

Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



April 2017

A Lighthearted Flower Show for April

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Set-up 7:00 pm, meeting begins 7:30 pm

Historic Takoma, Inc., 7328 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park

Indulge in the beauty of Spring! Bring your favorite flowers and foliage from your spring garden for us to admire. The Club's April Flower Show is less of a contest and more of a chance for fellow gardeners to share their beauties—so bring yours to our April meeting.

As you might expect of a century-old club, flower shows have been a prominent part of The Takoma Horticulture Club in past years. So we'll also have a short presentation about the history of the Club's flower shows—much more serious affairs back-in-the-day. They had 12 categories with multiple sections in each category! We are keeping this one fun and simple with only 3 categories (one with 2 sub-categories). See below for details.

We'll have 4 prizes in each of the 4 categories and a grand prize, which greatly ups the chances you'll take home one of our genuine vintage awards cards from garden shows past!

Our three stellar but-not-so-serious judges are:

Carolyn Mullet award-winning garden designer extraordinaire and international garden tour leader. Owner of the garden design company Carex .

Senora Simpson Emeritus Judge of the Judges Council of the National Garden Council with over 20 years experience—but she's keeping this show light!

Mike Welsh City Gardener for Takoma Park and awesome, amazing, fascinating gardener himself with more years of experience than he'd like to admit!

2017 THC Executive Committee

President: Katherine Lambert

Vice President: Barbara Henderson

Treasurer: Taffy Turner

Secretary: Joan Frye

Director of Membership: Carole Galati

Webmaster: Cindy Walczak

Public Relations: Kathy Jentz

Listserv: Anne Hardman

Newsletter: Eileen Schramm, Diane Svenonius

Bulb Sale: Wendy Bell, Barbara Henderson



1925 Daffodil Show in the Takoma DC Library.

Source: THC/HTI archives.

April Plant Show Categories

Single Flower: *Bulbs and Annuals* (eg. tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, etc)

Flowering and Non-flowering: *Perennials and Woody* (eg. hostas, Virginia bluebells, irises, azaleas, dogwoods)

Arrangements (2 groups):

Miniatures (3 – 5 in.)

Traditional (any size) from your garden

Flower Show Rules

No entry rules really beyond arriving on time and taking your entries with you at the end. You can help wipe the tables if you like!

Please provide your own vase—clear plastic water bottles with a little weight added at the bottom can work well. The Club will have a few small vases on hand if you need them.

Please arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 pm to place your plants and view the display tables. We'll start our meeting at 7:30.

We look forward to seeing your garden favorites! Please come to enjoy the show even if you are not bringing an entry.

—Katherine Lambert

Plants We Saw on Our Trip to Australia



Top row: mallee (low scrub); wild emu in Tower Hill Park, an ancient volcanic caldera; tea tree; kangaroo paw. **Middle row:** fruit bats in eucalypts; Healesville Sanctuary koalas are fed eucalyptus—koalas only eat 2 or 3 of the more than 600 types. Eucalypts have toxins in their leaves to deter insects, but those growing in more fertile soils have weaker toxins, easier for the koalas to process; yuccas along with banksia and eucalypts are pyrophytic, producing flammable oils that encourage fires which they require to complete their lifecycles; tree ferns. **Bottom row:** annual bark shedding frees eucalypts of pests and lichens but the bark is extremely flammable; *callistemon myrtales*—bottle brush flower.

We were so happy to visit southeastern Australia this past December and early January in a whirlwind tour through the continent's many landscapes. We wanted to focus on the natural world and see what made Australia unique. Over a two-week period, we drove from Sydney south to Melbourne and then west to Adelaide. We were surprised at the variety of landscapes we saw: rainforest, grasslands, mallee (low scrub typically at the shoreline), and arid desert-like conditions. Each landscape had a surprising collection

of plants and animals, although we only got to see many of them up close in wildlife preserves or public gardens.

The US has twenty times more humans than Australia although the continents have roughly the same land mass, leaving more room for animals and plants to flourish there. Kangaroos and wallabies are common in the wild and sadly are frequently hit by cars. This leaves many orphaned babies that need care and many preserves exist to fill that need.

—Becky Lavash

THC Special Appearance

The Takoma Horticultural Club will be at the Old Takoma Ace Annual Garden Party on April 23rd from 12 – 4pm. We will be giving away vegetable/ herb starts (limit 2/person) and will have volunteers on hand to answer your gardening questions. Garden and lawn care items will be 20% off at Ace. For more information about the event, visit www.acehardware.com.

—Barbara Henderson

Open Gardens Are Just Around the Corner!

Mark your calendars for our Open Garden series. May's Newsletter will feature an Open Garden article with more details about these wonderful gardens. We have these dates and hosts lined up:

Friday, June 2	Garden of Kathy Rushing
Friday, June 9	Garden of Sherrell Goggin
Friday, June 16	Garden of Lorraine Pearsall & Paul Chrostowski
Friday, June 23	To Be Announced
Friday, June 30	Garden of Barbara Henderson
Friday, July 7	Gardens of Lizz Kleemeier & Bob Muehlencamp

—Carole Galati

Welcome to Spring! Welcome to New & Returning Members!

Happy Spring Time!! It is great to welcome these new and returning members: Satchel Clay, Meipo Martin, Walter Kamiat, Katherine Coon, Devon Lee Miller, Mehta Sandhya, Judy Treible and JoAnn Thacker. We hope to see you soon at a THC meeting or event! As I run through the Membership List, I see a lot of "old friends" who I hope will pay their 2017 dues and continue their THC membership. Let me know if you want to check your membership status.

—Carole Galati (cagalati@gmail.com)