

# Takoma Horticultural Club

*A hardy perennial since 1916*



March 2018

## Centennial Garden Spruce-up

We will meet sometime in mid-March, as weather permits, to weed, mulch, etc. at our Centennial Garden at the corner of Rt. 410 and Piney-Branch. We will announce the exact date on the group discussion list. Please plan on joining us—many hands make light work.

—Kathy Jentz

## Successful Gardening in a Changing Climate

*Dr. Sara Via, Professor and Climate Change Specialist*

**Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. at Historic Takoma Inc.**

“Climate change is our new reality.” Dr. Sara Via will speak to the Club on March 21 about the impacts gardeners can expect in the new era of rising temperatures, warmer winters and hotter summers.

Spring comes earlier, affecting plants and the species with which they interact. Warmer winters have increased the overwintering survival of many herbivores, weeds and diseases, and have also led to range expansion in key insect pests. Night temperatures are increasing faster than daytime ones, affecting chill hours and other aspects of plant growth. These diverse effects of climate change have significant impacts on gardens and home landscapes. Adopting climate-friendly gardening strategies improves gardening success and can reduce future climate change.

Dr. Via came to the University of Maryland as Professor of Biology in 1997. Since 2014, she's been teaching Marylanders about climate change

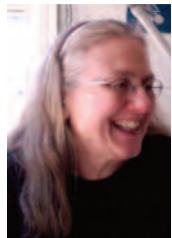


Photo: U of MD Dept. of Biology website

impacts and solutions through the UMD Extension. She has worked extensively with the Maryland Master Gardeners, recently establishing a Climate Change and Gardening Extension Team, whose members will teach others about the effects of climate change in the garden.

*HTI is at 7328 Carroll Avenue. Doors open at 7 p.m., talk at 7:30. Free and open to the public; snacks to share are welcome.*

## Events in March:

**March 17 at 4:30 pm:** at the National Gallery of Art, free showing of *Five Seasons: Gardens of Piet Oudolf*, Dutch landscaper who used bold drifts of perennials and grasses for an “undesigned” look for the High Line in New York.

**Now until April 8:** *Orchid Spectrum*. Oodles of orchids can be seen at the U.S. Botanical Garden.

## Happy March! (Towards Spring)

We had a delightful talk at our February 21 meeting by Michael Judd. Over 40 people enjoyed Michael's talk, won door prizes and had an opportunity to buy his signed book: *Edible Landscaping with a Permaculture Twist*.

At our meeting he focused on trellising fruit, the wonderfulness of paw-paw trees and his incredible homestead in Frederick. Our club is able to book great speakers like Michael because of your membership dues—still only \$12 a year, per family. There are 65 of you who belonged to the club in 2017 and have not yet renewed for 2018. Please check with me if you are not sure of your membership status. And thank you to the 110 current paid-up members.

You keep us going strong!  
—Carole Galati  
(cagalati@rcn.com)

## 2017 THC Executive Committee

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## Being green—it matters!

by Katherine Lambert

In late February I attended the annual Green Matters Symposium put on by Brookside Gardens and Montgomery County Parks. The Takoma Horticultural Club is a proud sponsor! If you have never been I highly recommend it. It is especially well-timed since it happens in late winter when gardeners are chomping at the bit to start playing in the soil or daydreaming of the garden to come.

This year's theme was "Restoring and Renewing our Urban Landscapes." It has never seemed more relevant given that we are all facing climate change, population growth and rising sea levels as well as "Nature Deficit Disorder" in urban areas.

### Here is a re-cap of the 2018 event:

First up was Dr. Timothy Beatley on Biophilic Urbanism. (I love just saying "biophilia"—it sounds earthy and sexy.) First coined by E.O. Wilson, the famous biologist and naturalist, the term refers to the fact that the human species has evolved to be drawn to nature. We have evolved to benefit from hearing birdsong, touching the soil, being connected to plants, walking among trees. There is a global movement around this idea with numerous examples of cities that have signed on for the long-term to create urban spaces that promote contact with nature. Check out the website <http://biophiliccities.org/> if you want to feel hopeful about what we can do to make this world a greener, better place.

Next up was Jeff Lowenfells, the author of such books as "Teaming with Microbes" and "Teaming with Fungi." "Creating Healthy Soils through Regenerative Gardening" is his somewhat dry-sounding title for a talk that was engaging, funny and smart. He described

the incredible complexity of the soil food web and the critical diversity that lies beneath our feet. After hearing his talk you might never rototill or deep dig your garden beds again! And you might start making compost teas—either bacterially rich for annuals or fungally enhanced for woody plants.

Heather Holm from Minnesota with her talk "Habitat Matters: Restoring Ecosystem Functionality and Biodiversity" gave us inspiration and guidance on what we might do locally to take those invasive-ridden public spaces and turn them into life-supporting habitats that nurture us and our planet. She walked us through removing invasives, getting neighbors involved, and finding financial support, and gave loads of tips on creating and maintaining such spaces. Heather's first love is bees so she also provided advice on how to help them out. One of many take-aways: just leave flower stalk stubble at the end of the growing season—it makes great nurseries for our native bees! Check out her wonderful book <https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com>

Last up was Kate Hayes from Scapes Landscape Design, whose founder, Kate Orf, won a MacArthur Genius award for her work and vision around restoring and protecting urban landscapes in mind-blowingly innovative ways. Talk about thinking outside the box! The presentation showed us creative examples in urban settings for integrating natural habitats around the concepts of "Engage, Cohabit, Revive and Resilience".

At the end it was possible to come away with not only inspiration but also hope. What you are doing in your garden, in your own small space in the world, really matters!

**Soil tip from Michael Judd of Ecologia: Lay cardboard flat over a new bed, water it and let it disintegrate; it draws worms and builds soil. Layer wood chips on top: they bring the fungi. "It's all about fungi!"**



Photos: Eileen Schramm



Michael Judd of Ecologia talking about espaliers and trellises for creating "edible architecture." Michael's many projects include selling hand-crafted jewelry from a cooperative that supports Project Bona Fide, a non-profit he began in 2001 to address long term food security through planting perennial food sources such as nut and fruit trees, as well as offering extensive educational programs.