

# TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB NEWS

October, 2009 Edition

## OCTOBER CLUB EVENTS: BULB SALE, MEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE

If you didn't order bulbs earlier this year, all is not lost!

The Takoma Horticultural Club is selling bulbs at the

Takoma Park Street Fair

Sunday, October 4 from 10a.m. to 5p.m.

We will be at booth # 161-162 on Carroll Ave in front of the hair salon next to the

little garage at the corner of Carroll & Tulip. **All THC members get a 10% discount.**

Aren't a member or haven't renewed? You can join or renew when you buy your bulbs.

## SAVE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 FOR THE THC MEMBERS ONLY PLANT EXCHANGE

We are planning another great Fall Plant Exchange for Saturday, October 10, at Heffner Park on Oswego Ave. The semi-annual Exchange takes place at 2:00. Please bring your labeled plants by 1:30 so we can organize them and be ready to begin exchanging at 2:00. Make a list of your plants so you can tell the group what you have brought. If you pot your plants now and water often your plants will look good and be recognizable for the exchange. Last minute potting up = pathetic looking plants. No plants to exchange? Bring finger food, beverages, garden related items, books, tools, seeds,

etc. Also, bring a chair, as we always run out of them. Remember, you must be a club member to participate in this exchange. Check our site [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org) for details about how to join and renew. Please bring a check made out to THC for \$12! We will not have cash at the Exchange. More details will be posted soon. Questions? Call Carole Galati, 301-442-2023.

### **MEMBERSHIP IS GOOD!**

Can you believe it's October?!? There are many THC "members" who did not pay their 2009 dues to renew their membership. Within a week their names will be removed from our updated membership list. Check with Carole Galati if you are not sure whether you paid your 2009 dues. Also, go to the website [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org) for membership information: We are proud to say we have 25 people who paid \$125 and are Lifetime Members!

Please welcome a new member to the club: Roberta Spiegel Hantman (also know as Bead Lady). --*Carole Galati 301-442-2023*

### **A NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> SHOW AND TELL THC MEETING!**

And you thought "Show and Tell" was only for kindergarten!! Our November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting is one more opportunity for you to Bring and Brag! You are invited to bring your garden-related tricks of the trade, favorite tools, secrets, techniques, successes, poetry, creations, etc. If you have a garden-related business, now is the time to "hawk your wares"! We can also share the names of our favorite garden helpers and contractors.

Our club has a great deal of talent, experience and expertise. Tell us what else you would like to share. Please get in touch with Karen Helfert or Carole Galati so we can make a list of those who want to participate. Then we can allocate enough time for each person. More details will be posted as the planning of this meeting unfolds.

Carole: [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com): Karen: [khelfert1@comcast.net](mailto:khelfert1@comcast.net)

## AUGUST CLUB PRESENTATION

### “HOLD YOUR WATER!” Rethinking Stormwater Management

**Wendy Bell**, former Club President and former EPA Stormwater Team Leader, GWU Masters in Landscape Design, [bellandfong@gmail.com](mailto:bellandfong@gmail.com); and **Kit Gage**, Club President, Horticulture Certificate in process, [www.kitgage.com](http://www.kitgage.com).

Wendy and Kit, who are active with the Stormwater Committee of the Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC), have initiated a pilot project with the Rainscapes program of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and with CASA de Maryland. It is a three part project:

1) First the members of the committee address community organizations (neighborhood associations and groups like the Takoma Horticultural Club) to talk about the increasingly pervious land and the resultant increased flooding and drought conditions we face here and throughout the country. They note that Montgomery County green space is 45% turf grass – a relatively impervious planting. They talk about mechanisms to ameliorate the condition, including planting more trees, shrubs and even native perennial beds, and addressing hillsides and eroded areas by mulching, terracing and planting them up with natives. People can also use rain barrels or above ground cisterns to collect rainwater and then disperse it to the garden when the rain has ended. They can consider using pervious pavement where now they have asphalt or concrete, and installing green roofs when making significant changes to house or garage.

2) After the talks, members of the Stormwater Committee schedule a walk-through of the neighborhood, looking at problem areas and suggesting fixes including those above, and also “daylighting” downspouts to allow the water to soak into the yard before hitting the street. Where it is appropriate, they sometimes recommend installation of a rain garden.

Rain gardens cannot be close to houses or mature trees (50’ in the case of Takoma Park), or on significant inclines. They should be sited where there is significant rainwater flow – from downspouts or as part of the slope of the yard. Often the conditions are not right, and the group will recommend other fixes. But if there is an appropriate spot, they will work with the homeowner to further refine the process – having them dig a small hole and see how fast water will drain down it, and check with Miss Utility to make sure there are no cables or pipes in the way. They will then schedule a dig.

3) Working with trained people from CASA de Maryland, the FOOSC committee members organize the dig. In Montgomery County outside cities, the County provides free soil that is 50% sand and free native plants; in Takoma Park, the City provides these resources under FOOSC supervision. The homeowner will plant the plants shortly thereafter, water them when they're newly planted, and weed a few times a year. When established, the specialized plants are both wet- and drought- tolerant, and have a great root system that quickly absorbs rainwater.

After their slide-illustrated presentation, Wendy and Kit and the attendees engaged in a comprehensive discussion of the issues. They asked members to reach out to their neighborhood associations to try to schedule additional talks this fall. If you readers know of such opportunities, contact Kit at [kgage@verizon.net](mailto:kgage@verizon.net) or Wendy at [bellandfong@gmail.com](mailto:bellandfong@gmail.com) to pursue additional talks.

### **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

The THC newsletter welcomes comments and contributions. Please send coming events and other items to the editor at [dbsvenonius@msn.com](mailto:dbsvenonius@msn.com) or call Diane Svenonius 301-585-1566.

## OCTOBER GARDENING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

*(Please confirm information and availability with the venue before setting out.)*

### *Mother Nature*

#### **October 15    Last Planting Date for Winter Greens**

According to Bert Groszahl of Even' Star Farms CSA, speaking last month at the Washington Historical Society, October 15 is the last date for planting kale and other crops for winter harvest in this area. (Did you know cilantro can also be a winter crop?)

### *Green Festival, Washington Convention Center*

**October 10 & 11** Farmers (Joel Salatin, Tyler Webb) and garden experts (Barbara Barker, Sylvia Wright) are among the many panelists and speakers at this conference promoting a sustainable environment. \$10 for seniors, cyclists, Metro riders; \$15 others. Schedule of events can be found at <http://www.greenfestivals.org/washington-dc>

*U. S. National Arboretum* [www.usda.usna.gov](http://www.usda.usna.gov), 202-245-4521

#### **October 4    Who'd a Think? New Forms and Textures for our Gardens**

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Administration Building Auditorium. "Will that really grow here?" Take part in "zonal denial" and expand your understanding of what can grow where. Learn about an array of versatile, drought-tolerant, and underused plants that will thrive in our area and add year-round interest to the landscape. Sean Hogan, nursery owner, author of *Trees for All Seasons: Broadleaved Evergreens for Temperate Climates*. Fee: \$15 (\$12 Friends of the National Arboretum), registration required.

#### **October 10, 11 and 12    62nd Annual Orchid Show**

Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. (sales tent opens at 9 Saturday); Monday, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., Administration Building Lobby and grounds. A three-day show and sale, with thousands of orchid plants in bloom, creative displays, expert advice, informative presentations, and a sales tent full of quality plants. Learn about different aspects of orchid culture at free programs held at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Lecture/Demonstration Center each day. Dr. Henry Oakeley, one of the foremost authorities on Lycastes and Anguloas, will lecture Saturday at 1:00 p.m.. These beautiful

and unusual plants are rarely seen in shows. Sponsored by National Capital Orchid Society. [www.usna.usda.gov/Education/2009orchid](http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/2009orchid) or [www.ncos.us/ncos/fallshow.htm](http://www.ncos.us/ncos/fallshow.htm)

**October 10 Sensory Delights in the Garden**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m., National Herb Garden. Learn how you can enhance your garden by choosing plants with traits that stimulate the five senses. This informal, drop-in session will be presented by a National Herb Garden staff member. FREE, no registration.

**Through November 29 Autumn Arts of Nature Exhibit**

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily, National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Special Exhibits Wing.

Celebrate the autumn season with this exhibit of traditional Asian arts of nature. Deciduous bonsai and penjing in brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows will be displayed with a variety of chrysanthemumstones—stones in which minerals have formed chrysanthemum-like patterns—collected from China, Japan and California. The exhibit also includes unique arrangements of wild grasses and flowers, called kusamono. FREE

**Closing October 15 Power Plants Exhibit**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., adjacent to the National Herb Garden. Discover the wide variety of plants that offer alternative energy possibilities. This garden exhibit showcases living plants and provides educational information about how they can serve as sustainable agriculture-based energy sources. FREE.

*Brookside Gardens* [www.montgomeryparks.org/brooksidegardens](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brooksidegardens)

**Opening October 10 Chrysanthemum Display**

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily, in the Conservatory. Celebrating Brookside's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year's show compiles elements from four decades of annual displays, with Japanese cascade mums grown in 6' triangles, rectangles and cones, and fanciful Dragon, Phoenix, and dolphin shapes. FREE.

**October 8 Transplanting Shrubs**

1:00 p.m., demonstration with Stacy Parsons in the Azalea Garden. FREE, no registration required.

### **October 15    Fall Pruning**

1:00 p.m., demonstration with Phil Normandy, meet at the Visitors Center entrance. FREE, no registration required.

### **October 30    Hollies for Maryland Gardens**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Visitor Center Auditorium. The genus *ilex* is an interesting and desirable group of plants, with large evergreens, modest-sized deciduous shrubs, and even dwarf rock garden species. They can be hedgehog-spiny or completely prickly-free, and some are colorfully variegated. Diane Lewis will cover the range available for shady and sunny gardens. FREE, registration is required.

***Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA, 703-642-5173***

### **October 3      Fall Festival “Home Grown Goodness”**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Demonstrations, tours, crafts, plant sales; adult and family activities. Fees vary with activity.

### **October 10    Native Walk with the Curator**

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Curator Brenda Skarphol provides an in-depth look at the native plant collection. Learn about Green Spring’s recent plant acquisitions and removals, what principles apply to your garden, and how to use native plants to create habitats and design attractive gardens. \$14 <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/infosheets/vnpg-fall.pdf>

### **October 17    Shrubs for Fall Color: Lecture and Tour**

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Bring fall color into your own backyard and avoid long trips to the mountains. A shrub tour of the garden follows the lecture by Richard Bitner, author and instructor at Longwood Gardens. \$18

***Urban Gardening Talks, Historical Society of Washington, 801 K Street  
NW    October 19    Building a School Garden***

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. “Within the school environment, a garden offers an unparalleled platform to help kids achieve learning goals in way that are recommended by the National Science standards and most state and local educational bodies.” Grace Manubay, D.C. Environmental Education Consortium, shares case studies from Washington schools. Sponsored by *Washington Gardener*, the Historical Society, and DC Urban Gardeners. FREE and open to all.

***United States Botanic Garden and National Garden, 100 Maryland Avenue, SW  
October 3                    Fall Tour of the National Garden Trees***

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of *City of Trees*, will tell how to identify native trees like tupelo, hop hornbeam, red buckeye, pawpaw, oaks, pines and many others in a stroll through the National Garden. She will also talk about the arboreal history of Washington and give ideas for self-guided tree tours in and around the capital. FREE but registration is required. [www.usbg.org](http://www.usbg.org)

**October 9            The Power of Natural  
Light**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. *Southern Living*

photographer Alan Rokeach is best known for his photographs of flowers, gardens and landscapes. In this talk he will show how to analyze the quality, direction and intensity of light to make images that equal or (if you prefer!) surpass reality. “Flowers are only as photogenic as the light that envelops them.” \$10 USBG members, \$15 others, registration required. 202- 225-1116.

***3rd Annual D.C. School Garden Week***

**October 5-10** A program of the D.C. Environmental Education Consortium, to celebrate and build awareness about DC's school gardens. Full schedule of events online here: <http://www.dcschoolyardgreening.org/dcschoolgardenweek.html>

**October 3            The Benefits of Cover Crop and Removing Invasives**

10:00- 12:00, Kalorama Recreation Center. In this workshop, learn about the different types of ground cover and their benefits for your garden, how to identify invasive plant species and how to remove them from your property. D.C. Departments of Environment and Parks and Recreation. Contact [Kelly.melsted@dc.gov](mailto:Kelly.melsted@dc.gov) for more information. All ages.

*Master Peace Community Farm, 62nd and Sheridan Street, Riverdale, MD*

**October 24    Composting Workshop**

10:30 to 12:00. Learn ins and outs of composting, how to cheaply and easily turn all that garden waste into black gold for next year, and how to set up and manage aerobic compost piles (that actually get hot!), as well as composting with worms. Center for Educational Partnership, U.Md.College of Agriculture and Natural Resources \$5 donation appreciated. [www.engagedu.umd.edu/programs/cnuf/mpg](http://www.engagedu.umd.edu/programs/cnuf/mpg)