

TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Newsletter for August 2009  
www.takomahort.org

WELCOME to the Takoma Horticultural Club (THC) monthly newsletter, which we hope is a useful resource for you about Club news, events and garden-related items of interest.

Upcoming THC Events

Our next event.....

Sunday, August 2, 2009 4 to 7 pm  
Takoma Horticultural Club's Summer Member's Only Picnic!  
Home of THC President Kit Gage, 8007 Park Crest Drive, Silver Spring, MD

Don't miss our best event! Hosted by Kit Gage, THC president and her husband, Steve Metalitz, on Sunday, Aug. 2, 4 - 7pm. 8007 Park Crest Drive, Silver Spring. Their home is accessible from Park Valley via Piney Branch Rd., and not from Sligo Creek Park.

Please bring: a favorite food for many people, and anything you'd like to drink. The club will provide tasty chicken. Chairs are also a good idea. Help with set up and clean up is welcome.

The picnic is for THC members only. If you would like to renew or join the club at the potluck, bring a check made out to THC for \$12. No cash, please. You can download a membership form from our website ([www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org)). If you are not sure whether you have paid your dues, ask Carole Galati at "cagalati@rcn.com". Please RSVP for the picnic. at "n.newton@verizon.net" so we can give a head count to our hosts.

THC Event coming down the pike....mark your calendars for these MUST ATTEND THC events!

Wednesday, September 16, 2009--Rain Gardens Talk  
Sunday, October 4, 2009--THC Bulb Sale at the Takoma Street Festival  
Saturday, October 10, 2009--THC Members Only Fall Plant Exchange  
Wednesday, November 18, 2009-- "Bring & Brag" Event

Check the THC website ([www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org)), the Monthly THC Newsletter, and the Yahoo Listserv for More Information About Upcoming Events. We hope to see you there!

Report on Past THC Events

Our July 11th THC Trip to Anne Brooks' Hollywalk Nursery--by Carole Galati

What a wonderful outing we had on July 11! About 20 club members ventured north to Anne Brooks' Hollywalk Nursery in Brookeville. Anne took us on an informative tour of her 2 acre, mostly wooded garden. Colorful flowers surround the house. She has been working on her land for about 41 years.

What an evolution it has been ~ she turned a wooded pine forest into an enchanting collection of specimen trees and woody shrubs. Some are rare and many are unusual and not available through retail nurseries. Along the way, before the trees matured, she had a large swath of land under nearby power lines for vegetables and flowers. But carrying buckets of water got to be too much!

In the early 80's Anne decided she had too many plants and started Hollywalk Nursery. Years ago she sold at the plant sales that used to be held on the Takoma Library grounds. She continues to sell plants, mostly at the Beltsville Plant Sales at High Point High School. About 2000, the deer drove Anne to install her 8 foot deer fence. Since then she has expanded the fence line 3 times. But no more! A 6 foot high stack of wood just outside the fence has put a stop to expansion.

These days Anne tends to her many gardens, sells at the Beltsville plant sales and does flower arrangements for special occasions and weddings. She also does workshops and lectures at Brookside Gardens and local garden clubs. Most of the greenery comes from her own gardens.

Thank you to Anne for sharing 2 acres of delight and then topping it off with ice cream, cookies and delicious drinks. Membership does have its privileges. Our February 18th meeting featured a talk by University of Maryland Graduate Assistant, Ellery Krause. She works as Paula Shrewsbury's research assistant in the Entomology Dept. She spoke to us about insects: identification and control. She presented information about the beneficial insects and the harmful ones. Having a very diverse garden is the best way to encourage the beneficial predatory insects. With this diversity, you encourage the beneficial insects to keep the harmful ones under control. You couldn't come away from the presentation not knowing the difference between bag worms and tent caterpillars! The 25 + attendees enjoyed an informative question and answer discussion. Information about many Spring gardening events was also announced.

#### Membership Update

Please Renew Your Annual THC Membership for 2009 or Join The Club Anew!--  
by Carole Galati

Welcome to our newest members: Diane Weinfield and Mary Pat Cricenti.  
Hope you enjoy our club and its many offerings!

Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Sadly, we have sixty nine 2008 members who have not paid their 2009 dues. After September 1, these 69 people will be removed from our "membership" list. We currently have 111 members who have paid their 2009 dues, plus 24 Life Time members (a one time payment of \$125). Contact Carole if you are not sure if you paid your dues (cagalati@rcn.com). To renew or join the club, go to our website for instructions: [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org) Remember, being on the Yahoo Listserv does not automatically make you a member of the Takoma Horticultural Club and paying THC dues does not put you on the Listserv.

Membership questions? Please contact Carole Galati at [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com) .

IN THE GARDEN: "Waxing Poetic About Becky" by Madeline Caliendo

I am not a summer lover. The summer-loving sun-worshippers among us are likely aghast that I would say such a thing, but alas it is true. I hate the summer months in steamy hot Washington, DC. The dog days of summer simply get me down, even in the garden. That is...., until I see Becky nestled amongst my assorted flower beds. Then, like Julie Andrews in the Sound of Music--I break out into song and the Hills (or more like mounds, in my garden) come alive...! OK.... so I am exaggerating a bit While the mounds don't really come alive, Becky's good karma does makes the mounds (and the rest of the garden) even more beautiful than they otherwise are.

Becky is so darn cheerful I can't help but smile whenever I see her.... For the depressed among us, there's no need for medicine. Simply plant Becky and your mood will instantly lift whenever you see her too.

So, who is Becky, you ask? Why Becky is *Leucanthemum x superbum* otherwise known as "Becky," a beautiful crisp white Shasta daisy with petals as delicate and pure as a child's pearly white smile and a bright yellow center that is reminiscent of an egg yolk. Here she is, take a look at some images of her from the web:  
<http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/showimage/20991/>. She's a beauty, isn't she? Just seeing her makes me happy.

That "girl next door" name and image are a perfect match for the plant that Becky is. While I may be biased, I am not the only one who goes gaga for Becky. In fact, she was named the 2003 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. They named her that because of her bright white flowers, sturdy stems that resist lodging and her long bloom season

Becky is a prolific bloomer--she just blooms her little head off June through September in my Washington, DC garden. She's a tall girl, so plan accordingly. She grows about 2-3 feet and likes some room to spread. Some of the things I've read say she spreads 2-3 feet, but she's not spread that wide in my garden. She is a sun worshipper--give her full sun and she'll love you for it (although she is said to be able to tolerate some shade.) Once she's established in the garden, she's drought tolerant--so she did just fine in that little dry spell we've had these past few weeks (other things in my garden bit the dust...but not Becky...she's doing just fine) Becky is a good, reliable bloomer in my garden without dead-heading, but if I do dead head, watch out...Miss Becky really blooms her little head off.

I like to clip some of Becky's flowers to add to bouquets I clip to bring indoors. Lately, I've been mixing her with caladium leaves, deep purple butterfly bush flowers, lambs ear or rosemary and the smaller leaves from my horse radish plant, and it looks just lovely.

I got Becky as a small clump from a friend of mine in the early Spring a few years ago (the same friend who gave me the horseradish--thanks Bill!). The first year she was getting settled in, but after that she's bloomed reliably and beautifully. In fact, some of my local wildlife liked her so much they "did their thing" and relocated pieces of her to other parts of my garden, and so now I have Becky in both the front and back gardens!

If you don't have Becky, I encourage you to give her a try. If you do, I hope she make you as happy as she has made me. ENJOY!

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\*\*GOOD NEWS TO SHARE! Beginning with the September 2009 issue we'll have a new Newsletter Editor, THC Member Diane Svenonius. Please join me and the rest of the THC gang in welcoming Diane to this new volunteer role. I have very much enjoyed writing the THC Newsletter for the past year. Thanks to all for your feedback and comments. I've so very much appreciated it! ENJOY the new look and feel of the THC Newsletter under Diane's leadership! I think we're in for a real treat. All the best, Madeline Caliendo.

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#### Selected Upcoming Garden-Related Events in the Community

Saturday and Sunday August 1 and 2, 2009 from 9am to 4pm  
FREE Cactus Show at Brookside Gardens  
Do you love cacti? Then Brookside has a show for you!  
For more information, call 301.962.1400 or go to [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org).  
Saturday, August 8, 2009, 10am to 1pm

Cooking & Preserving Summer Bounties.  
Have too many summer veggies? Learn to can fruit and pickle veggies.  
Workshop is 10am - 1pm at Common Good City Farm. While normally workshops are free or \$10, we will provide canning jars and food for canning for this class and so ask for at least \$15 per person. Register online at <http://www.commongoodcityfarm.org/events>

Saturday, August 8, 2009, 8 am to 10am  
Focus on Butterflies Program at Brookside Gardens!  
For more information, call 301.962.1400 or go to [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org).

Wednesday August 12, 2009 11am to noon  
Tea & Treasures: Going Green with Greens at Hillwood Museum & Gardens.  
4155 Linnean Ave, NW Washington, DC 20008  
Learn how you can improve the environment simply by choosing plants for your home and garden that work in harmony with nature. Then chat with Jody Fetzer, Garden Supervisor, over a cup of tea about all your garden questions. Limited to 15 participants. For more information call (202) 686-5807 or go to [www.hillwoodmuseum.org](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org). Sponsored by the Tenleytown Whole Foods Market.

Saturday, August 15, 2009 at 10am  
FREE Saturday Morning Tour at the US National Arboretum with Exhibit Curator

Join Brad Evans as he leads you through the unique Living Garden Catalog exhibit and display beds that he created that showcase the newest plants on the market. He will discuss the uses and advantages of the new varieties and answer your questions about how to use them in your garden. Free, registration required. Register by phone at 202-245-4521. Meet in the Administration Building at the Arboretum. For more information go to <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html#August>

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 10am

MD/DC/VA Teleflora Floral Design Day "Every Day's a Holiday" in Hyattsville, MD

Are you tired of the same old posies in a pot? Learn what styles and key flowers you can incorporate into your designs to create excitement. Become the style leader in your market (for florists) or in your circle (for hobbyists) and show your creative talents with exquisite colors and blossoms arranged to create the visual value others expect. Don't miss out on the tips and techniques that will make every day a holiday for you and the recipients of your floral designs! \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door for non-Teleflora members. Reservations & Inquiries to: Adrienne Summers AIFD (the floral designer for Hillwood Museum & Gardens), Adrienne's Flower Delights, 3872 Jefferson Pike Jefferson, MD 21755 (301) 473-8330 All are welcome!

Saturday, August 22, 2009 10am to 3pm

Art in the Garden Festival at the US Botanic Garden

U.S Botanic Garden, National Mall, Washington, DC

This summer the USBG is exploring art in the garden, Through a two-part exhibit that features a series of highly stylized garden rooms on the Conservatory Terrace and original sculptures inspired by plants in an adjoining gallery, the garden is celebrating the symbolic and aesthetic role of plants in culture. During the Culinary Arts Festival discover the role plants play in food. Rain or Shine.

Fee: \$0/Free. No registration is required. For more information:

[www.usbg.org](http://www.usbg.org) or call 202.225.8333.

Saturday, August 22, 2009 at 1pm to 2:30pm

Canning Your Harvest Bounty with Liz Falk from Common Ground City Farm FREE Talk at the Washington Historical Society, sponsored by Washington Gardener Magazine & the DC Historical Society

801 K Street, NW at Mt Vernon Square in Washington, DC. FREE. Info at (202) 383-1850

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 1pm to 2pm

FREE Talk and Tour on Designing Containers at the US Botanic Garden

U.S Botanic Garden, National Mall, Washington, DC

Its the heat of summer at the USBG's containers look great! How do they do it? Walk around the garden with Beth Ahern and Margaret Atewell, USBG Gardeners, and discover their tips and techniques for creating containers that are beautiful and have staying power in Washington's dog days of summer.

Fee: \$0/Free. Preregistration is required. For more information:

[www.usbg.org](http://www.usbg.org) or call 202.225.8333.

Saturday, August 29, 2009 at 10am

Cooking & Preserving the Summer's Bounties from Our Gardens  
FREE Talk at City Blossoms Garden, 1480 Girard Street, NW, WDC in the  
Children's Garden

Have too many summer veggies? Join us for a morning of culinary and  
preserving techniques with instructor Ona Balkus at City Blossoms. FREE  
but please register by calling 443-854-1669.

THC Newsletter Editor, Madeline Caliendo [vivaitaliana@gmail.com](mailto:vivaitaliana@gmail.com).

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