



Dear Members,

Thanks to everyone who has been attending our meetings. Our 4th meeting at Terry and Marie's place was outstanding.

This year our meetings will give you wonderful ideas for a lifetime of gardening. In June you will see a garden of change. My beds were taken over by honeysuckle, poison ivy and lack of maintenance. A work in progress!

In July we're having a great bus trip organized by our fabulous committee. Our August meeting is at the Wogoman's followed by lunch at Carol Kilberg's. In September we'll meet at Spring Grove. The multi-club banquet is in October at Der Dutchman. Our November lunch at Montgomery Inn will feature speaker Jeff Miller of Land of the Giants Hosta Farm.

I want to thank all of the members who have donated their homes for meetings and those who brought barbeque, dessert and plants to share.

Please feel free to contact me or the board members with your thoughts or concerns.

Thanks,

Jeanne

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My Garden

Jeanne Gourley

My garden started 16 years ago when we bought this property after my father died and I needed a place where I could have a profession and take care of my mom, who had Alzheimer's and Parkinsons.

Our business is named Evergreen at Tall Oaks. It is a state licensed in-ground Hosta and Perennial nursery. I sell to both retail and wholesale buyers. When we started I spent two years with my husband and sons cutting out brush, trees and planting. It was lots of fun (and work). Garden clubs would come, tour, sometimes have a luncheon and purchase plants. My plants are dug out of the ground, totally field divisions. I have one tissue culture plant. The rest of my stock came from divisions. I have many old hostas that some people have never heard of. We started with \$40,000 worth of stock. Some of my original stock came from an Iowa grower named Mr. Stark and a lady named Betty Comfry who was from Connecticut. Her plants were pristine. When she stopped gardening she gave her stock to Wade and Gatton Nurseries. If you visit you will still see some of her plants in his garden. I prefer original stock over tissue culture. I think they are stronger plants.

I went back to work 12 years ago after my mom died. However I still sell some plants. I've had a big year this year with buyers from several landscapers and clients in Indian Hill purchasing over 900 plants.

Today the acre and a half near the house is garden. The back acre and half is for "the deer". This backs up to Winton Woods. I use a variety of methods to keep the deer to the back acres including Mil-organite, fishing line and deer repellent. Fighting deer is just one of the challenges of gardening on such a large lot. This evening the storm caused four tree limbs to fall and crush a Hosta 'Guardian Angel'. At least it was not hail!



Children divorce and marry and lose jobs—husbands lose jobs—just general life going on. At this time I am working for 3 or 4 people who need me to drive and cook, etc. I have 8 yards I work in. I am a babysitter for 2 grandchildren and go to athletic events the others compete in. Life is great. I'm always busy and always very grateful.

Phosphorus Bans and the home gardener

Tom McMannon

Most gardeners know that phosphorus, the P in N-P-K, is an essential component of fertilizers. Phosphorus is recommended as a promoter of blooms and root growth. It is also an essential part of the photosynthesis process.

Phosphate Rock is a non-renewable resource like petroleum. It's thought to have formed by the precipitation of phosphate from seawater mixed with the skeletons of ancient sea creatures and is mined in many locations around the globe. Experts believe that peak production will occur in the next several decades and in a short time, readily available sources will be exhausted.

Phosphorus is becoming increasingly rare at the same time that surplus Phosphorus is causing problems in lakes and other bodies of water worldwide. It's pretty obvious that a lot of phosphorus is not reaching its intended target.

The issue is more complex than legislators would have us believe. The phosphorus used in synthetic fertilizers is water soluble and quickly leaches out of the soil and into waterways. But natural sources of phosphorus (autumn leaf fall, for example) can also contribute to high concentrations in runoff.

Some localities have banned the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers. These are often communities near water ecosystems that have already been affected by phosphorus runoff. Blooms of algae are fueled by phosphorus. The organisms compete for nutrients and as they die and decay they deplete the water of oxygen, causing immense aquatic dead zones. Some localities in Michigan—notably Ann Arbor—have banned the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers since 2007 and are seeing reductions in phosphorus runoff as a result.

Minnesota (The Land of 10,000 Lakes) has had a statewide law banning use and sale of phosphorus lawn fertilizer in effect since 2005 and Wisconsin recently passed a similar law. Marysville, Ohio based Scotts/Miracle-Gro has removed phosphorus from its lawn maintenance fertilizers sold in the US. They will continue to produce starter fertilizer products for new lawns and an organic lawn food that includes phosphorus.

Tampa, Florida has taken things a bit further. Beginning in 2012, the city prohibits the sale and use (on lawns) of fertilizer containing nitrogen as well as phosphorus during the June 1 to September 30 rainy season. Golf courses and vegetable gardens are exempt. The rest of the year, residents will have to use fertilizer that contains at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen.

What does this mean to the home gardener? Probably not much. While some Ohio and Indiana communities around the Great Lakes are looking at legal alternatives, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky at present have no statewide ban. Other all-purpose fertilizers containing phosphorus are not affected by the current bans.

Remember, the laws only apply to lawn fertilizers and most established lawns don't need additional phosphorus. If you are in an area affected by the bans and a soil analysis shows you need phosphorus, you may use phosphorus on your lawn. Farms are exempt from the bans.

Rock phosphate, bone meal, compost, manure, Milorganite (not allowed for use in certified organic agricultural production according to the USDA) and eggshells are some natural sources of phosphorus. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn will help retain phosphorus. Some horticulturists promote the use of human urine to supplement phosphorus.

Hostas Direct recommends feeding hostas using a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10 for example) before they emerge in the spring then following with one that is lower in nitrogen and higher in phosphorus and potassium. Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm has recommended MiracleGro tomato food (18-18-21) because it includes magnesium.

Phosphorus is often present but unavailable due to the pH or other factors. A soil test is the only way to determine if your lawn or garden needs additional phosphorus. In Hamilton County, Ohio call 513-772-SOIL and ask about the soil fertility testing kit. Hamilton County residents may purchase soil test kits for \$12 if picked up or \$14 if mailed. In Kentucky or Indiana call your local Cooperative Extension office for instructions.

Want to learn more? Check out the links below.

<http://barebonesgardening.blogspot.com/2007/10/free-urea-based-fertilizer.html>

<http://www.popsci.com/environment/article/2009-09/fertilizer-future-might-be-closer-we-think>

<http://eartheasy.com/blog/2009/01/peak-phosphorus/>

http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/2008/05/phosphorus_ban_looms_your_lawn.html

<http://www.hostasdirect.com/>

http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/wacademy/upload/2011_9_21_slides.pdf

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/rpt/2012-R-0076.htm>



HSGC Officers

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Featured Sites

UT scientists use wasps to fight emerald ash borer

http://www.thedailytimes.com/Local_News/story/UT-scientists-use-wasps-to-fight-emerald-ash-borer-id-029256



The Plant Kingdom's Most Unusual Talents

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=what-plants-smell-plant-unusual>

Flower Bulb Research Program: Pickling your Paperwhites

<http://www.flowerbulbs.cornell.edu>



What Plants Talk About

In our Fall/Winter 2012 issue we featured a link to the Scientific American article "Do Plants Think." This fascinating PBS film "What Plants Talk About" will really have you wondering. It may be viewed in its entirety online.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/what-plants-talk-about/preview/8228/>

Former Anti-GMO Activist Says Science Changed His Mind

http://www.gpb.org/news/2013/01/20/former-anti-gmo-activist-says-science-changed-his-mind?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GPBNewsFeed+%28GPB+News%29



Study Bolsters Quantum Vibration Scent Theory

Do good odors stem from good vibrations?

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=study-bolsters-quantum-vibration-scent-theory>



Plight of the American bumblebee: Disappearing?



honeybees aren't the only ones in trouble...

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/Plight-of-the-American-bumblebee-Disappearing-4318027.php>

Caffeine shot in nectar: for bee memory, not buzz

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/Caffeine-shot-in-nectar-for-bee-memory-not-buzz-4336514.php#photo-4294116>



Meeting 4/27/2013



Bern's Garden Center

Bern's employee Kris did a show-and-tell including hostas and companion plants that could be purchased with the 10% discount offered to HSGC members.



Meeting 5/18/2013



The intermittent drizzle couldn't dampen the spirits of the members attending the May 18 meeting in the garden of Terry and Marie Huizing (say **high-zing**). Terry regaled us with several hair-raising tales involving tree incursions then set us loose. The hillside garden (panorama on right) is filled with mature *Hosta* and dozens of trees, shrubs and perennials.

The native fieldstone plays a leading role in the garden's hardscape. The large flat stones have been assembled like a jigsaw puzzle to form paths and steps.

The rain finally let up enough that we could enjoy our brown bag lunches with the desserts provided by member volunteers.



Carlou Seedlings



cross #184



H. 'Fuzzy Dice' seedling

Coming Up

June 13-15 Milwaukee, WI - AHS National Convention

July 13 Saturday - HSGC bus trip to the Mansfield/Belville Area

August 3 Saturday, 10 am - A Fun Day in the Country

The Wogoman garden in West Alexandria OH then Carol Kilberg's Farm in Miamisburg OH.

September - Date to be determined. A tour of Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum.



can't read the tag!

Carlou's seedlings must be everywhere! If you have a photo of one you like, please share it with us.

The seedlings are usually tagged with the cross # for planned crosses or the pod parent for open pollinated.

Send photos to gghostas@me.com to be (possibly) included in future newsletters.