



Takoma Horticultural Club

A Hardy Perennial Since 1916

www.takomahort.org

May 2014

May Event: Members-Only Plant Exchange! Sunday May 18 from 11:15 to 2pm

Schedule:

11:15 - noon: Setup and Sort Plants

Noon - 1:30: Plant Exchange

1:30 - 2: Clean Up

Takoma Horticultural Club's Spring Plant Exchange is almost here! We will be meeting, as usual at Heffner Park, 7500 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park. This is your chance to exchange your garden extras with your THC co-members for something new. Here are some guidelines for the plant exchange:

- You can bring as many plants as you'd like, but we only ask that you please label them.
- Include the plant's common name (Latin also, if possible), light requirements and growth habit. Include your name if you want to give more info. If your plant spreads/grows quickly let the gardener be forewarned.
- Native plants are especially desirable these days!*
- If possible, pot up your plants at least a week or two before the swap and keep them watered.
- If you are a new gardener or just don't have plants or time to dig, you are welcome to bring: gardening books or magazines, cookbooks, interesting (clean) pots, garden ornaments/tools, and of course finger food snacks and drinks. There are more than a few chocoholics among us. *(continued on Page 2)*

April Event Review: Joe Brunetti and Erin Clark and The New Victory Garden

At the Takoma Hort Club meeting on April 16, we heard from two young and enthusiastic speakers from the Smithsonian Gardens, the newest Smithsonian museum. Joe Brunetti and Erin Clark gave a motivating and inspiring presentation called The New Victory Garden: Harmonizing Vegetables and Flowers, using photos of the Smithsonian gardens that they maintain to illustrate the companion planting suggestions. To frame the presentation of Victory Gardens in US history, Joe began the evening with sample posters printed by the US Department of Agriculture from WW1 and 2. (continued on page 3)

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

May Event: Members-Only Plant Exchange! (continued)

- Please don't bring plants some may consider invasive, such as common orange daylilies or English ivy. If you are not sure, post a question on the Listserv. You'll get plenty of opinions!

If you can come by 11:00 am to help set up tables and chairs, please email Carole Galati at cagalati@rcn.com. The first three Early Birds to reply get first choice choosing a plant!

We are always grateful for help afterwards to pack up the chairs and tables. Besides exchanging plants, we'll be socializing too, so please wear a recycled name tag if you have one. This helps us get to know each other, especially new members. If you can, bring a folding chair, as we often run short. If you'd like to join, or haven't yet paid your 2014 dues, please bring a \$12 check - made payable to THC. We will have no cash on hand. Here are some other helpful hints: bring water, hats, sun screen and containers to take your plants home in. Since each person stands up and tells the group what he/she brought, bringing a list of your plants might be helpful.

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

Join the Garden Party: June 7 at Behnke Beltsville

WHAT: The Fourth Annual Garden Party will be held at Behnke's Beltsville Nursery on Saturday, June 7, from 9 to 3:00 pm

DETAILS: This all-day event features 8 garden clubs (including our own THC); plant societies; green organizations; vendors; Master Gardeners to answer your gardening questions; garden talks by Carol Allen; a wine tasting; live music; food for sale; door

prizes; special Behnke sale items and a Plant Swap.

FEATURING: A HUGE raffle to benefit FRIENDS OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS. Raffle donations are made by all participating clubs and organizations, local merchants and members of Friends of Brookside Gardens. Raffle winners are announced at 2:00 but you don't have to be present to win!

Garden Party Schedule

8-9	Participants set up
9-2	Buy Raffle Tickets
9-11	Submit plants to Plant Swap for approval (limit of 3 per person)
10-11	Garden Talk I: Carol Allen
11-11:30	Plant Swap
1-2	Garden Talk II: Carol Allen
1-3	Wine Tasting
2-2:45	Raffle winners announced

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Contribute a mini-container garden to be displayed on our THC table.
- Sign up for a shift to help staff our THC table.
- Get in touch with Nancy Newton to help out with table staffing or to contribute a mini-container garden, she will be happy to answer your questions. n.newton@verizon.net
- This event is a wonderful way to support Friends of Brookside Gardens, while having fun and showing off our great club!

April Event Review: The New Victory Garden (continued)



Victory Garden Posters from WW1 and 2

Reviewing the posters, it was interesting to see how recommendations for farming and eating have evolved over time.



Don't forget your daily serving from the butter group!

And the posters also reflected how recommendations for the most productive and sustaining farming practices have changed over time.



Contour Farming was Encouraged

But the highlight of the presentation was the recommendations for companion plantings for vegetables and ornamentals. You can read some of the recommendations in this newsletter but to see the entire presentation with the recommended plantings, you can view the Prezi files on line by [clicking this link](#). The images shown here are from that file.

Companion planting is done for pest control, providing host plants for beneficial insects, pollination, maximizing garden space, and increase productivity. An example of companion planting that mixes vegetables and flowers is cabbage, cilantro, garlic, and violas. Garlic helps repel pests, and the cilantro flowers and violas attract beneficial insects to protect the cabbage from its common pests.

Refer to the Companion Plantings box that follows for other ideas.

Another key part of any garden that Erin discussed was including plants that attract pollinator and beneficial insects. These plants were not specifically paired with specific vegetables but they are important for the overall garden. Refer to the Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects box for a complete list.

April Event Review: The New Victory Garden (continued)

Companion Plantings

- Group 1 Cabbage, Cilantro, Violas, Garlic
- Group 2 Okra, eggplant, Hyssop, artichoke, Leeks, toothache plant
- Group 3 Tomatoes, basil (holy basil), marigolds (tagetes Patua)
- Group 4 Eggplant, Oregano (flowers)
- Group 5 Eggplant, peppermint geranium, lemon basil
- Group 6 Hot peppers (chilis), alyssum, agastache
- Group 7 Strawberries, borage, lettuces
- Group 8 Corn, amaranth, sunflower, calmintha (var. Blue Cloud)
- Group 9 Salad burnett, rat tail radish, oyster plant, red Russian kale (let some flower)

Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

Agastache foeniculum
 Larkspur
 Asclepias (milk weed)
 Herbs (flowering)
 Thyme
 Lemon balm
 Lavender
 Feverfew
 Sage
 Santolina (repels moths)
 Nasturtiums
 Dill (flowering)



Parsley and Pansies Make a Lovely Fall Flowerbed

In designing and managing your garden both Erin and Joe suggested these three key points:

- Pick a theme
- Plant heirloom flowers for pollinators and color
- Use companion planting for best results

After this informative and well-illustrated presentation we were all inspired to try some new planting combinations and to visit the Smithsonian's newest museum.

Membership and Dues

Please welcome our newest members: Martha Grundmann, Alice Leaderman and Seema Balwani. Maybe we'll see you at our popular Plant Exchange on May 18 or at our first Open Garden on May 23. Don't be shy! We love to welcome new members!

Speaking of membership, it is "Purge the Membership List" season. If you haven't paid your 2014 dues, your name will be removed from our Membership List. Please reply if you would like to check your status. I am sorry I can't email individuals about membership status – there are way too many of you! Go to our website for renewal instructions: www.takomahort.org. Thank you, Carole

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. We will hold our annual bulb sale fundraiser at the Takoma Street Festival Sunday Oct. 5, 2014. If you want to order in advance, our supplier, Jerry McNamara has already sent out his order form. Check the TakomHort List for his message on April 25. The order form is attached to *the message*. 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.

Bethany Karn "Blooms" for THC at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore

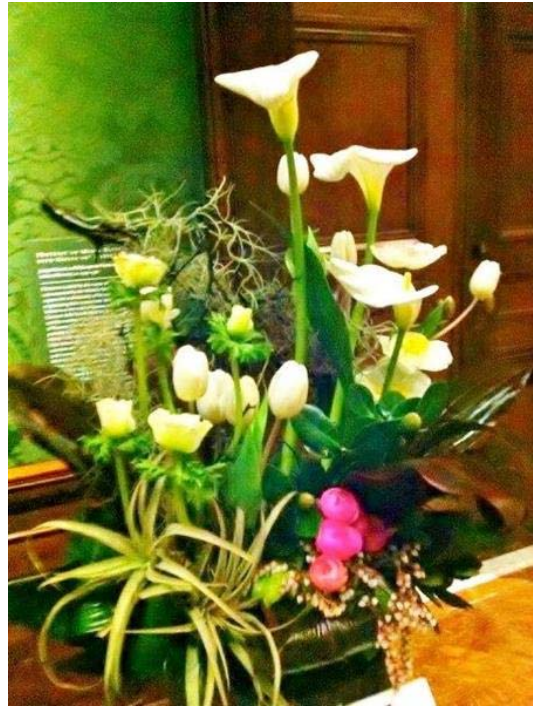
Bethany Karn, a THC member and local floral designer volunteered to represent our club at the Walters Gallery "Art Blooms" annual event on April 4, 2014. She submitted a floral arrangement which represented a work of art, assigned by the Gallery. Walters invites local garden clubs to participate each year. Here is Bethany's description of her experience.



Bethany's Painting
Photo by Bethany Karn

I have to admit, I did gasp a bit when I ripped open my packet containing the THC's assigned painting: The Portrait of Maria Salviati de' Medici with Guilia de' Medici. It's

a dark and somber painting; frankly, not very flower-friendly. But those long fingers, the drapes of fabric and the mystery of why the child was painted out of the painting for several centuries intrigued me. So I set out to make tiny Guilia shine.



Bethany's Arrangement
Photo by Bethany Karn

As a new convert to local-only flowers, I went to Lancaster, PA to get the stunning Aethiopica calla lilies from Hendricks Greenhouses. They also supplied me with white blooms of poppy, anemone and tulip to recreate the soft folds of white fabric. I used an inverted manzanita branch, sprayed black, to form the triangular shape. The slender leaves of tillandsia (also known as air plants) invoke Maria's ghostly white fingers and the grey veil fabric comes through in strands of Spanish Moss. In the form of ranunculus and pieris buds, tiny Guilia peeks out, half hidden, under the dark folds of ti leaves.

It was fun to watch other designers in action, many from Garden Clubs that have been doing this for years and many who had some

really tough assignments. I'm already hoping I get something even tougher, next year. And I hope I made Guilia proud.

Open Garden Series Blooms Again!

This year we have four gardens in our Open Garden Series. The first one is Friday, May 23, from 5-7 pm. Kathy Rushing has invited us to her dry, wooded hill garden, adjacent to Northwest Branch Park in Silver Spring. Several diverse "garden rooms" are connected by paths and paved areas. An evolving natural "kindergarden" will be perfect for her five young grandkids.

We will post more details in the coming week, including address and parking instructions on our website and our Yahoo list. The other Open Garden dates are June 13, 20 and 27. These Friday Open Gardens have become very popular, drawing people from other garden clubs, as well as neighbors and friends of the host gardener. Tour some gorgeous gardens in a relaxed, social atmosphere with light refreshments. These events are free and open to the public. ~ Carole Galati

May Plant Sales!!

Here's a list of the local plant sales in May. This is repeated from last month's newsletter but it's a good reminder to get out and find your companion plants.

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 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, visit the website, <http://bcgc.esiteasp.com/bcgc/plantsale.nxg>

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>