

It sure is looking like spring has arrived! Daffodils are blooming, the daylilies are up and getting taller every day, and even a few hosta pups are starting to make an appearance. Once it warms up and stays warm, get your plants divided and potted in the next few weeks so they look great by the time our Plant Sale rolls around on May 18th.

Please see the attached letter regarding ordering your Plant Sale tags from Betty Moore, Plant Sale Co-Chair, to pick up at our meeting on Saturday, April 27th. We will have flyers available at the meeting for your use to promote the sale. A copy of the plant sale flyer is also attached for your use.

Don't forget the Hosta Garden Work Day at Toledo Botanical Garden the morning of April 27th beginning at 9 AM. Bring your gardening tools and help spruce up the hosta gardens for spring. We will work until noon or maybe if enough members show up to help, we will get done earlier! Jonathan Milbrodt and leaders of our 21st Century committee-Jim Boldt and Harold Hoffman, are organizing this work day. Pack your lunch and enjoy it before our regular business meeting begins at 1 PM in the Conference Center. In addition to having Betty and Charlene discuss the upcoming Plant Sale, we will discuss plans for our Hosta Show scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd. Be sure to save the date and plan to bring in your award winning hosta leaves. Lastly, we will have our Tissue Culture program presented by Phil and Marian Parsons.

What is our Hosta

Tissue Culture Program??

The Hosta Tissue Culture Program is designed to be an educational and learning experience for you as well as for others who can gain from your knowledge and experience in growing hosta from tissue culture. Sharing your planting medium, fertilization and watering regimen plus the growing location (morning sun, all shade, etc.) can help others grow robust tissue culture hosta. So your culture process can be shared with members of our society, you will be expected to pot your hosta in the pot provided by the society, keep a journal (also provided by the society), and bring both the hosta and your journal to at least one society meeting in September or October, or to the Daylily Garden Workshop/Daylily Auction in August.

To be eligible for a hosta tissue culture plant this spring, your dues must be paid prior to March 31, 2019, you need to attend our April 27th meeting, and if you participated in the program last year-you must have brought back your specimen of H. 'Coast to Coast' last fall for comparison.

Spring Hosta Tips By

Don Rawson, Comstock Park, MI

The snow is melting, and spring is on the way. You've been anxiously waiting for the chance to walk through your gardens and dream about the new plants you've ordered from your favorite mail order websites. And you can't wait to put your gloves on and get your gardens cleaned up. Hold on.

Tip #1: Don't remove that winter mulch until the last frost is gone. Early arrivals, like *Hosta montana* 'Aureomarginata', may require additional protection from that late season cold and wind. When all danger of frost is gone, then go for it. Get your rake and wheelbarrow.

Tip #2: Thoroughly clean your gardens. All debris should be raked and added to the compost bin to eliminate a breeding ground for slugs. Be careful not to rake or step on the shoots that are just popping up to avoid damaging the leaves which are about to unfold.

Tip #3: Look to see if the frost has heaved your plants out of the ground, especially young hostas which were planted last year. Are your plants in good shape? As the ground freezes and thaws, freezes and thaws, and freezes and thaws (get the idea?), those plants may need to be tucked in on several occasions.

Tip #4: Make sure all plants, including new arrivals, are accurately labeled and the tags are in good condition. Can your friends easily read those plant labels? Or has the name tag completely disappeared? Remember that large hostas will cover up name tags that are too close to the mound.

Tip #5: Spring is the best time to prune most trees, and shrubs after flowering. Perhaps you have trees and shrubs which need to be pruned. Those branches which are dead, or make it too shady, should be cut off cleanly, chipped up, and added to the compost bin or reserved for a woodchip path.

Tip #6: Turn over your compost pile. That pile of leaves, garden wastes and grass clippings from last fall should be flipped over now. You may want to add a little sand.

The warm, rainy weather will turn all that debris into black gold. Then when those hot summer days reach 70 or 80 degrees, apply that free mulch around the base of your plants.

Tip #7: Take an inventory of your gardening supplies. How is your supply of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides? Take inventory of tools, gloves, hoses, sprinklers, wheelbarrows, fencing, tomato cages, etc. Shop and replace worn out items now so that you're not stuck in the middle of a job when summer arrives.

Tip #8: Spring is the best time to dig in your hosta bed. Spring is a great time to divide and transplant your hostas. Did you promise to give a hosta to a friend, or donate a plant for the hosta auction? You can create interest and educate others about gardening, and eventually turn your neighborhood into a hostaholic community. Review your garden records from last fall to see which ones need your attention. How wonderful to see those long awaited hostas shoot up, bigger and stronger than the year before!

Tip #9: Don't neglect to apply a slow- release fertilizer. But don't over fertilize and keep those granules off the crown and newly emerging of the plant. Above all, enjoy the fresh spring breeze, the chirp of the robins, and the signs of life as they appear, knowing that Old Man Winter is giving way to a new season of gardening and fun everywhere!

Reprinted with permission from the April issue of the Michigan Hosta Happenings, the newsletter of the Michigan Hosta Society.

Eileen Hoffman who posts information to our FACEBOOK site and web page, sent in the following report as of March 17th:

961 – The number of views our FB page had this week.

390 – The number of engagements (shares, likes)

Eileen encourages BSHDS members to feed her information to include in both places. **THANK YOU!!** blackswampwebmaster@gmail.com

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Linda and Rich Nagy will be manning an informational table for our society this year at the Wood County Master Gardeners Plant Exchange on April 27th, from 9 - 11 A.M. in the Home and Garden Building at the Wood County Fairgrounds, 13800 Poe Road, Bowling Green. Labeled Plant

drop-off begins at 9:00 A.M. with plant exchange at 10 AM. Three free plants based on availability.

The Lucas County Master Gardeners Plant Exchange will be Saturday, May 4th at Ohlman's Farm and Greenhouse, 3901 Hill Avenue, Toledo. Plant drop-off is from 8:30 – 10 AM, with plant distribution at 10 AM. Five free plants based on availability. Bring labeled plants and gently used gardening items.

And, if you have not heard or seen anything through the grape vine, Wade and Gatton Nurseries in Bellville, closed last month.



It is with great regret that Wade & Gatton Nurseries will be closing as of March 29, 2019 due to the loss of Van R. Wade, sole proprietor of Wade & Gatton Nurseries in April of 2017, and after the closing of his estate and business in January of 2019. Due to unforeseen circumstances after Van's death, the family feels that we cannot continue.

We have appreciated your friendship, business and support during the past years and could not have succeeded without your help. We hope that our friendships will continue on into the future as that is the most important asset to our past and future!

We will greatly miss all of our friends, employees, customers and suppliers, but we feel this is in the best interest for us and our families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at wadeandgatton@yahoo.com or wadeandgattontrees@gmail.com.

Comments are closed.



If you have any info for the next E-FLASH, be sure to send it to us.

Live life to its fullest!!!!

Frank and Charlene