



TAG TALK

September 2020

President's Message.....Olivia Ford

Dear Avid Gardeners,

Welcome Back to a new gardening year with new projects, new ideas, and even a new seating arrangement (social distancing) with our new look (face masks)!!!

Since we are also still being very safe, we will not be serving any refreshments. Please bring your own drink if you feel you might need one.

I want to thank everyone who baked cookies for our very successful July 4th cookie sale. We made a profit of \$270. All the happy smiles as the people walked away with their baggie of cookies made it so rewarding!!

Hope to see you all at the meeting so you can learn more about all our upcoming events.

Pres. Olivia Ford

PS- Please arrive at 9:45 AM.

Birding.....Dick Phillips

Baltimore Orioles

Ask anyone what color a Baltimore Oriole is, and chances are good they'll know. Maryland has called the Baltimore Oriole its state bird since 1947, and has given it special protections since 1882 - 36 years before congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The mascot and namesake of Maryland's professional baseball team, the oriole's striking orange-and-black plumage makes it one of our most recognizable - and beloved - North American species. But there's a lot more to know about this neotropical migrant than the hue of its feathers. While male Baltimores sport the flashy colors the species is known for, females range from olive-brown on their heads to yellow-orange toward their bellies. Young Baltimore males, on the other hand, don't achieve their Halloween look until they become about a year old. From that point on, though, their orange feathers grow deeper and more distinct.

The Baltimore Oriole is a member of the New World Orioles genus *Icterus*, which includes about 30 other species. Eight of these species occupy different regions of North America, and not without some overlap. During summer, the Baltimore Oriole is widespread in states east of the Rockies, and its habitat stretches up into southern Canada. Most Baltimore Orioles spend their winters basking in sunny climes from southern Mexico to northwestern South America or on islands in the Caribbean. Some winter along the Gulf Coast and elsewhere in the southeastern United States. Every April and May, they return to their breeding grounds, where males try to assert their dominance over a 2-3 acre plot of land and wait for females to arrive.

The English naturalist Mark Catesby, who visited eastern North America for several years in the early 1700s, reported that people in Virginia and Maryland called this species "the Baltimore-Bird" because males wore orange and black - the heraldic colors of Lord Baltimore, patron of the Maryland colony. The name "Oriole" wasn't applied to these birds until later. Like many English language words, "oriole" has Latin roots. It comes from *aureolus*, Latin for "golden." The name was first applied to a completely unrelated family, the Old World Orioles, which can look similar. (The Baltimore Oriole and its kin belong to the blackbird family.)

Mary Ellen and I moved from the Baltimore, MD area to HHI in 2007. In 2016, I noted a Baltimore Oriole coming to a hummingbird feeder hanging just outside our family room windows. What I noted was the bird would go to each of the 4 feeding ports of the feeder, but because each feeder had a "bee guard" to keep bees out, the Orioles' beak was too large to fit thru the bee guard. I tried taking the guard off one of the ports, and it easily came off. I noticed when the Oriole came back to the feeder, he found the port without the bee guard, and he has been coming back every year since, arriving in September and heading north in April. It has been great to become "friends" with this Oriole, and we look forward to seeing each other each Fall!



Horticulture.....Ann Clayton, Rosemary Kratz

PLANT OF THE MONTH - HIBISCUS MUTABILIS - CONFEDERATE ROSE

This wonderful plant grows into a large shrub or multi-stemmed tree. A native of Southern China, it definitely has a liking for the U.S southlands. Oh no - does this sound familiar - COVID-19) !!! Just joking. It is not a rose but a member of the hibiscus family. Drops its leaves in Winter, and becomes inconspicuous in the garden, until Spring when its large lobed leaves come out into a bushy mass. When in bloom in the FALL the flowers open pure white and change color over a 3 day period until they are pale pink, deep pink and then as they die assume a dark "blue-pink" hue. You can have 3 different colored blooms all at the same time. This bush takes care of itself, is drought tolerant and likes sun to partial shade. What a true delight, Remember a plant put in the right place (PH level in the soil, drainage, light) saves work and money.



Time for all tall, bushy **perennials** to be cut back, leaving gaps in your garden landscaping. Fill in with cooler tolerant annuals such as pansies, marigolds, mums etc. Plenty to choose from at the local nurseries. Trees and shrubs planted in October/early November will bear next summer's weather better - allowing for good root growth. **Joe Pye Weed** is a great native plant to add to your garden. If the tall Joe Pye Weed (8 feet) is too much to consider, the baby Jo Pye Weed is no more than 3 feet tall or wide. Look on line for this plant.

If your **foliage plants** have spent summer on the porch outdoors start to think of getting them ready to come inside. Heat is especially hard on container plantings. Consider the possibilities of insect infestation; spray with a horticultural preparation. If the soil has sunk several inches below the pot rim, the roots are confined. Tap out the root ball, shake off old loose soil and add fresh potting soil to the bottom of the pot to raise to an inch within the rim. Prune foliage vigorously. Add slow release fertilizer to container. Bring in when weather dictates. Now is the time to begin fertilizing for Fall. You want this work done 6 - 8 weeks before a possible frost ?? usually around mid to end of November.

Continued on the following page

Horticulture... continued

A Time to get **roses** ready for their fall finale. Fertilize roses with granular rose food or fish emulsion. Prune lightly and water weekly.



Cannas will continue to multiply and can stay in the same place for 3 years. After foliage dies down, cut to the ground. **Sasanqua camellias** - spray as needed but do not trim the branches; buds are now set to flower late November, early December. They are acidic, give them a fertilizer especially for acid loving plants (30-10-10)

For our new members, you may not know we have a wonderful Standard Judged Flower Show approximately every 3 [years](#). [Next](#) year it will be in April. More on this at our next meeting. Consider where and what you might want to enter into the Show. We do have Floral arranging exhibits, tables with decorative units and vignettes, educational exhibits and a Horticultural section, to name a few. One of your prized flowers or plants is all it takes. However, whatever plant it may be it must be in your possession for 90 days before the Show. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding.

HAPPY GARDENING AND STAY SAFE

Here's an article by Lisa Boone, a writer for The Los Angeles Times, "*The Best Houseplant for your Zodiac Sign.*"

<https://news.yahoo.com/best-houseplant-zodiac-sign-191321114.html>

Submitted by
Sandy Stern



Thanks to the efforts of the Elementary school committee (Sandy Stern, Ann Clayton, Debbie Zelewski and Nadine Korosi), the Avid Gardeners received a First Place Award- Certificate of Commendation for Youth Horticulture Education from the ***National Garden Club. A very prestigious award!!!***

The accompanying documents state that they received a total of 100 points - the highest they could have gotten.

CONGRATULATIONS

Here it is... our fall fundraiser. Print this page and submit it to Louise with your payment as soon as possible.

The Avid Gardeners

2020

AMARYLLIS FUNDRAISER

High Quality Dutch Bulbs Delivered in Time for the Holidays

Gift Boxes - \$20/ea.

Each box contains one 30/32 cm bulb, a plastic pot, lid, saucer, potting medium & instructions.



White/Red Striped



White



Red

Paperwhite Ziva Gift Boxes - \$11/ea.

Contains 4 Ziva bulbs (16/17 cm), a plastic pot, soil, marble ships & instructions. Store at 50-60 deg. F in dark, dry spot till you give away.



Individual Bulbs - \$15/each — *These quality bulbs are 30/32 cm unless noted.*



Hercules
Merlot-burgandy base & a cream eye.



Naranja
Best orange accented by even deeper, lustrous throat.



Ambiance
Ivory w/russet-red stripes, green throat & white anthers.



Monaco
Lipstick-red w/lime-green to white starburst & white anthers.



Santiago
(24 cm) Trumpet. Raspberry red with white starburst & hazy green throat.



Rosalie
Salmon-orange flushed watermelon w/white highlights.

Order Form 2020

Name & Address: _____
Phone & Email: _____

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Send your order with check (made out to TAG) to:
The Avid Gardeners, 5 Hermit Crab Ct., HHI 29926
Questions: Call Louise Gorny 843-681-5187
Email: gorny.louise@gmail.com

Order By: October 21
Delivery By: November 13

Healthy Eating.....Anna Broecker

PEAR FARRO SALAD

- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts toasted
- 2 teaspoons pure maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons dijon mustard
- 6 cups fresh baby spinach
- 3 cups chilled cooked farro (I used cooked pkg mix of farro with butternut squash and kale "Alessi brand" from Harris Teeter)
- 2 fresh pears, cored and chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion

For dressing, blend first 5 ingredients

In a large bowl toss together spinach, farro mixture, pears and onion.

Drizzle with the dressing, toss to coat

Optional: Can add 1/2 cup sliced canned beets if desired



REMINDER

November's Field trip has been **cancelled**.

The meeting date will be moved to Friday, the 20th.

Program will be Nature's Kaleidoscope with questions, answers, demonstrations for the upcoming flower show.



Volunteers Needed

- Plant-It-Pink needs one volunteer for watering the garden one day a week. Contact Sharon Jaunsem jaunsem@gmail.com
- Hospitality needs one volunteer to assist Helen Rizzo. Contact Helen at helrizzo7@gmail.com



Next meeting October 16
Spring Lake Pavilion
9:30 am

The guest speaker will be Sean Dennis from Wild Birds Unlimited. He will cover the basics creating a song-bird friendly backyard through the use of native plants, bird feeders, water sources and nesting boxes.



Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the second Sunday of the month.

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