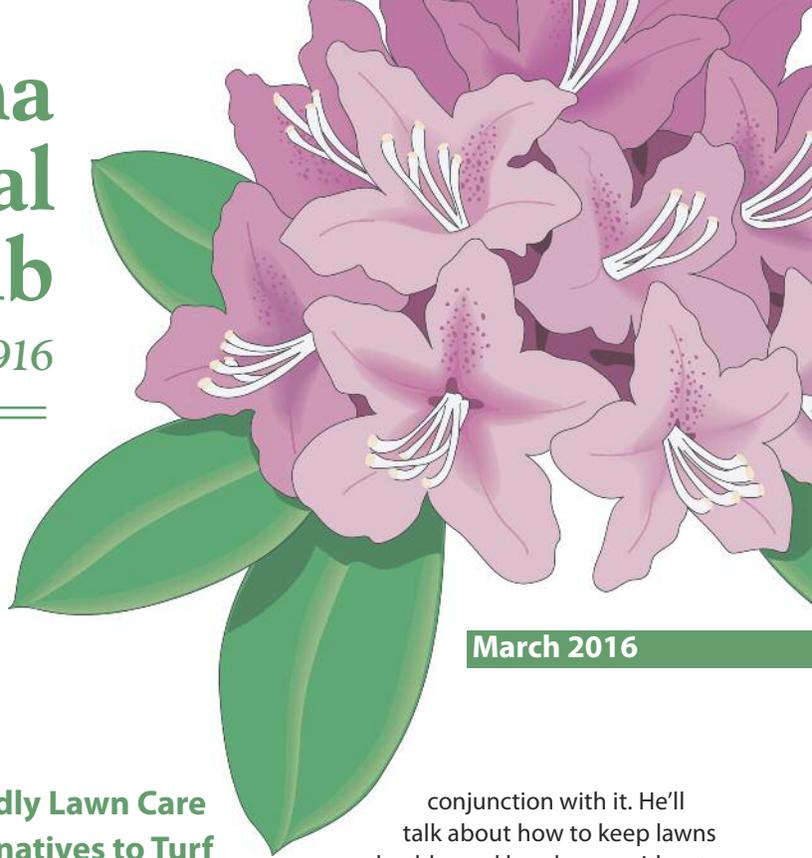




Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



March 2016

Snapping with your Smart Phone

Ask yourself "what caught my eye?" as you start to point your smart phone at an appealing scene in the garden or the meadow. That was the first suggestion Patty Hankins, an award-winning photographer and author, offered in her lively talk to the club last month, "How to Take Great Garden Pictures with your Smart Phone". Then, use your imagination—try to visualize in advance how the picture will look, a technique employed by Ansel Adams.

Illustrating her talk with many fabulous phone photos, Patty offered both new tips and guidance on applying familiar rules: how to apply the "rule of thirds" to add interest; using a natural "line" in the landscape...a river, the stem of a flower... to lead the viewer into the photo; how to fill the frame by moving in just close enough but not too close; choosing the "Golden Hour" of soft light just after sunrise or before sunset. The tip that brought out everyone's camera and started lots of snapping was a series of steps to help steady the camera. (Who knew that the shakiness of the photographer was such a widespread mechanical difficulty?) A rather cute little tripod that looked like a character in an animated movie was also demonstrated.

Finally, if you have taken a poor picture, Patty said, JUST DELETE it. Her book *Wildflower Meditations: A Gift for the Spirit* was available at the close of the meeting.

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

Bay-friendly Lawn Care and Alternatives to Turf

At District of Columbia Takoma Branch Library, 416 Cedar Street NW, D.C. 20012
Wednesday, March 16, at 7 p.m.

What are the best practices to encourage healthy lawn growth and not send noxious substances to the waterways? And what alternatives are available for attractive ground cover? Geoffrey Rinehart, our March speaker, will draw on his long experience in the turf grass landscaping industry and in promoting best landscape management practices for homeowners in a talk to the Club.

Geoff is the Coordinator of the Grass Roots Initiative, a four-year research and education project at the U. S. National Arboretum, and develops workshops and demonstrations in

conjunction with it. He'll talk about how to keep lawns healthy and handsome without harming the environment.

The Takoma Horticultural Club was founded at the D.C. Takoma Library in 1916, and met regularly there until 1950 when they outgrew the facility. It is about three blocks from the Takoma Metro. If coming from Takoma Park, head west on Cedar from the Metro exit and go to 5th St. The library is on the left. From Silver Spring, take Piney Branch to 5th Street and turn left. There is street parking on Cedar, 5th, Butternut and Dahlia.

FREE and open to the public.

Doors open at 7, talk starts at 7:30 p.m. As usual, snacks and drinks are welcome; bring a nametag if you have one.

Due You Belong?

I know—it should say, "Do You Belong?" But you know I have dues on my mind (and my to-due list)! We are in the process of updating, cleaning out our THC Membership List. We are systematically removing the names of those who have not paid their 2016 dues. Please don't lose your membership in the Takoma Horticultural Club, especially in this 100 Anniversary Year! Be aware that the May Plant Exchange is for members only.

Check with me about your membership status. To renew, just mail a \$12 check made out to THC with a short note: Carole Galati; 106 Melbourne Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901. Or you can bring it to the next club event. If you want to join the club, the form and instructions are on our website: www.takomahort.org. Our Calendar of Events can also be found there. Thanks, Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)

One Hundred Years of THC

... and you may ask yourself, *how did the Club get started selling beautiful bulbs?*¹ Or, *one hundred years of bulbs!*

This is the second installment of a monthly series giving glimpses of the Takoma Horticultural Club at various times during its history, drawn from a collection of newsletters, reports, ledgers and other materials made available through the help of Diana Kohn and Historic Takoma Inc. Here we tell the history of THC's bulb sales, as recorded in several of these documents.

The Club's first constitution spelled out "serving as a medium for co-operative buying of seeds, plants, and sundries" as one of its principal activities. Within months of its founding in 1916, bulbs became the first cooperative buying² venture ("in a rather interesting manner," according to the mid-century club historian, archivist and officer, Arthur Hecht). During the summer of 1916, the Department of Agriculture sought bids for the importation of bulbs, an order was placed with the firm submitting the lowest bid, and the bulbs were delivered. A few days later, a shipment of similar bulbs was received from the Dutch company, M. Van Waveren & Sons, which had mistaken the request for a bid for an order. The Department of Agriculture refused the shipment.

A charter member of THC, who was also the Department of Agriculture official in charge of bulb growing, brought this "opportunity to obtain the unusually fine bulbs at wholesale rates" to the Club's officers. Without a vote by the general membership and with a treasury of \$15.31, the Club bought the shipment "on faith" to resell to members. This act proved successful. Members bought all the bulbs. M. Van Waveren & Sons wrote "If the Takoma Park Horticultural Improvement Club is an organization which, in six days, can absorb \$600 (approximately \$13,000 in today's dollars) worth of bulbs, it is an organization with which we would like to do future business," and offered to continue to supply the Club with bulbs at wholesale rates. THC continued to import bulbs from the same company for at least the next 50 years.

The Club has held bulb sales almost every one of its 100 years, with the exception of the World War II period and a year or two in the 21st century. Bulb orders reached a peak in 1925—333 pre-orders for 125,000 bulbs amounting to \$3,328 (approximately \$45,000 in today's dollars)—as compared to the Club's current purchases for resale of about \$2,000. At some as-yet-to-be-learned point in the Club's second half-century, bulb sales also became an important fundraising activity to supplement membership dues. (As a cooperative buying activity it was considered a "service to members" and not a source of income.) Additionally, the Club stopped importing bulbs directly; it currently obtains them through a third party. Although this relieves today's members of the need



Not only the stock market disappointed in 1929. Photo courtesy HTI/THC archives.

to sort individual orders, a mid-century THC Newsletter suggests that some members were disappointed that they were not called to be part of the repackaging effort in a member's garage.

Many of the narcissuses, jonquils, and other bulbs seen growing in the gardens of older (and sometimes newer) homes in Takoma, DC and Takoma Park today are likely to be the babies of bulbs from THC. Home-grown bulbs were featured in the club's flower shows, which continued into the 1990s. Takoma was the site of the Department of Agriculture's trial gardens for the introduction of foreign bulbs. The search through the archives has found only one complaint about the quality of the bulbs: the 1929 order. Photos taken in the spring of 1930 at the homes of members E.A. Hollowell on 5th Street, NW and L.W. Kephart on Maple Avenue document this grievance.

—Nancy Newton

Notes

¹ Apologies to David Byrne et al

² A future installment will provide more history on cooperative buying through the years.

Invasive Species Regulations Published

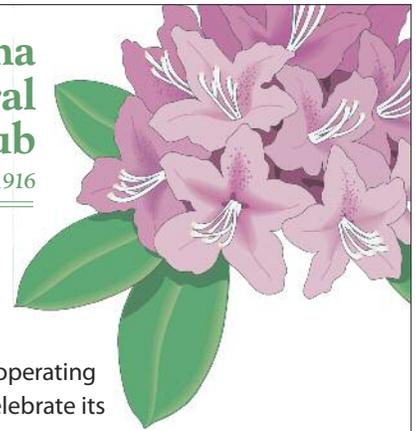
After years of review and analysis, the State of Maryland published proposed regulations restricting the sale of invasive plants. THC heard about these regulations from John Peter Thompson, a member of the Invasive Species Council, in his talk last July. You can read them on page 284 of the "Maryland Register" (<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDR/4303.pdf>), and comments will be accepted through March 7. The regulations create two classes of invasive plants: Class 1 plants may not be sold, and Class 2 plants may be sold but must be displayed with a bright yellow warning sign. The regulation lists three plants in Tier 1 and five in Tier 2, including burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*).



Bright yellow sign is required.

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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.