

Greetings:

Just wanted to send out a reminder about our meeting this coming Saturday, March 10th, at Toledo Botanical Garden Conference Center, beginning at 1 PM. Our speaker is Ginny Pearce from Garden Path Perennials, Grand Rapids, MI. Her presentation is titled "HYBRIDIZING ON A SHOESTRING AND A POSTAGE STAMP" Ginny has been a gardener all her life. Not having the funds to purchase the daylilies she yearned for in sellers' catalogs, she decided to apply her horticultural education to create her own pretty faces. Fast forward through 21 years of hybridizing, she now has 24 daylily introductions with a few more coming for 2018. She was the 2017 winner of the Region 2 Englerth Award for Hybridizing Excellence. Her hybridizing objectives are to create very hardy, robust, and northern reblooming tetraploid daylilies with large flowers of great color, substance, and form displayed as a minimum of 20 buds per well-branched scape. During her program, she will share promising seedlings along with her introductions and easy to replicate method for growing seedlings.

If you're looking for someplace to visit this month:

At our February meeting, Libby Boldt told us about Hidden Lake Gardens' Spring Flower Bulb Show, which runs March 10th – 25th: Spring flowers including amaryllis, daffodils, tulips, pansies, orchids, hyacinths, and more will be blooming in the Conservatory at Hidden Lake Gardens during the last days of Winter. Thousands of spring bulbs and blooms will be on display in the Temperate House, plus the Tropical and Arid domes will be lush with flowers, fruits, and foliage. The Spring Flower Bulb Show is included with your admission to Hidden Lake Gardens (\$3 per person, Free for HLG members). HLG hours during the Spring Flower Bulb Show are 9 AM to 7 PM.

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.

We all enjoyed a stroll through Don and Pam Rawson's garden with photos of some very outstanding hostas and perennials at our February meeting. They have utilized tons and tons of rocks in their many flower beds on their four country acres near Grand Rapids, MI. The Rawsons grow over 350 hosta cultivars, a wonderful display of tall bearded irises, many lilies and daylilies, and an assortment of other companion plants. We all started a list of plants that we want to add to our gardens this year. Don does a little hybridizing on the side, growing a few thousand hosta seedlings each year. His best-known introduction is 'Rhino Hide', which has the distinction of being the thickest-leaved cultivar available.

Welcome to our newest member – Cari Whitaker from Pittsford, MI. Cari is Connie Boice's daughter.

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 16th – 17th 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 11th at 2 A.M. - Daylight Saving Time begins. Clocks forward one hour in spring.

Spring is coming on Monday, March 20th at 12:15 PM EDT.

Be sure to mark the date of APRIL 28th on your calendars. Weather permitting, 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 Plant Sale at Churchill's Supermarket in Perrysburg, and our July 8th Daylily Expo. 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, 2018, you need to attend our April 28th meeting, and if you participated in the program last year-you must have brought back your specimen of H. 'Pure Heart' 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.

If you have any contributions for the newsletter, just send them to us.
Looking forward to seeing you on the 10th!

Live life to its fullest,

Frank and Charlene

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