



TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB

www.takomahort.org

June 2010 Newsletter



COMING THC SUMMER EVENTS

Stormwater Friendly Fixes

July 21 from 6:30-8:30 pm
led by Wendy Bell and Kit Gage
Details coming; open to all.

Annual Summer Picnic

THC Members
August 15

Club Donates Funds for a TP Storm Water Project

--Wendy Bell

A very interesting project is about to be started in Takoma Park, where a serious erosion problem is caused by too much storm water runoff in a steep area. A firm has been engaged to design a solution for the area, which is near Opal Daniels Park. The project will include a series of small pools to slow the run-off, and a large rain garden. This will allow water to filter into the ground rather than piping it into the storm drain that
(see Storm Water Project, page 3)

Photo credit: detail of "green rose" at Heritage Rosarium, by Kathy Jentz

June Club Event:

Open Gardens in North Takoma Park

Sunday, June 6, 10am-noon.

Gardens are blooming, North Takoma gardeners are grooming their beds, and plans are being finalized for the Club's annual Open Garden tour.

This year, the tour will feature members' gardens in the Takoma Avenue – Boston Avenue neighborhood. If you've been on previous tours you know that hidden delights await you, and the owners are pleased to show you their handiwork and talk about their plantings.

Descriptions of the gardens and a proposed route, including a refreshment stop, will be provided by the organizers shortly before Sunday, June 6 on the list serve. The gardens are expected to be open for visits from 10 to noon. In the event of a torrential downpour, the rain date will be June 13; otherwise the show goes on.

This is a THC "members only" program event, so be sure your membership is up to date. Check with Carole Galati at cagalati@rcn.com if you are in doubt about your current Takoma Hort Club membership status.

(Storm Water Project, cont'd)

empties into Sligo Creek. The neighbors have long been trying to get something done about this area. They have twice-yearly invasive pulls and are committed to watering the plants that will be installed. The City of Takoma Park will pay for most of the project, but additional money is needed to fully plant the area, including native plants for the rain garden. Funds are being sought from several different sources, including THC and the Friends of Sligo Creek, and from donations by individuals. THC leadership has agreed to donate \$500 for the purchase of plants, out of perhaps \$2500 that will be needed. The donation reflects several of the club's recent priorities, including conservation of storm water and the environment, beautifying Takoma Park, and partnership with local organizations. When the project is complete, the area will serve as an example of innovative ways to deal with storm water, and a sign on the site will indicate THC's participation in the project.

THC Participates In Earth Day Celebration

The Takoma Horticultural Club was asked to participate in Takoma Park's Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, May 2. We were the last in a series of 'green' demonstrations held at the Farmers' Market. Taffy Turner and Melanie Isis demonstrated the planting of a large container with mostly native perennials for shade. Taffy purchased the native plants at plant sales held in April at the National Arboretum and River Farm. They included a *Rhus aromatica* shrub as the 'thriller' (large feature plant) and phlox, tiarella and impatiens as the 'filler' (low plants to fill in at ground level). The 'spiller' plants (to hang over the side) were annual *lysemachia* and other annuals. The finished pot (which turned out to be quite lovely) was donated to the Old Takoma Business Association.

Weeding the Membership List

June is the month we update the Takoma Horticultural Club membership list. Right now there are about 60 names on the list that have not paid their 2010 dues. These names will be removed from the list as of July 1.

Here are three great reasons to pay your dues for 2010 ~

- June 6: Members-Only Garden Tour;
- August 15: Members-Only Summer Potluck; and
October 3: Members discount on bulbs sold at the Takoma Street Festival.

If you are not sure if you have paid, please get in touch with me. I hope you decide to stay with us. THC is a great place to meet, learn, share and have fun, all at the same time! About 35 people have paid \$125 to become Life Time Members. And they don't have to remember to pay their dues each year! Some of you younger members may actually save money by doing this! In any case, we hope you stay in the club and get involved. Our club has grown quite a bit in the last five years. We are getting a reputation that all of us can be proud of. I meet people all the time who "Have heard of the Takoma Horticultural Club."

For membership information, contact Carole at cagalati@rcn.com

Welcome New Members

Wow! We have a "garden full" of new members to welcome this month. Some may be returning members ~ I lost track! Please welcome Rose Ellen Halper; Jan Feldberg; Diana Farina-Borlase; Liz McGuinness; Lance Marburger; Stephanie Subramanian; Nancy Baranek; Maggie Scheie-Lurie and Elise Stigliano. We hope to see these gardeners at the wonderful club events coming up. Do check our website: www.takomahort.org for dates, details and garden links.

Spring 2010 Plant Exchange

Over 40 THC members descended on Heffner Park on a beautiful afternoon in May, bearing pots, cartons and tubs filled with bounty from their gardens.

Two hours later they left similarly loaded with smiling faces and arms full of plants: familiar standbys like huge hostas, clumps of sedum and rudbeckia; native viola and Jack-in-the-pulpit; even a six foot tall nandina.

Thanks to the many members who assisted by lugging chairs and plants from station wagons, checking people in, dividing clumps to be shared, and answering questions like “What’s this?” and “Does it need a lot of -----?”

The Club thanks Eric Rasch of the City of Takoma Park who makes sure that there are enough chairs for the THC group. We appreciate his continuing support when we use Takoma Park facilities. Since the Plant Exchanges are for members only, a lot of participants renewed or joined the club.



photo by Karen Helfert.

TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB NEWS

is published on the 1st of each month. Photos, events, articles and comments are welcome. If you would like to write a short piece on some garden topic, let editor Diane Svenonius know at dbsvonius@msn.com or (301) 585-1566.



Nick Weber and members of the Takoma Horticultural Club at the Heritage Rosarium- photo by Kathy Jentz

May Member Event- A Visit to Nick Weber’s Heritage Rosarium

On the morning of Saturday, May 29 a dozen members of the Takoma Hort Club visited Nick Weber’s Heritage Rosarium in Brookville, MD. Nick graciously opens up his gardens for Memorial Day weekend each year to the general public. The club was allowed early access and was treated to a personal tour around the roses by Nick himself. Nick showed us his favorite roses and shared stories of visits by the late Henry Allen and other garden personalities. Of most interest to the club members were the roses that grow and bloom in part- to full shade. Copious notes and many photos were taken of that section of his collection. After the tour, the club members gathered just across the road for a brown-bag lunch on the shady deck of Kathrine Helfert Roznowski, daughter of club member Karen Helfert. A huge thank you to both Nick and Kathrine for graciously hosting the group.

—text and photo, Kathy Jentz

Gardening Events of Interest in the Community

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Annual Field Day, June 5th

Celebrating its 100th year. Lots of stuff for kids and adults--hay rides, an animal exhibit, farm machinery, research exhibits and hands-on demonstrations involving insects and cows (maybe). See:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Aboutus/docs.htm?docid=19863>

USDA Peoples' Garden

http://www.usda.gov/documents/FINAL_2010_Peoples_Garden_Summer_Program_Guide.pdf

Workshops for adults & children in program.

The Native Bees In Your Garden

June 4, noon to 1 pm

We'll be wandering around The People's Garden identifying the bees that live there, answering questions about local native bees and talking about how to enhance your properties' attractiveness to bees. Instructor Sam Droege of USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, is developing an inventory and monitoring program of native bees and online identification guides for N. American bees at www.discoverlife.org.

Container Gardening

June 12, 11am-1pm. How to fit plants in that empty spot in your back yard or on the porch using pots, raised beds or even that old bathtub or tire that's been laying around the backyard. Teacher: Jennifer Jefferson.

US Botanic Gardens

Thrive! From The Ground Up Through October 11, 10am- 5pm

The summer Terrace exhibit features seven outdoor gardens: a Kitchen Garden – which new varieties grow best in our region to enliven our palates? a Townhouse Garden – make the most of a small space, whether you're interested in aesthetics or edibles; Living Walls –a spectacular way to use small spaces! and Beverage, Medicinal, World Flavors and Cutting Gardens.

Exploring Hawaii June 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

In celebration of King Kamehameha Day, an informative lecture on the evolutionary forces that shaped Hawaii's unique native plant

(USBG, continued)

communities. Highlights include how the arrival of humans and their animal companions impacted the plants, and how the early Hawaiians used the plants to meet their food, fiber, shelter, tool, religious, and medicinal needs. Free, but register: 202-225-1116



**Plant Propagation:
Reproduction of the
Green Kind June 23,
1:00 – 2:30** Leaf cuttings, stem cuttings or seeds? Which are the best methods of propagating that beautiful plant? Learn the techniques and secrets of plant propagation through this hands-on workshop. Conservatory Classroom, Friends

FREE, Non-members: \$5
Registration: 202- 225-1116

US National Arboretum

www.usna.usda.gov

Potomac Hosta Club Show and Sale

June 12, 1:00 pm– 4:30 pm; June 13, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Browse through Hostas of every imaginable color, size, and form at this judged show. Choose from an extensive selection of the popular small and mini types and some brand new varieties. Take an informal tour through the show with an expert grower who will explain the judging and answer questions. Free admission.

BrooksideGardens

www.brooksidegardens.org

Conservatory Summer Display: Summer of Food

Through September 19, 2010
10:00am-5:00pm daily; free, Conservatory

Lily Show

June 26, 12:30-5:00pm, June 27, 9:00am-5:00pm

Sponsored by the Potomac Lily Society
Visitors Center

Photo: Ruby Chard, Wikimedia

(BrooksideGardens cont'd).
Free Walks at 1 p.m. Mondays
June 10 What's in Bloom?
Course number 101306
June 17 Woodland Weeds,
Course number 101307
June 24 Butterfly Plants
Course number 101308
Register at website above.

Kenilworth Gardens



Nuphar lutea blooming

What's Blooming? *Winter hardy water lilies are in full bloom now through August. Lotus are up in some ponds and gathering energy to bud. The park opens at 7 a.m. Ranger walks on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-10 am.*

AFI Theater, Silver Spring Silverdocs Documentary Festival June 22, 9:30 pm

Mother Nature- Our Feelered Friends
Free outdoor screening of *MICROCOSMOS* (1996) This fascinating documentary highlights insect life as you've never seen it before using visually stunning close-ups, time-lapse photography and slow-motion effects to take the viewer inside a mysterious world.

Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria VA <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/ed-adult.htm>

Color Theory in the Garden June 5, 9:30-11am.

Does your garden have the blahs? Maybe it's your color combinations. Let Amy Neiberline, George Washington University instructor, help you improve your overall design using the fundamentals of color theory. \$18

Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville MD June 12, 10 am – 2 pm

10am: "Kids Club: Aquatic Life Up Close" with Water Gardening Specialist Dave Kemon (Fee: \$10, which includes supplies for a frog planter)
10am: "Grasses for Sun and Shade" with Master Gardener Lisa Winters
12pm: "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Beneficials" with radio gardening guru Mike McGrath
2pm: "Perennial Trends in your Garden" with John Peter Thompson of Bay Friendly Plants

Behnke's Nurseries Herb Festival

June 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Used for adding flavor to food, freshening drawers and making remedies for healing, the herb has been a part of our everyday lives for centuries.

Stop by to learn more about herbs, enter in door prize drawings, get a bite, take advantage of special savings

Web Sites to Solve Every Problem

How to make sure you have garden lettuce spring through fall:

<http://www.digginfood.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/lettuce3.pdf>

How to pronounce the botanical names of plants in Latin:

<http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx>

How to contain your Creeping Jenny:



<http://www.frugalgardening.com/weekly-garden-photo-archive.html>