



Takoma Horticultural Club

A Hardy Perennial Since 1916

www.takomahort.org

March 2014

March Event: Alonso Abugattas, Unlocking Nature's Puzzle

On Wednesday, March 19 from 7:30 pm to 9 pm Takoma Hort will host a discussion by Alonso Abugattas on *Unlocking Nature's Puzzle: How Plants and Animals Depend on One Another for Survival*. We've heard a lot about pollination, the plight of honeybees, and Monarch butterflies lately, but what about other ways that humans, plants, and animals are connected and impact each other? How do plants, ants, fungi, and so many other things connect with each other? Using puzzle-solving as a metaphor, Alonso Abugattas will unlock other less-familiar dependencies and intricacies in nature all around us in his talk to the Takoma Hort Club and guests.

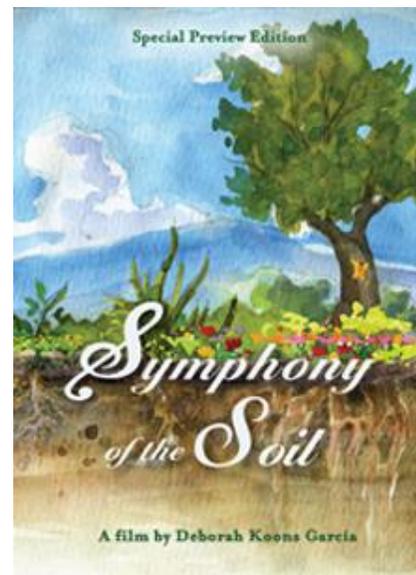
Alonso Abugattas is the Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County Parks, VA, with 20+ years as a professional naturalist. He is a Virginia Master Naturalist and Master Gardener and serves as an instructor for local chapters on a variety of natural history topics. He is a past president of the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and long-time Co-chair for the Beltway Chapter of the National Association for Interpretation, the professional organization for naturalists, zookeepers, and museum docents.

This event is free and open to the public at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park. No reservations are required. You are invited to wear your own name tag and to bring snacks to share (finger-food is best). Please bring a check to renew/join the THC for 2014, if you have not done so already.

February Event Review - Movie Night: Symphony of the Soil

In February the Takoma Hort Club hosted a gardener's movie night at the Historic Takoma Inc. 'Uniplex' on Carroll Avenue.

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Symphony of the Soil was written and directed by Deborah Koons Garcia, and is available from Lilly Films.

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

February Event Review - Movie Night: Symphony of the Soil *(continued)*

About thirty came to watch *Symphony of the Soil*, a film which effectively combines poetry, beautiful photography and hard information about the “living skin of the earth” that feeds us and that needs us to reciprocate.

Because the movie was over an hour and a half long, we condensed our announcements and business and had a short soil discussion afterwards, led by Kit Gage and Wendy Bell. The audience was most appreciative – we had a lot of composters in the audience! We didn’t have popcorn, but attendees brought plenty of other tasty snacks.

THC thanks Lorraine Pearsall of HTI, gracious host and organizer of equipment; Paul Richards and Paul Chrostowski for projection and technical support; Dan Weil for providing the Big Screen.

Work in the Parks

Come help Mike Welsh, Takoma Park’s City Gardener, and members of the Takoma Horticultural Club on Saturday March 29 to “mulch the parks”. Bring the whole family and join us for some good exercise and good works! Mike and his crew will deliver the mulch (leaf mold from the Municipal Yard) to several parks and gardens around Takoma Park.

Each location will be staffed by members of the Takoma Horticultural Club to guide teams of volunteers, including members of the club, local residents, families and students. Wear scruffy gardening shoes, and bring gloves, hard rakes, pitch forks, water and a picnic lunch, if you have time to join us. As the time draws closer, we will let signed up volunteers know if we need other tools or equipment, such as wheel barrows.

Although the event lasts from 10 to 2, you can come when you can and stay only as long as you are able. It’s a Win-Win-Win event: nourish and beautify our local parks, get some exercise, and make new friends! After we have enough volunteers signed up, we will organize into teams and let you know the parks where we will be working. Please contact me if you would like to sign up or have any questions. Thank you very “mulch”! Carole Galati – cagalati@rcn.com

Membership and Dues

Thanks to all who paid their club dues for 2014! Please welcome our new and returning members: Brian Richmond, Murray Schmechel, Carin Brown, Greg Smith and Laura Otolski. We look forward to getting to know you. Here are some “Save the Date” reminders: March 19: Talk-Plants & Animals Depend on Each Other for Survival; March 29: Work in the Parks; April 16: Talk- Combining Flowers & Veggies and May 18: Spring Plant Exchange (members only – not to be missed).

Let me know if you are not sure of your membership status. By keeping your membership current you are supporting our great garden club and able to attend the Members-Only events. Check the Calendar of Events at takomahort.org. We try to keep our site updated and accurate for all club information – especially since we do not mail out a monthly newsletter. You need to join the Takoma Hort Yahoo Group separately. When you join the club, you are not automatically added to our Yahoo List. Our website explains how you can join.
Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)

Save Some Warmer Dates

I know: snow, snow, cold and more snow. So get out your calendars (phones?) and let's add some warm cheery thoughts to our day: Spring Plant Exchange is on Sunday, May 18, followed by four Friday Open Gardens. They just keep getting better! Our Calendar of Events on our website will be updated next week – promise! On Saturday, June 7, The Fourth Annual Garden Party will be held at Behnke's. Please save the date for this fun - fund raising raffle for Brookside Gardens. Okay, now you can go back to your nursery/seed catalogues and dream! Carole Galati

Save the Date

March 1-9, Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium Maryland

Each Spring and Fall, hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of attendees come together at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The March show marks the end of winter and start of spring and warmer weather with beautiful landscaped gardens, home improvement

contractors, plants, crafts, and much more. [See website for more information.](#)

Monday, March 10, 8 pm, Silver Spring Garden Club monthly meeting, Montgomery College, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus ,Health Sciences Center Building, Room 222

John Peter Thompson will present a talk on the nursery industry of 18th and 19th century America. He will show examples of nursery catalogs, the originals of which are located in the National Agricultural Library in nearby Beltsville, MD. See the [SSGC website](#) for more details. Free and open to public.

March 20 – April 13, National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, DC welcomes the arrival of spring with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, a tradition that showcases the beautiful gift of 3,000 cherry trees that the city of Tokyo gave to our nation's capital. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual three-week, city-wide event featuring more than 200 international cultural performances and over 90 other special events.