



# EDELWEISS NEWS

Gardeners of the Bluffton Pandora Area

September 26, 2016

## Hydrangeas:

Well here we are now in Fall, my second favorite time of the year after Spring and we will be moving our meetings back to the Bluffton Public Library. We are once again having our "Open to the Public" lectures at the Bluffton Public Library.

I think this talk will be quite interesting. If you like the big beautiful flowers of hydrangeas that you see in the garden centers but are afraid that you wouldn't be able to successfully grow them in your landscape, this speaker will be one to enlighten you. Allen County Master Gardener Tim Staley will be discussing how to successfully grow, propagate, prune and over-winter Hydrangea's. He will also talk about why some blue hydrangeas turn pink, when planted in our area. He will also discuss the differences between a Mophead, a Lacecap, an Oakleaf and a Pee Gee blooms, there are always more varieties than the ones we see in the stores.

The meeting will be starting as usual at 6:30p.m. on Tuesday October 4, 2016, in the lower level meeting room. This meeting is open to the public so please feel free to bring a friend, acquaintance or a relative if you think they might enjoy such a talk.



Hydrangeas a beautiful addition to any garden.

## Dahlias:

We toured Ken Redd's dahlia growing operation/canvas house and saw some very nice dahlias. Although I thought there would be more members present the five of us had a good time looking at those beauties. They come in many colors and I think Ken has most of them. We were able to tour his canvas house because he didn't have a show that he needed to get ready for. He was planning on showing last weekend at a national show I think, I hope he did well. We saw dahlias in many shapes and sizes from little pompoms to the giant formals. Some of them are solid colors and some were bicolored. There were different petal shapes some incurved like the cactus dahlias, some of them are flat like the formals and I don't have the space to do them justice. I just wish you all could have come.

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## What to plant in fall:

The big question is what do you plant in the fall? I like to say you can plant almost anything in the fall if it is hardy enough.

If the plant has been sitting in a pot in a garden center all summer you must make sure that you get the plant well established before winter sets in and the ground freezes. This means that you will need to follow a few steps that are simple and fast. First when you take the plant out of the pot you need to cut the circling roots so the plant will send out new root growth in all directions into the soil. Second you need fertilize with a the proper fertilizer that will help to establish the plant but not make the plant put on excessive growth that will be subject to winterkill and water the plant regularly.

This time of year we can plant spring flowering bulbs and corms. You can do fall divisions on hardy perennials if they haven't gone dormant already. In the vegetable garden you need to plant garlic and shallots at this time and you can do a fall seeding of onions. I would make the garden ready for early spring planting of peas and greens by working in some organic matter or manure so the natural fauna have time to break it down to the components the plants can use.

## 2016 Calendar:

Here is the calendar for the upcoming year:

|           |                    |                              |   |             |
|-----------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 3/1/2016  | Seed Starting      | presented by Ann Boyd        | at the Bluffton Public Library                                  | <b>Done</b> |
| 4/5/2016  | Bees               | not confirmed yet            | at the Bluffton Public Library                                  | <b>Done</b> |
| 5/3/2016  | Phenology          | presented by MG Bill Jones   | at the Bluffton Public Library                                  | <b>Done</b> |
| 6/7/2016  | Roses              | presented by Charles Searson | 17689 CR 65, Belle Center, OH car pool                          | <b>Done</b> |
| 7/5/2016  | Co-op Garden       | tour Ray Person              | Ray's farm  | <b>Done</b> |
| 8/2/2016  | Hypertufa          | Group project                | Victoria's farm 7896 Cool Rd                                    | <b>Done</b> |
| 8/21/2016 | Garlic Festival    | Field Trip!!!                | Jandy's farm Bellefontaine OH                                   | <b>Done</b> |
| 9/6/2016  | Dahlias            | Tour of Ken Redd's Dahlias   | Pandora, carpool from Family Dollar parking lot                 |             |
| 10/4/2016 | Hydrangeas         | presented by MG Tim Staley   | at the Bluffton Public Library                                  |             |
| 11/1/2016 | Dried Arrangements | Group project                | at the Bluffton Public Library                                  |             |
| 12/6/2016 | Fall FEAST         | Potluck                      | at the Bluffton Public Library 1 hot 1 cold, optional gift swap |             |

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