



Takoma Horticultural Club

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July 2014

July Event: Fruit Tree Growing & Propagation Techniques

This month Takoma Hort Club is hosting a lecture on growing fruit trees presented by Michael McConkey of Edible Landscaping in Afton, Virginia. Michael has been growing and testing many fruit tree varieties since the 1970s so he has extensive knowledge of how fruits in the Mid-Atlantic are grown and propagated. To accompany his talk, Michael has some photos to illustrate some appropriate, easy-to-grow plants and may be able to provide samples of currently ripe fruits. After the talk, Mike will offer for sale fruit tree saplings from his nursery.

Takoma Hort meetings are held at the Historic Takoma Building at 7328 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park. The meeting will be on Wednesday, July 16 and start at 7:30 and end at 9:00 pm.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Please bring a snack to share and wear a recycled nametag.

Takoma Hort Club Marches in Takoma Park's July Fourth Parade

On July 4, ten exuberant Takoma Hort Club members marched in Takoma Park's Independence Day parade. THC has marched in this parade in previous years but it has been quite a while since the last march.

The group carried a club banner, tooted a kazoo, and waved at the crowd with pinwheels, flags, rakes, and other gardening implements.



Club Members March in Takoma Park Parade
Photo by Patrick Meagher

As the club walked the one and a half mile route, we had lots of opportunities to exhort the crowd to keep Takoma Park green, grow fruits and vegetables, and to protect the tree canopy. (Continued on next page)

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: Cynthia Walczak



*Queueing Up for the Parade
Photo by Becky Lavash*

The weather was fabulous this year with temperatures much lower than normal for an early July day so everyone was more comfortable than expected. All the THC marchers agreed that they had a great time and agreed we should march again next year. Maybe you want to join THC in 2015?



*Club Enthusiasm
Photo by Becky Lavash*

June Meeting: Beneficial Insects in the Garden

The Takoma Horticultural Club joined the City of Takoma Park and Friends of Sligo Creek on June 18 in sponsoring a talk by Graham Davis, who is an Integrated Pest Management Specialist for Smithsonian Gardens. Graham talked about attracting and keeping beneficial insects in the garden. Beneficial insects include pollinators, as well as predators such as lady beetles, whose diet is other insects that eat our garden plants. In the Smithsonian's gardens, Davis adds beneficial insects that he has purchased and works to create habitat that will encourage the insects to stay and multiply.

In general, good garden structure with differing plant heights, light and shade and flowering plants is important to give beneficials food and habitat. Three families of plants particularly draw beneficials: *umbelliferae* including fennel, cilantro, dill, angelica and wild carrot; *mints* such as lavender, rosemary, salvia nemerosa , bee balm and mountain mint; and *asters* such as echinacea, coreopsis, and marigold. Blackberries, red maples and dogwood are also good attractants.

A highlight of the evening was gladiatorial combat projected live from the microscope between various garden pests and the predators particularly lady beetles pursuing aphids. Graham wrapped up the event with native plant starts for sale for \$1 at the end of the event.

Save the Date: August Storm Water Garden Tour

On August 20 Takoma Hort will host a tour of Storm Water Management gardens and designs in a local neighborhood. This tour will be led and narrated by storm water

mitigation experts. Watch the THC list and the August newsletter for more details.

Membership and Dues

Please welcome our newest member, Shirley True, to the club. Although many of our club events are free, we have three in September and October that are for members only and not to be missed. We have a Pot Luck at Jeff and Herman's on September 21, a trip to Dan Turner's Patuxent Valley Nursery on September 27

and our Fall Plant Exchange on October 19. The Takoma Horticultural Club will also be selling a collection of direct-from-Holland bulbs at the Takoma Park Street Festival on October 5th. Of course you don't have to be a member to buy bulbs, but you do have to belong to get that 10% discount.

Be sure to pay your dues to enjoy these wonderful member benefits. Check with me about your membership status, if you are not sure. Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)