

TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB NEWS

September, 2009 Edition

Upcoming Club Events:

"Hold Your Water!" Stormwater Management Talk September 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Heffner Community Center

Kit Gage and Wendy Bell, current and former presidents of the Takoma Horticultural Club, are working with Friends of Sligo Creek's Stormwater Committee to spread the word on managing your storm water. Their presentation "Hold Your Water" is on September 16, at 7:30 at Heffner Park Community Center. The address is: 42 Oswego Ave. (off Ritchie Ave.), Takoma Park, MD.

Their goal is to help people manage their storm water. Currently, most rainwater drains off our roofs, driveways and lawns into the storm sewers. It takes with it pollutants, fertilizers and pesticides, which harm our local creeks and the Chesapeake Bay. Strategies for using and conserving this rain water to benefit plants, shrubs and trees will be provided. Topics include rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns, pervious paving and the use of native plants to help us better manage our rainwater. They will show samples of what is being done in our community with the gracious help of the Takoma Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust. There will be lots of time for Q & A.

This event is free and open to the public. For further information call Kit Gage, (301) 587-7442.

October 4 Bulb Sale – Club Fundraiser

The Takoma Horticultural Club will be selling bulbs again at the Takoma Park Street Festival - coming up on Sunday, October 4 from 10am to 5pm. This is the club's one and only fundraiser. Like last year, the bulbs will come from Jerry McNamara's Great Big Bulbs, the same source as our membership bulb orders. We will again have a double space at the fair. We will need a total of 14 volunteers to run the bulb sale:

Shift #1 - 9am to 11am - 4 people to set up

Shift #2 - 11am to 1pm - 3 people

Shift #3 - 1pm - 3pm - 3 people

Shift #4 - 3pm to 5pm - 3 people with one more to come at 5 to help pack up - there will be several tables and the leftover (not too many, we hope!) boxes of bulbs.

Please let Taffy Turner know if you are willing to help with this very important club activity. As those of you who have done it in the past know, it's a lot of fun. The street fair is a blast and it's a great experience being a part of this community event. Reach Taffy at 301-681-9133 or taffyt@verizon.net

Membership Update and More Club Events

Welcome to our newest members: Jack Clark, Susan Easton, Wendy Bruno, and Karen Mudar. We hope you get involved and enjoy all of our wonderful events. It's not too late for you procrastinators to renew for 2009. Go to our website for instructions:

www.takomahort.org

Be sure to save these dates: Saturday, October 10: Plant Exchange for members only; Wednesday, November 18: Bring & Brag (Show & Tell). And then there is our wonderful winter heart-warming January Potluck and House Plants, etc., Exchange. This event is for members only. The date will be decided in October, but it probably will be on a Wednesday evening.

About that October 10 Plant Exchange ~ in a few weeks, as the weather cools down, start potting up your divided and extra plants. This will ensure that they are in good shape for the Exchange. It is also a good motivation to get your gardens in shape for the winter season ahead. *Carole Galati*

August Club Event: Annual Members' Potluck

The annual membership potluck picnic on August 2 was a big success-and why not? Where else could you sip cucumber soup and other delectable dishes in the company of 32 gregarious gardeners; enjoy a conducted tour of a large garden filled with interesting plants, native and not, including a new rain garden; and perhaps end the afternoon with an ice cream cone?

The hostess, club president Kit Gage, provided the setting, a big deck under her spreading beech which is the grand dame of the garden, a list of plants running to three pages, and the tour which, included many plant variants new to the garden and to the guests. The club provided *muy sabroso* Peruvian chicken; the rest of the feast was provided by the guests, who were still arriving with enormous bowls even as the afternoon wound down.

New members came and got to know others, and some guests left with a cutting or portion of a desirable plant. Many thanks are due especially to Kit for her gracious hosting, and others who organized the event including Nancy Newton, Taffy Turner, Lois Weinberg, and Carole Galati.

Newsletter Contributions Welcome

Contributions to the club newsletter are welcome. Please send coming events and other items to the editor, Diane Svenonius each month at dbsvenonius@msn.com or call (301) 585-1566. Many thanks to Madeline Caliendo, the outgoing editor.

Gardening Events of Interest in the Community

(Confirm information and availability with the venue before setting out.)

Brookside Gardens - Fall event catalog at
<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/xperience.shtm>

September 12 Annual Plant Sale, sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens
Saturday, 10:00am-3:00pm, outside the Visitors Center.

September 19 Children's Day
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's a "Nature's Fun in Your Backyard" day at Brookside's free annual event for children. Get outdoors among fun-filled nature activity tents, listen to the Rhodes Tavern Travelers, and learn what to do with nature's treasures in your back yard.

September 20 Azalea Auction
Sunday, viewing begins at 10:30am; auction begins at 11:00am until sold out. Sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the Azalea Society

September 26 and 27 Dahlia Show
Saturday, 2:00-5:00 pm; Sunday, September 27, 9:00am-3:00pm. Sponsored by the National Capital Dahlia Society.

National Arboretum

September 1 "Measuring Sustainability in the Garden"
10:00am-12:00pm, Administration Building Auditorium. How do we measure the "sustainability" of a landscape or garden? The Sustainable Sites Initiative has been formed to provide guidelines and performance benchmarks for those who want to create and measure sustainable landscapes. Dr. Steven Windhager, Director of the Landscape Restoration Program at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will focus on the horticultural aspects of the SSI for the benefit of professional gardeners, landscapers, designers and homeowners. Free, registration required, (202) 245-4521

September 19 Saturday Morning tour with the Living Garden Exhibit Designer
9:00 – 10:00 am, Administration Building Lobby and Gardens. The Living Garden Catalog Exhibit features photos of intriguing new plants from the nursery industry as well as live examples in gardens. Exhibit designer Brad Evans will lead you through the exhibit and display beds that he created, discuss the culture and characteristics of the newly introduced varieties and answer questions. Free, registration required.

September 19 & 20 Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibit and Demonstration
Exhibit open 10 am – 4 pm; demonstration Sunday, 1:00 pm -2:30 pm, National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Members of the Washington DC Sogetsu Branch fill the Pavilion and Special Exhibits Wing with dramatic arrangements in this modern style of Japanese flower arranging, in which designers use plant materials of any type to create sculptural compositions. Free, no registration required.

September 19 Using and Preserving Lemon Herbs demonstration
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, National Herb Garden. Learn new ways to use and preserve your lemon-scented herbs, with informal demonstrations of the great variety of uses for these wonderfully fragrant and useful herbs including lemon grass, lemon verbena, lemon thyme, lemon balm and others. Free, no registration required.

Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/infosheets/vnpg-fall.pdf>

September 12 Saving Your Treasures - Tender Perennials
9:30-11 am. Learn simple, successful propagation techniques for tender perennials from Green Spring horticulturalist, Nancy Olney and take home some of our treasures! Your new talent will save you money in spring! \$22, (703) 642-5173

September 26 Lessons Learned in the Vegetable Garden
9:30-11am. Despite horrific weather fluctuations, weeds, bugs and unproductive plants, we have feasted on delicious, nutritious, homegrown goodies. Cindy Brown, Green Spring's kitchen gardener, shares stories of the season's successes and failures as chronicled this summer by Adrian Higgins in "All We Can Eat," a Washington Post blog. \$14

Hillwood Estate, Museum and Garden, 4155 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

September 8 through November 14 Fall Garden Tours
Tuesday–Saturday at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm, and Sunday, September 20 at 2:30 pm. Docent-led tours on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets distributed at the Visitor Center each day upon opening. The suggested donation to enter the museum includes the tour.

Urban Gardening Talks at the Historical Society of Washington

September 19 “**Raising Winter Greens**”, a talk by Brett Grohsgal of Even Star Organic Farm CSA 12 noon to 2 p.m. Historical Society of Washington, 801 K Street NW. Sponsored by *Washington Gardener* magazine, the Historical Society, and DC Urban Gardeners. Free and open to all.

United States Botanic Garden and National Garden, 100 Maryland Avenue, SW

September 26 The National Garden’s 3rd Birthday--- A Celebration for all Ages!
10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Spend the day exploring the Garden and see how it has grown up over the past three seasons. Experts will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Discover how to attract beneficial wildlife, compost, and utilize native plants in your landscape. Children can create a pollinator, seed packet, or art sculpture. Other activities for all ages will be available.

Through October 12 Flora: Growing Inspirations

Daily, Terrace and Conservatory - a juried exhibition of sculptures, several by Silver Spring sculptors, in partnership with the Washington Sculptors Group. On the Terrace the sculptures are displayed in different plant settings: a wooden wall of bright annuals, a garden spiral, a display of black plants, a Folly, a Mediterranean water feature. The last garden is a decorative vegetable garden in which squash vines climb white columns and red rows of beets line up in front of green basil.

Walter Pierce Park, Adams Mill & Ontario

September 17 and 19 Backyard Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Landscaping

Thursday, September 17, 6:30- 8:30 pm and Saturday, September 19, 9:00 am - noon. The District Department of the Environment and the Department of Parks and Recreation announce the second in a series of workshops designed to teach residents about backyard wildlife habitat and landscaping with native plants. Come learn about the role that your yard and land can play as habitat for wildlife even in an urban setting. This workshop will focus on container gardens for residents who may have limited yard space. The workshop will consist of a Thursday evening session of lectures and a Saturday morning hands-on session where participants may help plant a demonstration garden, do a site assessment or receive assistance planning their own site. Participants will also receive a “habitat kit” to get them started creating wildlife habitat at home. For more information and to RSVP: backyardhabitat@dc.gov All ages

Common Good City Farm, 2025 Elm Street NW, D.C.

September 12 Garden Workshop: Good Bugs, Bad Bugs.

11:00 am In this workshop, we will discuss the many insects you might see in your garden and how to make the good ones stay and the bad ones go. Kids are welcome with an adult. \$12 info@commongoodcityfarm.org