

Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



September 2016

THC History Panel Discussion

Wednesday, September 21

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Yes the party's over, but we continue to celebrate the pastimes and explore the achievements of the founders and members of the Takoma Horticultural Club.

Please join former THC presidents in a dialogue about the past and the future of the club. Learn more about the changing face of THC as it maintained its original mission at **Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park.**

—Nancy Newton

Free and open to the public.

Annual Bulb Sale: Best Bulbs for Our Vicinity

By Taffy Turner and Nancy Newton

Sunday, October 2, 2016 10am to 5pm,

Takoma Street Festival, Carroll Ave., Takoma Park

Much to our dismay, our long time supplier—Jerry McNamara of Great Big Bulbs—has retired and is out of the bulb business. This year the THC is dealing directly with Jerry's contact in Holland to acquire our own bulbs specifically chosen as well suited for our gardens—squirrel and deer resistant varieties as well as those that naturalize readily. We will also have lots of the popular paper whites and a few "member recommendations." THC members will receive a discount.

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



What a swell party it was—the Centennial celebration



Top row, left to right: Kathy Jentz, 100th Committee chair hands off to THC president Katherine Lambert; Taffy Turner and Rani Parker; 100th Committee: Jeff Trunzo, Diane Svenonius, Wendy Bell, Kit Gage, Katherine Lambert, Kathy Jentz, Eileen Schramm, Mary Lane Renninger, Nancy Newton, Carole Galati, Taffy Turner. Bottom row, left to right: guests enjoying the party; Andrea Hurtt, Merry Bruns, Barbara Karpas; Daniel Smith, Loretta Neuman.



Top row, left to right: Fine food and drink; Barbara Henderson sites a sunflower; Jeff Trunzo and Kathy Jentz; welcoming by Carole Galati and Runa Musib. Bottom row, left to right: enjoying the spread; overview of THC; Karen Collins and Fred Feinstein, playing; a toast to THC's 100 by Wendy Bell and Carole Galati.

Photos by Jim Turner, Kathy Jentz, Katherine Lambert, Ginny Klein.

One Hundred Years of THC

This is installment nine 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. In this episode we highlight a few more notable THC members.¹

Winn T. Simmons joined THC shortly after its founding, served as its 3rd president, and later held every other club office. Mr. Simmons was also an iris hybridizer, registering four varieties of tall bearded iris. His home on Aspen St., NW was the site of one of the area's earliest small-scale nurseries, specializing in irises. Perhaps most notable of his horticultural achievements was his "Fruit Tree with 21 Varieties," which was featured in the 1947 *Sunday Star Pictorial Magazine*. At the time, the tree bore 18 varieties of apple and 3 of pear. A 1951 THC newsletter noted "Mr. Simmons could go one better" than Senator Warren Austin's (R-VT, 1931 – 1946 and first US Ambassador to the UN) "Yankee pride" in his apple tree with 7 varieties, because Simmons also had a pear in his one-tree collection. In 1953 Simmons established a THC perpetual trophy for excellence in flower shows at the same time that the club recognized him for outstanding services.

Dr. William Stuart (1865 – 1951), a founding member of THC, was also known as "the Potato King," for his role in advancing the potato industry. Employed by the Bureau of Plant Industry in the USDA, he focused on potato research. Stuart was also a founder of the Potato Association of America (which also celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016). His book, *The Potato, Its Culture, Uses, History, and Classification*, was widely used as a textbook in both the US and other potato-growing nations. The Potato Association stated that "He was without question better informed on all phases of the

potato industry than any other man in the United States" when it awarded him an honorary life membership in 1947. He was also a passionate daffodil hybridizer and grower.

Wilbur H. Youngman (1896 – 1986), perhaps best known as the author of the *Washington Star* garden books, was also an early member of THC, joining in 1928, shortly after he moved to the DC area to work for the USDA as a seed specialist. He took on the office of THC president in 1930. As garden editor of the *Star*, he wrote several editions (between 1944 and 1976) of the *Washington Star Garden Book* (each edition with its own sub-title—from *Special Book for Beginners* to *The Most Complete Guide for Maryland, Washington, and Virginia Area Gardeners*) as well as several other books including *Growing Your Trees* and *Our Victory Garden*. His first wife Alice, also a THC member and president, co-authored supplements to the book. Youngman frequently mentioned THC's first woman president, Margaret Lancaster (see July THC newsletter), and other THC members in his *Star* column. In 1958 he received an award from the American Seed Trade Association as the best garden writer in the country, and in 1963 THC recognized him for his "outstanding services." He was also a past president of the American Horticultural Society.

—Nancy Newton

Note

¹ There are many more.

Centennial Dues

Can you believe it??? It's September already!! Over 70 gardeners enjoyed our wonderful Centennial Celebration on August 27. What a delightful gathering! It was truly worth the over 6 months of planning! Now onward we march into our Fall events. At our September 21 meeting, we'll show a slide show of moments in the THC past that was shown at the party.

Here are two good reasons to pay your 2016 dues, if you haven't: You'll get a 10% discount on the bulbs we sell at the Takoma Street Festival on Saturday, October 2. (A club tradition for 100 years!!) And on Sunday, October 16, we have our Fall Plant Exchange for members only. It's not too early to think about what plants you might like to divide and share. If you have questions about your membership status, let me know. And please welcome Laura Robison and family as our newest members!

—Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)

Thank You!

Centennial Donations reach \$2,075! Just over 50% of our goal! Thanks to our generous contributors!

Oak

Jeff Trunzo & Herman Goodyear
Carole Galati

Rhododendron

Taffy Turner
Loretta Neumann
Kathy Jentz
Diane Svenonius
Kit Gage
Anne Hardman
Melanie Isis
Anonymous
Joan Frye

Aster

Anonymous
Katherine Lambert
Joanne Douglass Meikle
Diana Vidutis
Sharon Cohen
Bridget Brodie
The Craddocks
Elaine Emling

Sedum

Frank Malone
Cindy Walczak
Jane Godfrey
Diane Eggensperger
Pat Cricenti
Priscilla Labovitz
Runa Musib
Julie Evans