

Takoma Horticultural Club

A hardy perennial since 1916



November 2017

Bylaws Update: Elimination of Life Membership Category

In addition to election of officers at the business meeting, we will call for a vote to remove the Life Member option from our By-laws. Added in 2006, it brought in an immediate revenue boost. However, dues revenue has gradually diminished over the years, since a third of Club members are now not paying annual dues. Current Life Members will keep their status regardless of the outcome of the vote.

Original language for THC By-laws, Article III: "The dues shall be Twelve Dollars per year. Lifetime members shall pay \$125." Proposed replacement for THC By-laws, Article III: "The dues shall be Twelve Dollars per year. Effective November 15, 2017 the lifetime membership option shall no longer be available to new members. Lifetime members who joined prior to that date are not affected."

The Humane Gardener, with Nancy Lawson

November 15 at 7:30 pm

Historic Takoma, Inc.

7328 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Did you know that most bees nest underground, not in hives? That baby birds eat caterpillars, not bird seed? That skunks are garden helpers, eating insects that eat plants?

Traditional landscaping practices exploit myths about our fellow species and ignore their needs. Learn how to cultivate an ethic of compassion and a wildlife-friendly habitat instead...welcoming nature back to your own back yard.

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



Nancy Lawson is a writer, editor, and naturalist, and the founder of Humane Gardener, an outreach initiative to help people live in harmony with the animals in their backyards. She writes the "Humane Backyard" column for *All Animals* magazine, published by the Humane Society of the United States. Prior to being a freelance writer and consultant, she worked for 15 years as an editor on Humane Society

publications. Nancy Lawson is the author of *The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife*. She will sign copies of her book after the talk.

The book describes her own growing understanding of how people unwittingly interrupt the delicate arrangements of nature by breaking evolved food chains and removing needed habitat. Box turtles that succumb to mowers will no longer spread the seed of May apples. Native bees need bare patches of ground, not grasses or hives, for nesting. Pokeweed is an unloved plant whose berries feed foxes and squirrels while slugs are good for baby birds and so on. A focus on rescuing one insect species distracts us from many others that are also play a significant role and are rapidly becoming scarce.

Note: A short business meeting will take place just prior to the talk, so please come on time.

A THC year in review

THC leaders met in October to review the Club's activities in the year that's ending and make plans for the coming year. The big event of 2017 was the opening of the Centennial Garden at Piney Branch and Philadelphia. Although THC has made many contributions to the City's parks, this is the first space designed, planted (*and weeded*, we might add) by the Club, with wonderful cooperation and assistance from City Gardener Mike Welsh and the City's Parks department, to whom we are most grateful.

The annual bulb sale made a profit, selling many gorgeous varieties at the Takoma Park Street Festival and two other venues, and will be held again next year. Thanks to the many members who pitched in! A full program of speakers, a small flower show, two pot luck suppers and two plant exchanges were well-attended; five intriguing and beautiful local gardens were opened for viewing by members and friends.

In the coming year, club leaders will look at more modern and flexible ways of communicating with members, particularly newcomers, and drawing in more gardeners. Election of officers for 2018 will be held at the November 15 meeting; current officers have offered to serve again if elected.



Photos: Diane Svenonius

Tasks for the Fall Gardener

- ✿ Deal with leaves.
- ✿ Store all tender garden art.
- ✿ Eat your Fall veggies.
- ✿ Water trees and evergreen shrubs.
- ✿ Clean out and organize the shed.
- ✿ Clean and store tools.
- ✿ Clean and store empty pots/saucers.
- ✿ **Beat the crowd; pay your THC 2018 dues!**

There are 18 members who have already done that!

Check with me about your membership status.

Thanks, Carole (cagalati@rcn.com)

From the March 1990 Newsletter

Chrysanthemum bonsai

"The speaker, Chuck Hendry, was very interesting and entertaining. He said he started cultivating chrysanthemums for bonsai when his other bonsai became too heavy for him to cart around to the shows. He starts with new plants each year that are special smaller varieties purchased from a California grower. They are then trained to grow on rock or driftwood over a period of approximately 3 to 4 months.

The plants are grown in sphagnum and perlite and sprayed with B-9 (a growth inhibitor) once a week. He fertilizes at half strength and water once a week by soaking the plants in a kitty litter pan. He grooms by top pruning and removes the large leaves. Depending on the look one wishes to achieve, branches are weighted or staked to change their direction of growth. The plants must be kept in 12 hours of shade for 9 weeks to set buds and then are ready to be shown.

This is the closest thing to instant bonsai I have seen. Mr. Hendry issued a blanket invitation to visit the Chrysanthemum Society meetings. He is always happy to encourage novices."

—Henry Allen

Top left: Shopping for bulbs before the plant exchange, with Barbara Henderson and Kathy Jentz. Thanks to all the members who helped out with the sale this year, at three venues. Left: Fall plant exchange[d] goodies.