

Greetings!

Just wanted to send out a reminder about our meeting this coming Saturday, March 9th, at Toledo Botanical Garden Conference Center, beginning at 1 PM. Our speaker is **CLARENCE (C.H.) FALSTAD-WALTERS GARDEN, ZEELAND, MI** who will be telling us all about **“HOSTA FLOWERS-THE CROWNING GLORY OF HOSTAS”**. C.H. graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Illinois. For almost 30 years he has worked as Laboratory Director at the Walters Gardens tissue culture lab operations with other periods of hybridizing work along with intellectual property activities - patents, trademarks and licensing of plants developed at Walters Gardens. He enjoys hybridizing hostas and numerous other plants, constantly seeking improvement. He served as President and Vice President of both the American Hosta Society (AHS) and the Michigan Hosta Society, AHS Scientific Chair and is a frequent author for the Hosta Journal.

If you're looking for someplace to visit this month: Hidden Lake Gardens' Spring Flower Bulb Show, runs March 9th – 24th – weekdays 9 AM to 5 PM; Weekends 10 AM to 6 PM

The Conservatory re-opens with the Spring Flower Bulb Show! Experience the color, fragrance, and beauty of spring flower bulbs during the last weeks of Winter! Amaryllis, daffodil, tulip, pansies, orchids, and hyacinths will fill the conservatory

The Spring Flower Bulb Show is included with your admission to Hidden Lake Gardens (\$5 per person, Free for HLG members).

Hidden Lake Gardens is located at 6214 W. Monroe Road (Hwy M-50) Tipton, Michigan 49287. If you have any questions, their phone number is 517-431-2060.

What a great audience for Dr. Laura Deeter's program on "Landscape Design Ideas for Hostas and Daylilies" at our February meeting! Seventy-five avid gardeners enjoyed every minute of the presentation and photos taken on Laura's visits to cities across the United States and Canada. Topics covered (plus photos demonstrating each) were line, form, texture, color, balance, rhythm, scale, variety, repetition, and unity/harmony. Laura suggested that a good way to track color and bloom time of a cultivar in your garden is to set up a spread sheet. List each item, check when it blooms, and what color it is. This will help you purchase items to bloom at different times, and to either match the color of plants you currently have or help pick new plants to compliment them. If you have a small garden area, use containers to get more variety and utilize space on patios, porches, stoops, steps, sidewalks or the space by your garage. Use plants as art. Coordinate plants in your garden with the same colors from your favorite framed picture. She urged us to find a different way to look at our gardens by going across the street and see the view from your neighbor's house. Find a way to repeat a color by using different plants of the same color. Ask yourself "Why am I putting this plant in my garden?" You need to be happy with your garden. Be sure to balance the height, textures and colors of the plants, and don't forget the old rule of grouping plants – use three, or five, stick with odd numbers which work the best. Don't have any acute angles, and plant to scale - size plants next to each other for eye appeal. Plant a garden that has a reason - your landscape has a function - street appeal. Is your front entrance inviting?

Is there space to visit with guests before they walk through your front door? Use sidewalks-steps-a circular patio for the entrance to your garden-just be sure it is safe and not something just for show. Have a way to get from Point A to Point B. To keep your garden exciting, trade out the flowers several times a season. Take a sample of a plant that is currently in your garden to your favorite nursery to find a match of the color or texture. If your significant other asks why you need more plants, just tell them the doctor (in this case Dr. Deeter – AKA “the Garden Hoe”) said you have to go shopping every two weeks to find new plants for your garden. Sounds like a great plan to many of us at the program!

Welcome to our newest member – John Erkert from Toledo, who joined at our January luncheon!!

If you have registered for Hosta College, be sure to check back to the website to run off your schedule with the room assignments and the schedule of events for the week-end of March 15th – 16th before heading down to Piqua.

The Hosta College website can be found at <http://www.ihostohio.com/portal/glhc/>.

If you have not renewed your membership, please be sure to do so today!! And yes, you can pay for more than one year at a time! Dues are still \$10 per garden per year. What a bargain!! Send to Jim Flannery, Treasurer, 26009 Willowbend Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Make check payable to “BSHDS”.

Don't forget to change your clocks on Sunday, March 10th at 2 A.M. - Daylight Saving Time begins. Clocks forward one hour in spring.

Spring is coming!!

The spring equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) falls on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 5:58 P.M. EDT. This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. When is the First Day of Spring? Spring begins with the vernal equinox, which always occurs on March 19, 20, or 21.

A Full Moon on the Equinox

For the first time in nearly 40 years, the spring equinox will occur on the same day as March's [Full Worm Moon](#). The last time that these two events landed on the same date was on March 20, 1981, though they did come close again in March 2000, separated by a span of only four hours.

But that's not all: March's full Moon will also be a [super moon](#), meaning that it will be slightly larger and brighter than most of the other full Moons this year.

What Does the Equinox Mean?

The word *equinox* comes from the Latin words for "equal night"—*aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). On the equinox, the length of day and night is nearly equal in all parts of the world. With the equinox, enjoy the increasing sunlight hours, with earlier dawns and later sunsets.

Be sure to mark the date of APRIL 27th on your calendars. We will hold our Hosta Workday, beginning at 9 AM – noon in the Shade Garden at Toledo Botanical Garden. Come and help get the hosta beds cleaned up for spring.

Bring your lunch and stay for our general membership meeting that will begin at 1 PM. We'll be discussing the May 18th Plant Sale at Churchill's Supermarket in Perrysburg, and our 14th Accredited Hosta Show which will be held on Sunday, June 23rd.

This is a very busy and important meeting for those members who want to learn about the tissue culture plant program that will be presented by Phil Parsons, chairman. 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.

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.