

Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



December 2016

Centennial Garden

Folks in the Takoma Horticultural Club were thinking of ways to celebrate our hundredth anniversary. Sure, marching in the July 4th parade and a big party. But something tangible and visible as well. A new public garden!

A committee was formed. Along with Mike Welsh, Horticulturist with the City of Takoma Park, we toured many sites. Finally we settled on a visible and mostly empty corner bounded by Piney Branch, Philadelphia and Boston Avenues. We knew it needed to emphasize native plants, for durability and as an educational effort on what they look like and their benefits to the environment—



pollinators et cetera. It needed to be a conservation landscape to help capture stormwater flowing down a gentle slope.

We created three kidney bean-shaped sites nestled together and overlooked (soon) by a bench honoring Clarence and Catherine

Casey, long-time members.

We've got a Needle Palm in the middle, and several kinds of shrubs—Rhus (related to poison ivy but not poisonous), a miniature Eastern Nine-bark, Itea and Clethra. A Bottlebrush Buckeye is in one corner and the fence will be covered by Oakleaf Hydrangea. These are surrounded by a number of sedges, evergreen Pakera, and asters. They will bloom at different times, and are going to provide interest year round.

*Centennial Garden planting participants included: **Front row:** Carole Galati, Mike Welsh, Taffy Turner, Wendy Bell, Barbara Henderson, Mary Lane Renninger, Lois Weinberg, Nancy Newton. **Back Row:** Sean Hendley (Public Works), James Ross (Public Works), Mr. Casey, Teresa Casey, Jeff Trunzo, Joan Casey; neighbors (sorry, no names!), Arius Williams (Public Works), Kit Gage, Kathy Jentz. Photo: E.Schramm.*

There are now some big rocks which, in addition to keeping out construction trucks, provide additional seating for rest and observation.

Check it out!

—Kit Gage

2016 THC Executive Committee

President: Katherine Lambert

Vice President: (vacant)

Treasurer: Taffy Turner

Secretary: Barbara Henderson

Director of Membership: Carole Galati

Webmaster: Cindy Walczak

Public Relations: Kathy Jentz

Listserv: Anne Hardman

Newsletter: Eileen Schramm, Diane Svenonius

Bulb Sale: Nancy Newton

100th Anniversary Committee Chair: Kathy Jentz

Our popular **Winter Potluck** is Wednesday, January 18 at Heffner Recreation Center. This is a Members Only event, so be sure you have paid your 2017 dues. You can check your membership status by contacting Carole (cagalati@rcn.com) or use the form on our website. Besides fabulous food, we also have an optional indoor plant/all things garden exchange. Great for re-gifting some of those superfluous holiday gifts! Details to follow.

Officers for 2017

At our November meeting, the annual election of club officers took place. The THC News asked the five officers for 2017 to write briefly about how they came to join the club, what it means to them...and what it can mean to you.



Katherine Lambert *President*

In 2017 we've got a lot of great programs coming up—our usual offerings of plant swaps, open gardens, a field trip, two potluck dinners, a parade, and much more. Which brings me to remind anyone who is not already on it: subscribe to our email list (*takomahort-subscribe*

@yahoogroups.com).

One of the most valuable offerings of the Takoma Horticultural Club is the email list. The wide-ranging questions about plants and gardening and the responses from seasoned gardeners are a local resource like no other. Plus you'll get notices and updates about all our fun and informative events.

This forum represents decades of experience from extremely generous gardeners. They know the local challenges and history of what works and what doesn't and can identify that random mystery plant found in a garden. And the conversations come from a diverse community—we have food gardeners, shade gardeners, native plant lovers, plant collectors, flower fanciers, tree and shrub experts, gardeners who really know their pests and diseases, indoor gardeners and on and on.

Lastly, it'll get you through winter when it just doesn't seem like spring is ever going to happen! Don't miss out!



Barbara Henderson *Vice President*

I joined the club officially three years ago and was a lurker on the email list for years before that. I come from a family of gardeners and farmers and I have always had something growing (mostly edibles). But what really drew me to the club was the people. The nice natives from

the plant swaps, plant sharing on our list-serve, and the helpful advice are definite perks. That said, you can't beat the feeling of community you experience at the Takoma Horticultural Club. I look forward to THC going back to its roots with fun flower shows and more interesting plant talks. Most of all, I look forward to welcoming new members into the fun and helpful community that has been created over the 100 years!



Joan Frye *Secretary*

I have been in the THC since moving to the neighborhood in 1998, when we bought our first (and so far, only) house. I grew up in an urban setting, so there was no opportunity to have a garden and I was an absolute "newbie" when it came to gardening. The thing I love

best about the THC is members' willingness to share their expertise and experiences, not to mention their plants at the plant exchanges. There is something for everyone here: new members can seek out tons of advice and those with more experience have a peer group to share stories.



Taffy Turner *Treasurer*

About 15 years ago, I saw a notice in the paper advertising the THC meeting and the speaker was to be Jim Tock, a hosta expert. I had become very interested in hostas and already had a pretty sizeable collection, so I came to the meeting to check it out. I joined that night because it was

time for me to join a garden club and I really liked the feeling I got from this group. And I still feel the same, so much so that I've been a part of the Leaders' group for over 10 years.



Carole Galati *Membership Director*

Belonging to five garden clubs works for me, but the Takoma Horticultural Club (and my own garden) are where my heart is. A long-time neighbor, club member and dear friend, Helen Hogarth took me to a meeting in the early eighties. And the rest is history! Love my current

membership job. It helps keep me in touch with the club membership and gives me an excuse to nag members about paying THC dues! Looking forward to our new programs in 2017.

Photos: Kathy Jentz, Jim Turner, Diane Svenonius.

Holiday Cheers and Dues

Where did 2016 go? I'm still cleaning up leaves and packing away those tender pots! What a year it's been for THC! Now we are heading for the next 100 years! This has been a good year for the club. Our membership has increased and our Centennial Garden (Piney Branch and East-West Highway) has been created and put to bed for the winter. Take a look!

We have 25 members who have already renewed for 2017. Since we use the calendar year for our memberships, dues are due January 1, 2017. So if you plan on coming to our Winter Potluck on January 18, make sure your 2017 dues are paid up. This is a "members only" event.

Please welcome our newest members: Janet Owens, Meg Wilkes and Ann Lafferty. And let me know if any of you have questions about your membership status.

Happy Holidays! —Carole (*cagalati@rcn.com*)

One Hundred Years of THC

This is the last in a series of 12 articles about the history of the Takoma Horticultural Club in its first century, drawn from materials archived at Historic Takoma Inc. (HTI). Our warmest thanks go to Diana Kohn, President of HTI, for her help and support beginning last January and continuing throughout the year. Previous articles in the series can be read at the Club's web site, under the Newsletters heading at the left on the home page.

—Nancy Newton

THC Now Then

Takoma Horticultural Club ("Takoma Hort")	Takoma Park Horticultural Improvement Club
Open gardens	Multiple flower shows/year. (Flower show committees had 18+ members and attendees were 500+ per year)
Approaching 200 members	500+ members (50s/60s); 170 in 1923
Majority women members	Majority men members*
Master gardeners	Scientists at Beltsville Agricultural Research Station
Encouraging native plants	Introducing new/imported plants
Bay-safe gardening	The latest in artificial fertilizers
Plant swaps	Members sell excess plantings with 5% going to THC
Plant swaps at Heffner Park	Plant exchanges at members' homes
Semi-annual potluck picnic and dinner	Annual catered banquet (with members providing entertainment —e.g., singing)
Picnic and potluck coordinators	Refreshment committee
THC newsletter	THC "Newsette" and USDA publications
Power point presentations	Glass lantern slides
Open membership	Prospective members must have recommendation from current member in good standing (1950s)
The "joy of gardening"	Perpetual trophies and flower show prizes
Bulk buying and sales of bulbs	Four+ standing committees for purchasing: fertilizer, seeds, bulbs, pansies, camellias, etc. (1933, 19 tons fertilizer, 3.5 tons lime)
Annual dues/membership = \$12	Annual dues/membership = \$1
Motto: A Hardy Perennial	Motto: Every Yard a Garden
Meetings at Historic Takoma and Takoma Park public buildings	Meetings at Takoma, DC library and public schools
THC email list to exchange gardening information	Landscape Gardener an elected THC officer to advise residents on gardening matters
Air conditioning at meetings	Ceiling fans/windows (first air conditioned meeting 1960)
Work with City of Takoma Park on Centennial Garden	Help City to obtain parcels of land for parks

Some things have not changed.

Contributions to community: donations of books, bulbs and shrubs; development and planting of public gardens; etc.
Members from across the DC metro area, but predominantly from Takoma Park, Takoma, DC, and Silver Spring.

* Legend has it the first THC constitution did not allow women as members. But, the minutes show that Ms. Barnett, Ms. Martin, and Ms. Roberts joined within a year of the club's founding, without a blink of an eye.