

Greetings:

What a great audience at our February meeting to see what John Hric's hybridizing program is bringing to the daylily world. John lives on the west side of Cleveland, where he has been gardening since 1976. Over the years, he transitioned from vegetable gardening to perennials, introducing daylilies into the garden in 1996. A relatively new hybridizer, John started doing crosses around 2003. To date, he's expanded his garden to include around 600 daylilies and has registered 30 new ones. John provides a good example of a hobbyist backyard hybridizer, just having a lot of fun. It is a collection of seedlings, old and new registered plants and some dreams. John likes to explore what some might call older genetics. He works with both tetraploids and diploids, and his collection of plants is somewhat eclectic. There are several plants from the early years of spiders and unusual form. Some plants from more recent history have worked their way into John's hybridizing program. He even has a number of introductions with patterns. And as long as the cross makes sense to him, he will make it just to see what happens. John is donating several of his introductions to our daylily auction in August. If you were not at the meeting, to see photos of what John is doing-go to his website at <anortheastohiogarden.wordpress.com>.

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".

If you have paid your dues – THANK YOU!!

Spring is coming!!

In 2020, the spring equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) falls on Thursday, March 19th, at 11:50 P.M. EDT. This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

If you're calendar-obsessed, you may have noticed something odd about this year's spring equinox date. That's right—it's earlier than usual! For much of the last century, the spring equinox has occurred on March 20th or 21st. This year, however, the equinox happens on the 19th in all U.S. time zones, making it the earliest spring we'll have seen in our lives (so far). The last time spring arrived this early was in 1896—a whopping 124 years ago!

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 word 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 Saturday, APRIL 25th, on your calendars. We will hold our Hosta Workday, beginning at 9 AM to 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 16th Plant Sale at Churchill's Supermarket in Perrysburg, and our 13th Daylily Expo which will be held on Sunday, July 19th.

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, 2020, you need to attend our April 25th meeting, and if you participated in the program last year-you must have brought back your specimen of H. 'Etched Glass' 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.

Reprinted from the American Hosta Society website:

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

by Bob Solberg

Spring (Foliage emergence begins): March-April-early May

As the ground warms under spring's ever increasing light intensities, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the mulch, looking like bullets coming out of the ground. The small bud scales that protect the true leaves open and recurve allowing a cigar-shaped flush of usually three to four leaves to emerge well above the ground. Soil temperature and moisture seem to effect the timing of the emergence of hostas the most. In very dry winters the emergence of hostas will be delayed unless the garden is irrigated. As the new hosta leaves expand, ample water is also needed for them to gain maximum size.

Labeling: Check for lost labels and replace as needed.

Light: Full sun, moderate intensity. Usually no shading necessary.

Nutrients: Apply slow release fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote, organic fertilizers) or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around clumps as the hostas emerge. If you only use a liquid fertilizer, then apply weekly beginning as the first leaves start to unfurl.

Pests: Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray a repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be repeated every 10 days as the hostas enlarge. Stay on vole patrol.

Protection: Finish your spring clean-up of fallen branches, old hosta foliage and scapes. Last chance to mulch. Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduce the risk of petiole rot, especially if hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, lightweight bed sheets or newspaper. Hostas with unfurled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

Propagation: Hostas may be divided in half or quarters as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently reduced root system. New roots will not begin forming until the first set of new leaves are almost fully expanded, several weeks after division. Save drastic division for late summer.

Water: Keep the soil evenly moist. Fresh hostas are mostly water, make sure plenty is available as they expand. Beautiful spring days with bright light, low humidity and brisk winds dehydrate new hosta leaves quickly, do not be afraid to irrigate generously.

Fun! This is the best hosta season of the year! Go out several times a day and watch your hostas spring from the earth. You can almost see them grow! Count the number of new shoots and calculate how much your hosta investment has increased. A one division hosta purchased for \$25 last fall, with its three new shoots, has now tripled in value to \$75. Drag you neighbors over to see your hostas do their magic act. This is the time of year when everything is right in the hosta world. Go to a local hosta meeting.

Late Spring (Period of rapid foliage and root growth): May-June

Most hostas, except the fragrant flowered ones which produce new flushes of leaves into July, produce all their leaves in about 6-8 weeks. This occurs in usually one or two flushes of 3-4 leaves per shoot, (division). These leaves are at first "soft", expanding rapidly, metabolizing, (growing) at a high rate. As they reach their mature size they "harden off" and stop expanding, slowing their production of white wax and purple pigments, (anthocyanins). At this time fresh new white roots emerge from the shoot above last year's roots and lengthen rapidly. Soon the second flush of 3-4 leaves will appear and mature, followed by another period of root initiation. Hostas need abundant water and nutrients, especially nitrogen, during this period of rapid leaf and root growth.

Labeling: Pull labels further out from under the expanding hosta clumps. Notice how much bigger your hostas are than they were last year. Congratulate yourself and give your hostas praise.

Light: Shade fills the garden as the trees leaf out. Watch for bleaching of early rising yellow hostas. They may need to be moved.

Nutrients: Reapply 10-10-10 after 4-6 weeks depending on the amount of heavy rainfall. Continue your liquid feed program. If you want your hostas to be the biggest on your block, (and who doesn't?), supplement granular fertilizers with a foliar liquid feed of a high nitrogen fertilizer with added magnesium every two weeks (e.g. Miracle-Gro Tomato Plant Food 18-18-21, Peters 20-20-20 with a pinch of Epsom salts per gallon of water added.)

Pests: Check hostas for evidence of Hosta Virus X. Unlike foliar nematodes, HVX symptoms will show early in the growing season. Remove and dispose of any infected plants!!! Watch for slug and vole damage. If a hosta does not come up, go digging around looking for it. It may have become vole food, so check the hostas around it for vole damage by pulling gently on the foliage and seeing if they are firmly rooted in the ground. If they too have been nibbled, you may need to pot them up and regrow their roots. Bait or set traps. If a hosta comes up much smaller than last year, it may have become a victim of tree roots and need to be potted also. Remove all the rotted roots and soft parts of the crown and rinse it in a 10% bleach solution before potting. Make a note, that hosta bed may need reworking in late summer. Ugh!

Protection: Deter deer!

Propagation: Do not divide hostas with soft foliage. Once they harden off, you can move entire clumps safely, being careful not to damage the roots. Use a digging fork, not a shovel if you can so you do not cut off the root tips. Wait until late summer to divide drastically.

Water: Water, Water, Water! Especially if it is a dry spring. Fill your hostas to the brim with water.

Fun! Plant those hostas that you ordered in the winter. Happiness is a new hosta bed! Visit local nurseries and raid the big box stores; hunt for bargains and maybe do a little hosta sport fishing with your hosta buddy. Take pride in your perfect hostas, all fresh and free from holes. Show them off. Visit them daily and choose your favorites.



With the increasing number of hosta cultivars being introduced each year it is increasingly difficult for nursery owners and gardeners to choose just the right hostas for their sales areas and gardens.

To this end the American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA **Hosta of the Year** in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants

in all regions of the country, are widely available and in sufficient supply, and will retail for about \$15.00 in the year of their selection.

H. 'Dancing Queen' - 2020 Hosta of the Year

2020 H. 'Dancing Queen' (K. Terpening/A. Scheer 2005) grows 22" high by 40" wide with bright yellow wavy leaves in

spring. Pale lavender flowers in summer. **Dancing Queen hosta** is a twinkling star of the shade garden with their bright yellow leaves, ruffled edges & mounded habit. Unlike other yellow **hostas** that emerge yellow and turn green by summer,

Past "Hosta of the Year" winners:

2019 H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' (Chastain) grows 12" high by 24" wide with wavy green leaves and an irregular cream center. Lavender flowers on white scapes in mid-summer.

2018 H. 'World Cup' (Beilstein/Zillis) grows 30" high by 48" wide with deeply cupped gold corrugated leaves that reach up to the sky. It also has nice white backsides that stand out due to its upright habit. Pale purple flowers in summer.

2017 H. 'Brother Stefan' (Petryszyn) grows 22" tall by 36" wide clump of thick, heavily corrugated, golden foliage edged with a wide border of blue-green. 24" tall scapes topped with white flowers in late spring.

2016 H. 'Curly Fries' (Solberg) grows 5" high by 16" wide. Features very wavy, narrow, super thick agave-looking leaves that give a "spidery" appearance. 24" tall scapes topped with lavender flowers.

2015 H. 'Victory' (Zilis/Solberg) grows 30" high by 70" wide. With leaves that have a shiny green center with a margin that changes from greenish yellow to creamy white by early summer. Smooth texture with thick substance. Near white flowers on tall scapes in mid-summer. An outstanding specimen or background plant. Vigorous.

2014 H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' (Walden West) grows 22" high by 46" wide, with dark blue-green seer suckered leaves with heavy substance. Probably the most deeply cupped foliage of any hosta cultivar makes for a distinct and unique specimen. Near white flowers in mid-summer.

2013 H. 'Rainforest Sunrise' (Farms/Anderson) grows 10" high by 25" wide, with gold leaves that are margined with a nice dark green margin. Nicely corrugated even at a young age, the glossy cupped leaves also have thick substance. Pale lavender flowers in early summer.

2012 H. 'Liberty' (Machen 2000) grows 39" high by 39" wide this sport of the popular 'Sagae' features a wider more dramatic margin. Like 'Sagae' the margin changes from yellow to creamy-white by mid-season. Lavender flowers in mid-summer.

2011 H. 'Praying Hands' (G. Williams 1996) grows 14" high by 16" upright growing mound of intensely folded and rippled dark green leaves 7" long by 2" wide, surrounded by yellow. It flowers in August with lavender flowers on 18" scapes.

2010 H. 'First Frost' (R. Solberg 2002) grows 16" high by 36" mound of intensely blue-green leaves 7" long by 5" wide, surrounded by yellow margins that become white as the season progresses. This sport of the ever popular H. 'Halcyon' flowers in July/August with lavender flowers.

2009 H. 'Earth Angel' (Hans Hansen 2002) grows 16" high by 39" wide, with hearth shaped, blue-green leaves 12" long by 9" wide, surrounded by creamy white margins. Pale lavender flowers arise on 30" scapes in July. This is a sport of H. 'Blue Angel'.

2008 H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' (E. Deckert 2000). grows to 8" high by 19" wide, with thick substance, nearly round, blue-green leaves 2 1/2" long by 2 1/4" wide. In July the plant is topped with dense clusters of pale purple flowers on scapes that rise to 12".

2007 H. 'Paradigm' (Walden West 1999) grows 20" high by 46" wide, with corrugated gold leaves 11" long by 9" wide, surrounded by dark green margins. Near white flowers arise on 32" scapes in July-Aug. This is a sport of H. 'Abiqua Recluse'.

2006 H. 'Stained Glass' (Hansen 1999). grows to 20" high by 45" wide, with heart-shaped leaves 9" long by 7" wide. The leaves are bright yellow with an irregular dark green margin. In August the plant is topped with 3" long fragrant, near-white flowers on scapes that rise to 30". It is a sport that arose from H. 'Guacamole'.

2005 H. 'Striptease' (Thompson 1991) grows 20" high by 40" wide. Satiny, dark green leaves have a narrow ivory center approximately 1" wide. There is an irregular white stripe between the ivory center and the wide green margins. Pale violet flowers appear on 24" scales in July. This is a sport of H. 'Gold Standard'.

2004 H. 'Sum and Substance' (Aden 1998) grows 36" high by 80" wide. This is a huge mound of chartreuse leaves that can each become 18" long by 14" wide. Site in brighter morning light and the leaves will be a bright golden yellow. In July, lavender flowers appear on scapes 50" high.

2003 H. 'Regal Splendor' (Walters Gardens 1987) grows 32" high and 60" wide. This is a vase shaped mound of heavy substance, 10" long by 7" wide, blue-green leaves, with creamy white margins. Lavender flowers are produced on 60" scapes in August. This is a sport of H. 'Krossa Regal'.

2002 H. 'Guacamole' (Solberg 1994) grows 24" high and 54" wide. The 10" long by 8 1/2" shiny gold heart shaped leaves have irregular narrow green margins. Leaf color becomes a brighter gold with increased light exposure. Fragrant flowers 3" long are produced on 38" scapes in August. This is a sport of H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'.

2001 H. 'June' (Neo Plants 1991) grows 30" wide, and 12" high. The gold centered, blue-green margined, heart shaped leaves are 6" long, by 4" wide. Lavender flowers appear on 20" scapes in August.

2000 H. 'Sagae' (Watanabe 1995) grows 30" high and nearly 70" wide. The leaves are 13" long, by 10" wide, and are blue-green with a yellow margin that fades to cream. They are slightly cupped with an undulating margin. The plant has an interesting upright vase shape.

1999 H. 'Paul's Glory' (Ruh/Hofer 1987), grows 17" high and 26" wide. It has pointed heart-shaped, leaves 7" long by 5" wide. The leaves emerge a golden yellow, then later in the season, turn a parchment white with an irregular blue-green margin. Lavender flowers arise in midsummer on 24" scapes.

1998 H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' (Aden 1982) grows 18" high by 36" wide. Heart-shaped leaves 8" long by 6" wide, that emerge a golden yellow, then turn apple-green with an irregular cream margin. The crowning glory of this Hosta is that in August the plant is topped with 3" long fragrant near white flowers on scapes that rise to 36".

1997 H. 'Patriot' (Machen 1991) grows 23" high by 50" wide. Dark green leaves are 8" long by 6" wide with a wide, creamy white margin. Lavender flowers appear in July on 30" scapes.

1996 H. 'So Sweet' (Aden 1986) grows 22" high by 50" wide. Leaves are 9" long and 7" wide with a white margin. Large numbers of fragrant near white flowers open on 35" scapes in August.

If you have any contributions for the newsletter, just send them to us. Looking forward to seeing you at Hosta Work Day!

Live life to its fullest!!!!

Frank and Charlene



Email: cfpatz@att.net

Tele: 419-874-8964

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/blackswamphostaanddaylilysociety/?fref=ts>

WEBSITE: <https://blackswamphostaanddaylilysociety.weebly.com/>

2020 OFFICERS:

President

Charlene Patz
cfpatz@att.net
419-874-8964

Director

Linda Scheuerman
Linda.scheuerman@vallen.com
419-841-8127

Vice-President

Charlie Harper
charlesaharper@aol.com
419-308-6603

Director

Betty Moore
Rmoore7290@aol.com
419-865-7822

Secretary

Dianna Vasquez
papaquez@gmail.com
419-868-5120

Director

Linda Nagy
gracie-gratzi@sbcglobal.net
419-382-7696

Treasurer

Jim Flannery
JLFlannery@roadrunner.com
419-874-5995

Membership

Phil Parsons
mpparsons@centurylink.net
419-256-7246