

TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB (THC) Newsletter for JUNE 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

Sunday, June 7 from 10am to 1pm--THC Members Only Garden Tour

The Takoma Hort Club will host a walking tour of 11 gardens in the neighborhood of East Silver Spring on June 7 from 10am to 1pm for THC Members. The tour gardens include an urban farm, a flower-filled traffic circle island, a cottage garden, a native rain garden, and much more. Make plans to join us! Details about the tour will be posted on the THC listserv a few days before the tour. The tour is rain or shine and is open to THC Lifetime and 2009 dues paying members.

Not a current THC member? No worries, there is still time to join! Information about membership is <http://www.takomahort.org/membership/index.html>. You may join the Club on June 7th at the first garden on the tour. Just fill out a membership form (available on our website and at the tour), and submit it with a check made out to "THC" in the amount of \$12 (no cash.) For information about the tour, contact Kathy Jentz at laserblast@aol.com. For information about joining THC or to verify whether you are in fact a current THC member, contact Carole Galati at cagalati@rcn.com.

Visit to the Private Garden of Anne Brooks (Date TBD)

In July 2009 (date and time to be determined) THC members will have the opportunity to tour the beautifully landscaped private Maryland garden of Anne Brooks. Stay tuned for more information...And, if you are not already a 2009 THC member, please join soon. Don't miss out on these wonderful Members-Only Club events!

Report on Past Events

On May 17th, THC hosted one of its most popular Members-Only events of the year-- its semi-annual Plant Exchange. And, what a wonderful Plant Exchange it was! After much rain that week the sky finally cleared and 40 club members showed up with arms full of garden treasures. A good time was had by all. Carole Galati, Chair of the Event, remarked *"I've never seen so many people with happy faces...carrying so many plants as they left the Plant Exchange!"* Thanks to all who helped make the event a success, especially Mary Lane, Karen Helfert, and Karen's daughter Kathy. A very special thanks to Carole Galati, whose leadership made the event a true success. Many people joined the Club and paid their 2009 annual dues that day. The THC Fall Plant Exchange will be on October 10th, so mark your calendars. It's too early to "pot up" for October, but we can dream! And, last but not least a special thank you to Becky Lavash who gathered information so many could continue swapping even after the event.

THC Membership News:

Welcome To New THC Members! Thank you to all who have paid 2009 membership dues. Remember, you must be a THC member to go on our June 7th THC Garden Tour. Welcome to the following new and returning members: Jo Hoge, Ryan Hill, Pat Garcia, Shereilyn Ernst, Sally Brucker, Merry Bruns, Kathy Roznowski, Diane Curran, Despina Kakoudaki, Linda Voris, Jan Rothman and Joyce Isis. Also Michelle McKeever has become our 25th Life Time Member. You too can pay a onetime fee of \$125 and become a Life Time Member of the THC.

To join or renew your membership Please go to the club's website for details (www.takomahort.org). At the website you will find program information and instructions for joining and renewing, including a membership form. If you are not sure if paid your 2009 dues, please contact Carole ~ cagalati@rcn.com. Thanks for your support!

Trees, Trees, GLORIOUS Trees... By Madeline Caliendo

Trees are one of the most important elements in our landscapes. Aside from the very practical reasons we should want to add trees to our landscape (and we'll get to that shortly) I think trees speak to our souls. I know I feel a great sense of peace and serenity when I am among trees. Yes, it is true that my garden beds (some might call them weed patches!) bring me joy. But truth be told it is the trees in my garden (and in the overall landscape) that truly make my heart sing. One of my favorites is the Eastern Redbud (*cercis canadensis*)
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cercis>

As a tree-lover, I was THRILLED when I learned that both the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland have special program to promote the planting of trees in our private home gardens and communities. Before I get to the particulars of those programs, though, I want to share some tree facts with you that I learned through the Arbor Day Foundation (<http://www.arborday.org/>) that speak to why--for very practical purposes-- we should want to add trees to our landscape :

The Facts:

--"The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day."—*U.S. Department of Agriculture*

--"Landscaping with trees can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50 percent, by shading the windows and walls of a home." — *American Public Power Association*

--"If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%." —*Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research*

- "A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000." —*Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers*
- "In one study, 83% of realtors believe that mature trees have a "strong or moderate impact" on the saleability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98%." —*Arbor National Mortgage & American Forests*
- "Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." —*Management Information Services/ICMA*
- "One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." —*U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- "There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs." —*National Wildlife Federation*
- "Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating." —*USDA Forest Service*
- "Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent." —*The Arbor Day Foundation*
- "Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value." —*USDA Forest Service*
- "The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams." —*USDA Forest Service*
- "In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension." —*Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University*
- "Nationally, the 60 million street trees have an average value of \$525 per tree." —*Management Information Services.*

Maryland and District of Columbia tree-focused programs:

For those who live in Maryland, the state is giving citizens \$25 coupons to help purchase and plant a tree at home. To learn more about it go to

<http://www.trees.maryland.gov/> .

For those who live in the District of Columbia, there are several initiatives underway to restore, enhance and protect the tree canopy in Washington, DC. Did you know that DC is called "The City of Trees?" It got that name in the late 19th century and remains to today.

Several initiatives are sponsored by Casey Trees (www.caseytrees.org), a non-profit organization launched by the generous gift of Mrs. Betty Brown Casey, a longtime DC area resident and philanthropist, who was deeply moved when she read a Washington Post article in November 1999 that reported on a study by American Forests documenting a quarter century trend of tree cover loss in the District of Columbia. The article also cited a report by the Committee of 100 for the Federal City that documented the extent and causes of the loss of 25 percent of the District's street trees. Mrs. Casey made a generous donation through the Garden Club of America to establish an endowment for a new nonprofit organization. Casey Trees was established in 2001.

It has taken a bit of time, but the government of the District of Columbia is on the tree bandwagon too. In fact DC Government will be hosting a Tree Forum for citizens on June 3rd. The purpose of the forum is to educate the local community about street trees and how the local community can help care for them. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information and to register go to www.mwcoq.org/DCTreeForum/ or call (202)962-3393 or (202) 671-5133.

I am so pleased about the focus on trees in both Maryland and DC. I invite you to learn more about the respective initiatives and hope that you--like me--will explore how you can support the effort to plant a tree or two in your neck of the woods!

Any budding garden writers among us? Would you like to do a little research or share your expertise/experience by writing a short article (500 words or so) for the newsletter? Is there a particular plant or flower you love? Want to tell us about it so that we might want to grow and enjoy it too? If so, send Madeline Caliendo, the Newsletter Editor, an email at vivaitaliana@gmail.com

Selected Community Garden Events of Interest

Mondays June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 5:30pm

"Evening Tour of the National Garden" at the USBG
Stroll the garden to see native plants of the Mid-Atlantic region. Hear folktales and

stories that surround these plants. As this tour is outdoors, please wear sunscreen, protective clothing and bring water. Tour is canceled if it rains. FREE and no registration is required. Info (202) 225-1116 or www.usbg.gov

Tuesday June 2, 10am to 12:30pm

"Floral Design Workshop: Summer in a Vase" at Hillwood Museum & Gardens
4155 Linnean Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008

Tour the mansion with floral designer Adrienne Summers (AIFD) and discover traditional 1960's era floral arranging. Afterward, bring summer inside by creating your own contemporary arrangement using cala lilies and lemons. Supplies included. Limited to 20 attendees. Cost is \$45 public/ \$40 members. Please call ahead (202) 686-5807. Info: www.Hillwoodmuseum.org

Saturday June 6, 9:15am to 2:30pm

"Backyard Habitats"

The DC Department of the Environment and the DC Dept. of Parks & Recreation join forces in a workshop for DC residents about backyard wildlife habitat and landscaping with native plants. Includes lectures, site assessment and hands-on experience. Attendees will receive a free "Habitat Kit." Congress Heights Recreation Center, Alabama Avenue & Randle Place, SE in WDC 20032. There will be a short lunch break, please bring your own lunch. FREE. To register email BackyardHabitat@dc.gov or call (202) 535-2269.

Sunday, June 7, 5 to 7pm

Washington Gardener's Full Moon Garden Revelry

Come by with your garden questions, see trial gardens in progress, renew or subscribe to the magazine in person, purchase gift subscriptions, single copies of back issues and current issue will be for sale (pick up a pack of seeds with any purchase). Light refreshments and children's activities. Surprises and prizes for all! FREE and held rain or shine at 826 Philadelphia Ave. (Rt. 410), Silver Spring, MD - at the corner of Fenton - across from the Public Storage building. Questions? (301) 588-6894.

Thursdays June 4, 11, 18 and 25 at noon

Mondays June ,8, 15, 22 and 29 at noon

"Lunchtime Tour of the US Botanic Garden's Conservatory."

What do manila folders, Chanel No.5, vanilla and fossil fuels have in common? The answer is that they all come from plants on permanent display in the USBG Conservancy! Take a tour with a knowledgeable guide who will connect the exotic plant to everyday life. You might see bananas and coffee ripening on the tree, watch the venus flytrap catch a meal, or learn about the next big breakthrough in medicinal plant research. FREE and no registration is required. Info (202) 225-1116 or www.usbg.gov

Sunday, June 14th 10am to 5:00pm

"All Our Relations Sacred Gardening Workshop" with Mare Cromwell at Blueberry Gardens Center in Ashton, MD. Cost: Sliding scale \$40-\$60 (pay what you want/can.) In these changing times Earth Mother is calling us to heal ourselves and our relationship to nature. Our gardens are where we can rekindle a deeper relationship and promote healing. This workshop teams Native American practices and to encourage deeper gardening practices that honor nature's energies, garden health and planetary healing. The workshop will open with a plant and seed swap. Mare Cromwell is a professional gardener, author and speaker who has apprenticed with a Cherokee Medicine Woman for 13 years. Questions (410) 448--3679 . Register at www.sacreddogllc.com.

Friday thru Sunday, June 26-28, 2009

"Designing Urban Food Gardens"

Spend a weekend learning the basics of urban gardening and design. Discussion on basic theories of Permaculture and ecology will be mixed with hands-on learning of skills including composting, rain gardens, and soil improvement. Course is rain or shine - please dress appropriately. Lunch and snacks provided.

Location: Common Good City Farm, an urban community farm and education center in downtown D.C. (directions to site upon registration) Instructor: Steve Gabriel, Educator and Program Coordinator for the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute. Host: Seeds of Change, organic seed supplier and promoters of sustainable agriculture since 1989. Co-Sponsor: Permaculture Institute, USA Schedule: Friday, June 26th 6-9pm, Saturday, June 27th & Sunday, June 28th 9-5 with break for lunch. Workshop Fee \$200, however, the course is available to DC residents of all income levels. If you are low-income and unable to pay any or all of this fee please call or email Liz at 202-330-5945, Liz@CommonGoodCityFarm.org to get a scholarship application. If you can afford the entire fee, please consider sponsoring a neighbor who cannot.

Payment and Registration: <http://www.permaculture.org/nm/index.php/site/chain/>

Friday June 26th or Saturday June 27th 10am to noon

"Creating Hypertufa Containers" at the US Botanic Garden

Did you miss THC's workshop last summer; or, did you attend and make a container and now want to make another? Then join in on the USBG's Hypertufa workshop. Each participant will make a 12"x12" container to take home. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Pre-registration required. To register and for further information: Info (202) 225-1116 or www.usbg.gov

Saturday June 27th 10am to noon

"Herbs & the How-Tos of Care, Harvest & Use" at Girard Garden in DC

Discuss the care and choosing of herbs in your garden and ways to harvest and use herbs once harvested. Instructor is Holly Poole-Kavana. FREE. Meet in the Girard Children's Community Garden in the Girard Playground at 1480 Girard Street, NW ion WDC. Info: (443) 854-1669 or rebecca@cityblossoms.org. See also, www.cityblossoms.org.

Saturday June 27th 1:00pm to 2:30pm

"Growing the Perfect Tomato" at the DC Historical Society

The Washington Historical Society and Washington gardener Magazine present a talk by Maryland Certified Horticulturalist, Elizabeth Olson on how to grow the most delectable tomatoes possible. FREE. Historical Society at 801 K Street, NW WDC.

Sunday June 28th 1:00 to 1:30pm; 2:00 to 2:30pm and 3:00 to 3:30pm

"Floral Design Demonstrations at Hillwood Museum & Gardens"

4155 Linnean Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008

Marjorie Merriweather Post made sure her home (mansion) was filled with fresh cut flowers all the time and she specified in her will at her death that this personal custom continue even after her passing. Join floral designer Adrienne Summers (AIFD) as she creates 1960's era floral designs for display in the mansion. Cost: FREE with \$12 admission to the mansion & gardens. Sundays are popular at Hillwood so reservations are suggested. (202) 686-5807, Info: www.Hillwoodmuseum.org

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