

HSGC

Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati

gchostas.info

promoting Hosta culture in the greater Cincinnati area

2016 Winter/Spring

Dear members,

Don't miss the first meeting of 2016 on Saturday, February 27 at 11AM at Delhi Garden Center Liberty Township.

We are bringing back our Ask the Experts meeting. This is a chance for you to get answers to your most vexing garden questions.

We will have brief presentations by the following experts:

- ▶ Clara Berger on Hellebores
- ▶ Jane Kozlownic on Ivy
- ▶ Gene Bare on Conifers
- ▶ Carlon Addison on Hosta

The Manager of Delhi will give us a look at the new plants for 2016.

This is our annual crockpot cookoff. We would like to have at least four or five members make a crockpot dish with the theme "Favorite Italian Meals." Or you may make an appetizer or dessert instead, as long as we have at least three main meals. Each crockpot cook will receive a \$10 Delhi gift card. Please email bev_vonderhaar@hotmail.com if you are able to help us continue the tradition of one of the most appreciated and well-attended meetings of the year! See you on the 27th,

Your Editor

P.S. Keep your cards and articles coming...um, OK there aren't any of those, but your garden story of just a few paragraphs with a couple of photos could grace our pages and enlighten our members. Send submissions to Tom McMannon or email to hsgc@me.com or talk to me at a meeting.

Mondo Grass Revisited

Tom McMannon

In a previous article (2013 Winter/Spring) I discussed the garden worthiness of various *Ophiopogon* species and varieties. I sang their praises as a hardy, self-spreading, low maintenance groundcover for full shade.

The main subject of that article, *Ophiopogon japonicus* 'Kyoto Dwarf', may not be as hardy as I first thought. The patch began as a single plant of a few crowns and after about six years it was one or two feet across and was dense and lawn-like. After the last two severe winters, however, only a few scattered crowns remain.



Ophiopogon umbraticola in the author's garden

The tiny (to only 1.5 inches) *O. japonicus* 'Gyoku Ryu' fared even worse. After doing more research, I think it's probably a zone 7 plant. 'Gyoku Ryu' did not survive the 2013-14 winter but might be worth a try in a protected spot or as a houseplant.

On the other hand my newer acquisitions from Plant Delights, an *O. umbraticola* selection referred to as 'Bad Hair Day', and an *O. japonicus* selection that Plant Delights calls 'Seoulitary Man' are



Ophiopogon japonicus 'Kyoto Dwarf' seeds

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thriving in spite of the frigid winters.

O. umbraticola is hardy, easy to grow and a great addition to the woodland garden palette. The selection Plant Delights sells forms clumps and is about 6 inches tall, with wiry, curly, evergreen foliage (see photo above). According to Tony Avent this plant entered the country as *Ophiopogon chingii* and has been passed around under that name until recently.



Ophiopogon umbraticola seedling

Unlike the *O. japonicus* varieties mentioned above (which are somewhat stoloniferous) *O. japonicus* 'Seoulitary Man' is a clumper about twelve inches tall and will never form a turf without some help.

After three years in the garden these two are still in clump form awaiting division. I'll dig them in the spring before they begin growing and divide and plant them in groups among perennials and shrubs. I hope to report on their progress over the next few years. I'm hoping the taller *O.* 'Seoulitary Man' will do well with some large Hosta under Magnolia 'Jane'.

There are a lot of interesting varieties out there and most are suitable for even dense shade under evergreens. I have a variety from Glass House Works called 'Chirimen' (species unknown—probably zone 7) that I grow as a houseplant. It has thin green leaves with variable cream to yellow lengthwise variegation.

The seedling pictured above is one of two from last years crop of *O. umbraticola* seeds. As I mentioned in the 2013 article, the fruits are eaten by many critters so you have to be quick (or lucky) to harvest them. They will turn solid cobalt blue when ripe. I squeeze them

HSGC Officers

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and slide off the blue flesh to reveal the pea sized translucent seed within. Only a few seeds are produced each year but almost 100% of them sprout if you are patient. No stratification is necessary. Plant 1/4 inch deep in moist potting soil and they will germinate over the next several months. It seems there is a lot of diversity within the species so there's always the possibility of growing something completely different.



scenes from 2015

2016 calendar

February 27 11am HSGC meeting

Delhi Garden Center
6282 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd
Liberty Township OH 45044

Crockpot cook-off and round table discussion with our in-club experts. The Manager of Delhi will give us a look at some new plants for 2016.



March 19 11am HSGC meeting

Cincinnati Civic Garden Center

The Deer Resistant Garden, with Civic Garden Center Horticulturist, Bennett O. Dowling, will cover sun and shade loving plants found to be deer resistant (though not deer proof) as well as methods for repelling deer and preventing damage. Food will be provided by the Hospitality committee.

March 18-19 Hosta College

Piqua OH

April 23 11am HSGC meeting

Dick and Nancy Reidel's garden

Speaker, Fred Williams, on using worm casting fertilizer.

April 3 Sunday, 12-3pm

Clara's Harvest Thyme Hellebore sale

April 13-17 Cincinnati Flower Show

Yeatman's Cove Park
705 East Pete Rose Way
Cincinnati OH 45202

May 14 10am HSGC meeting

Marvin and Dean's garden

Everyone that brings a donation will receive a ticket for a special prize!

June 4 GCDHS Hosta Show

Krohn Conservatory

June 11 HSGC meeting First ever progressive garden tour!

Larry Grage's at 10am for appetizers

Margaret Wolfe's at 11:15am for sandwiches

ending with dessert at Pat Ellsworth's at 12:30pm

June 12 Sunday from 10am-4pm Open Garden Days

John and Brenda Demetriou with Joan Day and Judy Case and Clara Berger will have their gardens open to tour and will answer any of your garden questions.

John and Brenda will be selling bird houses, hosta and ferns. Joan, in the Demetriou garden, will have her Backyard Treasures, plants, fairies, and troughs. Judy Case will have a variety of plants for sale, including epimediums, ferns, hellebore, and hosta. Clara will offer garden worthy plants, annuals and shrubs.

July 9 Annual HSGC bus trip

to Kentucky—details to be announced



July 23-24 Krohn Conservatory Garden Club Weekend

August 13 HSGC meeting

Dorothea Otte's home and garden—The house was built in 1910 and designed by the architect who designed Music Hall. There are Rookwood pottery fireplace surrounds and stained and leaded glass throughout the house. Since moving in she's added over 800 varieties of hostas in the back garden and 150 varieties of day lilies in the front.

This is a brown bag lunch and drink meeting. The club will provide deserts. There may be a speaker

September 3 Saturday 10am-3pm—Bob's Garden Fair

222 E Wenger Rd
Englewood OH 45322

September 10 4pm HSGC meeting

Gene and Bev Bare's garden

Jim Hansen will talk about grasses and sedges in shade gardens. We'll have a cookout with members bringing side dishes.

October 1 HSGC banquet

Der Dutchman Restaurant

445 S Jefferson Ave
Plain City OH 43064

The Columbus Hosta Society will be our host this year. Dick Ward will talk about the 'Mouse' hostas.



Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'