit for the Cathedral's Gardens and Grounds.
<http://www.allhallowsguild.org/fm/come.html>
Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm.

May 10th Saturday 8am-noon. Beltsville Garden Club's annual plant sale. High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD.

<http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org/> Held the second Saturday of every May (the day before Mother's Day). This is our big day to sell plants as our club fundraiser.

May 10 Silver Spring Garden Club's GardenMart 9am-1pm at the Historic

Train Station's parking lot in downtown Silver Spring, MD

Normally held at Brookside Gardens, this year the SSGC is holding their event at the historic train station.

May 10 Hyattsville Elementary's PTA 5th Annual Native Plant Sale, 5311 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20781.

Check out their website (www.nativeplantsale.org) for a list of plants that will be available for sale, or call 301-312-9170. Saturday 8am-4pm. 2014

May 10-11th Cylburn Arboretum's 46th Annual Market Day. Baltimore, Maryland. Preview sale, Friday 4:30-7:30pm (fee), main sale, Saturday 8am-2pm (free, but \$5-10 parking).

See

<http://cylburn.org/education-events/special-events/market-day/> for more info.

May 15th Thursday 7am-1pm. Bethesda Garden Club's annual plant sale. Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative Market, 7155 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, Maryland.

For more information, you can visit <http://bcgc.esiteasp.com/bcgc/plantsale.nxg> (not listed on website yet)

May 18 Spring Garden Day, Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alex, VA. (703) 642-5173.

More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants descend on Green Spring Gardens to fill your spring gardening needs! FROGS receive 10% off plants in the Garden Gate Plant Shop. Saturday 9am-3pm

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm>

October

Oct 5, Native Plant Sale, 10am-1pm. Bethesda, MD.

Chesapeake Natives will hold a fall native plant sale at 8011 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda (outside Christ Lutheran Church), next to the BCC Rescue Squad. Chesapeake Natives propagates plants native to the Chesapeake watershed, and most of the seed we use is from Montgomery, County. For more information, visit

<http://www.chesapeakenatives.org/Chesapeake Natives/HOME.html>

Oct 11-12th Arbor Fest, University of Virginia's Historic Blandy Experiment Farm, (540) 837-1758, ext. 0.

"In addition to a selection of plants divided or propagated from the Arboretum grounds, ArborFest includes a variety of plants for sale by carefully selected high-quality vendors. Activities include scarecrow making and nature walks for kids as well as

guided Arboretum walks, bird walks, and hay rides." Saturday-Sunday 10am-4:30pm. For more information, you can visit <http://blandy.virginia.edu/our-foundation/arborfest>

Always held Columbus Day Weekend/ second weekend in October.

Save the Date

Monday, April 21, 8:00pm Doors open at 7:30pm Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Health Sciences Center Building Room 222

Silver Spring Garden Club's April meeting covers Container Vegetable Gardening. Guest speaker Carol Allen, has more than 25 years experience in the horticulture industry with special interests in Integrated Pest Management, landscape design, native plants, tropicals of many kinds, and especially orchids.