



Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



THC Election Night and the Annual Winter Potluck

On January 20, as snow immobilized the local roads, members gathered for the Takoma Horticultural Club's gourmet Winter Potluck and the election of Club officers for 2016. By show of hands of the twenty plus members who were present (no Iowa caucus necessary), the new officers are:

President, Katherine Lambert;
Treasurer, Taffy Turner;
Director of Membership, Carole Galati;
Secretary, Barbara Henderson.

The President expressed her appreciation at being named to lead the Club in this special Anniversary year. Members and friends then turned to conversation and the consumption of delicious appetizers, casseroles, soups and cookies, followed by a garden gift exchange conducted by Becky Lavash.

Once again the potluck was ably organized by Taffy Turner. As most know, in addition to the elected officers, other members work behind the scenes to keep the Club's program running, including these on the Executive Committee for 2016.

2016 THC Executive Committee

President: Katherine Lambert
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

From the new President



Katherine Lambert.

be easy compared to the role of the dedicated members behind the scenes who make all of the Club's wonderful events and programs happen.

We've got an exciting year ahead for the Club and—in case you did not know—2016 is the 100th anniversary. So in addition to some great programs starting in February with a timely and relevant class on Smart Phone photography in the garden, as well as

I'm really looking forward to serving as the THC President for 2016! I've loved being a Club member for many years and felt it was high time to step up and help out. My job as President will likely

expert presentations on pruning, lawn care (and lawn alternatives!), and some fabulous open gardens in May and June, we'll be having a festive *Anniversary Gala* celebration at the end of August. Wow! I don't know about you but I don't get too many chances to go to a *Gala* so I'm really looking forward to this!

Some of our most popular and fun events—like the biannual plant swaps and the July 4th parade and afterparty—are for members only. For only \$12 per year a Club membership is about the best garden investment you can make. You get to learn, swap plants, share ideas, get the advice of experienced gardeners, meet some really nice down-to-earth folks (sorry for the pun) and—lastly—participate in that upcoming gala this year!

Wishing you all the garden of your dreams,
—Katherine Lambert

February 2016

How to Take Great Flower Photos with your Smart Phone

Held at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Md.

February 18, 7:30 to 9pm

What's the perfect camera for photographing your garden and flowers? The camera you have with you! These days almost everyone has a camera...their phone. Join professional flower photographer Patty Hankins to learn how you can take better photos with your phone (or digital camera) so you can confidently share the beauty of your garden with others.

Patty Hankins is a flower and landscape photographer in the Washington DC area. She is the author of *Wildflower Meditations: A Gift for the Spirit*. She teaches several photography workshops each year including flower photography, landscape photography and photo editing. Patty was recently described as "one of the most professional fine art floral photographers" when she was ranked #1 on TopTeny's list of the Top 10 Best Macro Photographers in the World. You can see more of her work and learn about her workshops at BeautifulFlowerPictures.com

FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 7, talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share. As usual, the Club will provide beverages.

One Hundred Years of THC

This is the first installment of a monthly series giving glimpses of the Takoma Horticultural Club at various times during its history. With the help of Historic Takoma Inc.'s President Diana Kohn, the 100th anniversary committee has access to a collection of newsletters, reports, ledgers and other materials collected and preserved since its founding. As Kathy Jentz reported in last month's news, the Club was started at the Takoma, DC branch of the District of Columbia Library on March 1 of 1916 and named the Takoma Horticultural Improvement Club. The research team was amused by this statement (possibly tongue-in-cheek), from the January, 1950 news.

"Takoma Horticultural Club starts 1950 with the 3rd woman president in its history. The first woman to be elected to the highest office in the Club was Miss Margaret Lancaster in 1926...and now we have our own Mrs. Grace Barrett. During the earlier years of its existence the Club was strictly a man's organization, and no women were permitted to join. To understand the reason for this, it is necessary to refer to the object of the Club, as stated in the Constitution, which, in part, is here quoted. ...

"The object of this Club shall be to promote horticultural improvement throughout Takoma Park and vicinity

By serving as a medium for co-operative buying of seeds, plants, and sundries.

By encouraging, through lectures and expert advice, artistic plantings about the homes, public buildings, and in parks.

By stimulating, through exhibitions and lectures, the object of the club."

"It will therefore be seen that the principal activity was planting, which was considered too heavy work to be successfully done by women. It was also feared that, should the Club be open to women, the primary object of the Club might be made secondary to inside decoration, and the Club become, like many garden clubs, an afternoon tea society. We are glad to note that there is little tendency in that direction, and that planting and growing are the principal activities...."

One year later, in her last message as President, Mrs. Grace H. Barrett noted that the Club's membership had nearly doubled during 1950, to more than 500 members. Attendance at meetings was such that they had to move from the Takoma Branch Public Library, the Club's home since its organization in 1916.

Memories Wanted...

The THC History Team (Nancy Newton, Diane Svenonius) would like to be in touch with longtime current members and former officers and members who might be willing to share their experiences of the Club over the decades. Your recollections can help enliven and give context to the newsletters and committee reports we're reading.

Email us: n.newton@verizon.net and/or dbsvenonius@msn.com



Rainbow sorbet rose photo by Patty Hankins.

Dues Diligence

As we head (slowly?) toward the annual stampede into the garden and the fantasy of Spring you may not have noticed that you did not pay your THC dues for 2016. I don't think one should use "stampede" and

"slowly" in the same sentence . . . but while you have the time, check your membership status (cagalati@rcn.com) and go to our website (www.takomahort.org) to see what is coming up on our Calendar of Events for 2016. You can also find instructions there on how to renew and join the club. Surely

you don't want to miss our Members Only Plant Exchange in May! Paying your dues now will also help us with our 100th Anniversary Year events!

Thank you, now back to that stack of garden catalogues!

Takoma Horticultural Club Spring 2016 Program

February 17

7:30 – 9:00 pm

Take Great Garden Photos with your Smart Phone

Patty Hankins, [Beautiful Flower Pictures.com](http://BeautifulFlowerPictures.com)

Historic Takoma Inc., 7328 Carroll Avenue

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

March 16

7:30 – 9:00 pm

Bay-Friendly Lawn Care and Lawn Alternatives

Geoffrey Rinehart, *U.S. National Arboretum*

District of Columbia Library, Takoma Park Branch

416 Cedar St NW, Washington, DC

April 20

7:30 – 9:00 pm

Pruning Workshop with Taffy Turner and friends

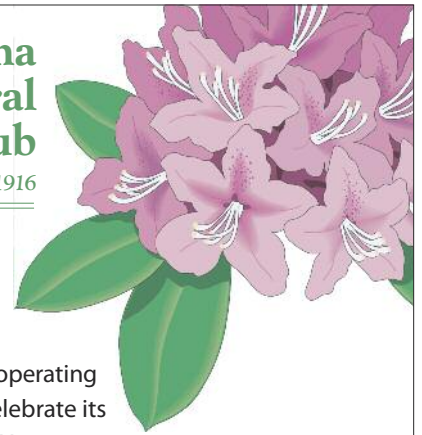
District of Columbia Library, Takoma Park Branch

416 Cedar Street NW, Washington, DC

For the complete program, visit www.takomahort.org

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Fundraising Letter to Membership

Takoma Horticultural Club was founded in 1916 and is one of the oldest continuously operating garden clubs in the United States. In this 100th anniversary year of the club, we will celebrate its many contributions to the community with a variety of commemorative activities. You are an important part of the reason that the Club has thrived and grown these past 100 years, and we request the honor of your presence for our 100th anniversary celebration. **Please hold the date of Saturday, August 27, 2016, for our special anniversary event.**

The 100th Anniversary Committee has been working diligently to plan many activities to celebrate this important occasion. Research of the historical archives is underway to retrieve information about the Club's contribution to the community over the years. We are planning a commemorative community planting project, a window display at Historic Takoma, monthly articles for publication in the Club newsletter and website, a *Takoma Voice* article, a 100th anniversary themed marching contingent in the Fourth of July parade, additional gifts to the Takoma DC and Takoma Park libraries, refreshed Club graphics and logo, recordings of club members recollections in conjunction with Takoma Radio, proclamations by Takoma Park and the District of Columbia recognizing the club anniversary, and many other activities celebrating and publicizing our Club.

To do all of this, we need to raise additional funds from you, our core members and volunteers. We want to raise \$4,000 to support the anniversary year programs and celebration, and we want to raise this money in the first half of 2016. Your contribution now will greatly enhance the 100th anniversary year commemoration and your gift will be noted in the 100th anniversary program. In addition to your financial gift, we are also asking you to share information about 100th anniversary programs and activities that the Club could or should be doing, who can help organize these activities, and the names of organizations and individuals we should reach out to in order to include everyone associated with our Club.

Borrowing from The Takoma Foundation's tagline "Give where you live," this anniversary is an outstanding occasion to recognize the success of the past and to plan for the future so that our Takoma Horticultural Club can look forward to a 200th anniversary. Thank you for your generosity.

To make your donation, please bring your check to the next club meeting or mail your check to the Club treasurer, Taffy Turner, at 10207 Lorain Ave, Silver Spring 20901. Make checks out to THC. To make other arrangements, contact Kathy Jentz, THC 100th Committee Chair at Laserblast@aol.com.

100th Anniversary Program Activities Suggested Donor Levels

- \$ 25 Sedum
 - \$ 50 Aster
 - \$100 Rhododendron
 - \$250 Oak
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We thank you for supporting us in the past and for your current support of the Club. In addition to the contribution levels above, can you offer a matching donation for a portion of our fundraising for the year, for instance, doubling the gifts of \$100, up to a certain limit? Have you thought about a legacy for Takoma expressed in the form of a horticultural support gift?

THC is not a tax-exempt organization so donations are not tax-deductible.