

Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



May 2017



Anne Hardman leading a past plant exchange. Photo: Diane Svenonius.

Spring Plant Exchange

Yes, it's almost time for the annual **MEMBERS ONLY** Takoma Hort Spring Plant Exchange.

Sunday, May 21st from 1pm – 3pm at the Silver Spring YMCA.

How to get ready? Decide which plants you have in abundance, then thin them and pot up for the Exchange. If you do it soon, they will be able to recover from transplant shock and will be lookin' good for the Exchange. What to bring? Natives, Annuals, Perennials, Grasses, Ferns,

Trees, Shrubs, Tropicals—you name it! **Please do not bring plants known to be invasive, or the common orange daylilies.** You can also bring garden tools, garden books, attractive pots, garden decor (that froggy birdbath your ex gave you). If you don't have plants to contribute, you can always supply chocolate, brownies, healthy munchies, or something to drink!

Last but not least, pay your membership for 2017. Not sure if you have renewed? Contact Carole Galati cagalati@gmail.com, our membership chair. Full details about the exchange can be found on the THC web site: www.takomahort.org.

I'll be reminding you again closer to the date, but if you have questions, contact me: anne.hardman@gmail.com. Same thing if you would like to volunteer to help set up. —Anne Hardman

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

Directions to the Silver Spring YMCA: The Y is just inside the Beltway at 9800 Hastings Drive, off Colesville. From Takoma Park: come north on Flower Ave., left on Franklin, right on Caroline, left on Granville, and right at Hastings, which runs right into the Y parking lot. If coming on the Beltway, take the Colesville South exit and turn left onto Hastings.

Coming into the YMCA parking lot, turn right and go straight, all the way to the back, right of the main building. Park in the very back. The Plant Exchange will be on the rear patio. There will be signs to help. We encourage carpooling! The day of the Exchange, call 301.442.2023 if you get lost.

Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

Tickets are on sale for the 2017 Takoma Park House and Garden Tour, to be held on Sunday, May 7 from 1 – 5 pm.

This year's self-guided walking tour honors the former Prince George's County neighborhood around Spring Park. Enjoy an eclectic mix of beautiful homes and gardens, with architectural styles ranging from distinctly modern, new transitional, mid-century modern and early 20th century styles that include some very unusual and historic homes. Additions and renovations are an interesting feature of the tour. Come and get inspired with decorating and remodeling ideas. Find the skilled and dedicated architects, craftspeople and contractors that can implement your ideas.

The tour starting point is at the intersection of Elm Avenue and Poplar Avenue in Takoma Park, where you can purchase tickets (\$25) and pick up a brochure with a map. You can buy advance tickets (\$22) on line at historictakoma.org or at local stores (TPSS Coop, ACE Hardware, and Mark's Kitchen). Parking is available adjacent to Spring Park; the tour runs 1 – 5 pm, rain or shine. For further information, visit historictakoma.org or call 240-393-6060.



Kathy and Bob Rushing Hosting Our First THC Open Garden

Friday, June 2: 5:30 to 7:30pm

Come see Kathy and Bob Rushing's enchanting gardens on three acres of wooded slope bordering on Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. Although the main gardens were installed more than ten years ago, they are always changing. Kathy continues to divide, remove, and transplant perennials and shrubs in an effort to reduce the challenging maintenance on the slopes and accommodate the light conditions. Field trips to Susannah Farms and other garden centers and plant exchanges will help decide what new friends will have taken up residence by the time of the Open Garden on June 2.

There are five smaller gardens and a larger Japanese-style garden with gazebo, waterfall and pond surrounding the Rushing house, each with its own challenges of light, moisture, drainage, soil, and accessibility to deer. Kathy and Bob's stunning house provides the perfect vantage point to view the gardens from every window and patio. Besides the many gardens their art filled house provides wonderful space to us to come together.

Kathy will be happy to conduct a tour of the gardens, some of which feature whimsical frog figures, which her grandchildren love. She will also welcome ideas from guests for new plants and ways to tackle the challenges of gardening on dry, shady slopes. The ample screened areas in the gazebo and the porch overlooking the Japanese garden will provide lots of opportunity to comfortably mingle with other guests and enjoy some delicious food.

June 2 is the first of our Open Gardens. The others will be held on June 9, 16, 30 and July 7. We will have more details (directions) and updates in the June Newsletter and on the Hort List. Keep looking at our website: www.takomahort.org for Open Garden announcements.

Due the Plant Exchange!

If your dues are paid for 2017, you are welcome to come to the May 21 Plant Exchange at the Silver Spring YMCA. It's one of our most popular club events—guaranteed to please! Look for details in this Newsletter and on www.takomahort.org. Your dues help pay for our event venues, our speakers, Flower Show prizes, and donations the club makes to the City of Takoma Park and Brookside Gardens, as well as our wonderful Centennial Garden at Piney Branch and East West Highway. Stay on the THC membership list by paying your dues. And thanks to all the members who have already paid their dues! For membership status questions, contact Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)

Flower Show at HTI

Reviving a tradition

On April 19, for one delightful evening, THC revived a Club tradition dating from its first year, 1916, until 1999: the Flower Show! Dispensing for a night with the 100 categories, lists of rules, and staff of a dozen or so helpers and judges of the formal shows, the Club invited participants to bring flowers, traditional bouquets and miniature bouquets in vases and milk bottles to Historic Takoma. Some used the club's Woodward and Lothrop vases from the 50's.

The judges for the evening were Mike Welsh, City Gardener for Takoma Park and the Club's President at the time the shows came to a close; club member Carolyn Mullet, award-winning garden designer, international garden tour leader, and owner of the garden design company Carex; and Senora Simpson, Emeritus Judge of the Judges Council of the National Garden Council, with over 20 years' experience, who worked with Mike on THC shows back in the day.

While they considered the entries, THC President Katherine Lambert gave an abbreviated history of the Club's flower shows, with slides compiled by Nancy Newton from club archives, and Taffy Turner led a Q&A of garden questions (another decades-long tradition at Club meetings).

Dogwood, azalea, tulip, Solomon's Seal, and other beauties of April were there in abundance. After lively judicial debate, awards were made in each category, and "Best of Show" awards were made in Horticulture and Design.

The first place awards went to Wendy Bell, Perennials and Woodies; Bridget Brodie, Annuals & Bulbs; Anne Hardman, Traditional Bouquets; and Lois Weinberg, Miniature Bouquets. Prizes also went to Taffy Turner, Diane Eggensperger, Barbara Karpas, Kathy Jentz, Barbara Henderson, Cindy Walczak, and Carole Galati.

The overall "Best in Show—Horticulture" prize was awarded to Wendy Bell, and the "Best in Show—Design" award went to Anne Hardman.



Top row, left to right: Mike Welsh (seated), Senora Simpson and Carolyn Mullet, deliberating; Bridget Brodie, Taffy Turner. Bottom, left to right: lillies of the valley; Katherine Lambert and Anne Hardman.