



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 4 Issue 6
December 2020



2021 CALENDAR

April 24 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	Location and program TBA
May 22 <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS PLANT AUCTION
June 26 <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS GARDEN TOURS* Volunteers for open gardens needed Meeting & Picnic at a public Garden*
July 24 <i>Saturday</i>	Hosta Swap and Picnic <i>Location TBA</i>
August 14 <i>Saturday</i>	Craft - <i>Location TBA</i>
September	No planned Activity
October 30 <i>Saturday</i>	Annual Meeting <i>Pot Luck Club House at Pine Lakes</i>
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

Tentative Schedule based on health notices, venue availability, etc. Please watch your emails and newsletters and periodically check the website that Mary Bibby works hard to keep up-to-date for all of us.

President's letter

Hi Hosta friends,

I hope everyone has been healthy since we last met. It seems there may be a ray of light through this Covid 19 episode.

With hopes that the vaccine will get things under control, we have decided to "re-do" last year's calendar for this year. We will have our first meeting on April 24, hopefully at a library. May 22 will be our auction. June 26 will be our garden tours. July 24 will be our hosta swap. August 14 will be a craft. October 30 will be our annual memorial meeting. All of these dates are subject to change and places are to be announced, so watch our website, emails and newsletters carefully, as we have learned, things could change in the blink of an eye!

Have a wonderful, safe, healthy holiday season. Miss you all,



Barb Rauckhorst
President, NCHS

Through the gloomy days of winter on the north coast, we look for plants and color in the house. This is particularly true after the lights and special decorations from the holidays are packed away for another year and even more this year when we all need cheer. We have enjoyed a small collection of **African violets** in a south-facing window that reward us with just that. They come in many variations of color, flower shape and even leaf color. I believe there are some members who have more extensive collections. Maybe they will share some with us after seeing this attempt? Here is some basic info from The Old Farmers Almanac.



African violets will bloom with lower light, but medium to bright indirect light is best. They can be a bit fussy, so check out more tips on how to make sure your African violets bloom.

HOW TO PLANT AFRICAN VIOLETS

- You can use an actual African violet potting mix or an all-purpose potting soil, as long as it is well-draining.
- Keep African violets planted in small pots and re-pot once a year to mix in fresh soil.
- The soil should be loose and well-drained, and high organic matter content is beneficial.



HOW TO CARE FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

- Keep the soil lightly moist and use room temperature water.
- Leaves are susceptible to rot if kept in high humidity, so water African violets from the bottom to avoid getting excess water on the leaves.
- Dust dirt off the leaves with a small, soft brush.
- Fertilize every 2 weeks with a high phosphorous plant food, but only during the active growing season (spring and summer). Only start to fertilize when the plant appears to need an extra boost. Over-fertilizing is a more common problem than under-fertilizing.
- Many varieties prefer warm conditions (65°F / 18°C or warmer) though some can tolerate cooler conditions. Keep away from drafty windows in winter.

- Thin, dark green leaves and leggy stems tell you that the plant is getting too little light; light green or bleached leaves indicate too much light.
- Plants should be shifted to larger pots as they grow, but keeping African violets slightly root-bound can encourage them to bloom. The optimal time for repotting is after some leaves have wilted a bit.



PESTS & DISEASES

- Cyclamen mites can occur. They are nearly impossible to remove completely, so disposal of the infected plant and isolation of nearby plants is recommended.
- Powdery Mildew
- Various forms of rot and blight

For more information on African violets, visit the website for the African Violet Society of America at www.avsa.org.



See the next page for more plants for winter cheer.

Holiday Cactus

By Jane Wilson

Reprinted from “Hosta Addiction”
Newsletter of Hostas of Kentuckiana November 2020

I am not a big fan of the gray days of winter. It is important for me to have color and something blooming in the house every day during the winter. While I was still in college, my mother gave me a start of a Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*). It grew large until one day my Cocker Spaniel knocked it over and broke most of it. Later, in 1994 when I moved to Kentucky in the dead of winter, I brought the plant with me. I still have the plant all these years later. About this time every year, or at least the years that a virus did not keep me from entering a store, about October I have seen “Christmas Cactuses” for sale in stores from the big box stores to grocery stores to gardening catalogs. Sadly, again the horticultural industry is doing the public a disservice. Usually the plants that you will be seeing are Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*). Both of these plants require similar care. Around Easter you may see Easter cactus (*Hatiora gaertneri*), which in my experience is fussier, too much so to be addressed here. The following chart will help you identify the three types of holiday cactus.



From World of Succulents: Is it a Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter Cactus? <https://worldofsucculents.com/thanksgiving-christmas-easter-cactus/>

'Peach Fantasy'



One of Janet Wilson's Thanksgiving cactus

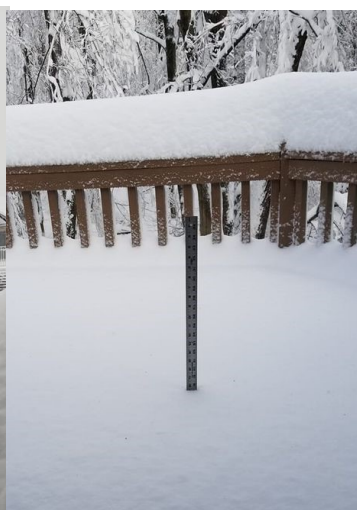
The Thanksgiving and Christmas cactuses are epiphyte, meaning they grow on the surface of another plant and derive their moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, water, and debris accumulating around them. For that reason, when I plant my Thanksgiving or Christmas cactuses, I use a mixture of succulent soil and orchid pine bark fines. I use a ratio of about 25% of the fines. I have always grown all of my holiday

cactus in terra cotta pots. I have read that many gardeners grow theirs in plastic pots to keep the plants from drying out. Terra cotta dries much faster. I prefer a faster drying pot, and I just keep an eye on the moisture in the soil. Once the temperatures start to stay no lower than 45 degrees, I put my holiday cactuses on a south facing front porch on the east side. They receive morning light and afternoon shade. I leave my plants out until the temperature dips to 45 degrees in the fall. The shortening of the day is what causes the plants to bloom. Some people swear by putting their plants in complete darkness for most of the day, and bringing them out for a few hours. I don't have time for that nonsense. I have always had wonderful abundant bloom by just leaving them out until the night temperatures drop to 45 degrees. In the summer I use a teaspoon of Epsom salt in a gallon of water and use this to water my plants every other watering. The other watering, I use a diluted solution of bloom-boosting fertilizer. We use a brand called Peters. I also mix up a spray bottle of kelp and spray any plant that does not move while they are outside. That's about it. I bought my two named varieties from Logee's in Connecticut. They are a wonderful place to buy plants. The other no-named plants I grow came from Aldi's and Costco. I always keep some starts growing around to give as gifts at the holidays.

Just in case we need a reminder of the season...Member pictures from the big snowfall on December 1, 2020.



Christine Pappas
Chagrin Falls, Ohio



Sue and David Mills
Chesterland, Ohio



Lori Roach , Chagrin Falls, Ohio



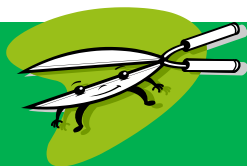
David Bibby getting his
Christmas tree in 16+ inches
at a tree farm in Mantua, OH



Morning and
evening snow
laden Japanese
maple

Ed and Cindy
Hughes,
Mentor, Ohio





GARDEN GOSSIP:

BY CINDY HUGHES

We all missed very much getting together this year. The few events we did hold outside were sparsely attended out of concern for Covid-19 spread. With the promise of the vaccine, opening of venues and less restrictions, we have set a tentative schedule. As we look forward to a more normal year, when spring comes, and you think about dividing, remember to set aside some for the Auction and the swap! Also with the spare time many have had this year, our gardens have never looked better. Please think about volunteering your garden for the garden tour. And maybe buy a cookbook for a different Christmas present??

The North Coast Hosta Society Officer and Board of Directors wish you all safe and happy holidays.

Club Co-Op Supplies

As in previous years, we are again offering our members Co-Op items. We have the following items available:

Liquid Fence

Plant Markers

Garden Gloves in small, medium, large and XL

Handbook on Troughs

Please call Carl Schmid at 330-264-8815 to pre-order these items to be brought to the next meeting. No individual deliveries.

Membership in NCHS gives the following benefits:

- * Members Only prices on Club "special purchase hosta"
- * Great prices on our "Hoop House" plants.
- * Member prices on slug bait, fertilizer, deer repellent, etc.
- * Preferential registration and reduced registration fee for Hosta College
- * The club provides meat and beverages at all of our "Potluck" picnics and meetings.
- * The opportunity to learn and share information about hosta culture.
- * Developing friendships with other people who love hostas .

2021 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

Family Membership \$10.00 for one year - Calendar year Jan 1 - Dec 31

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

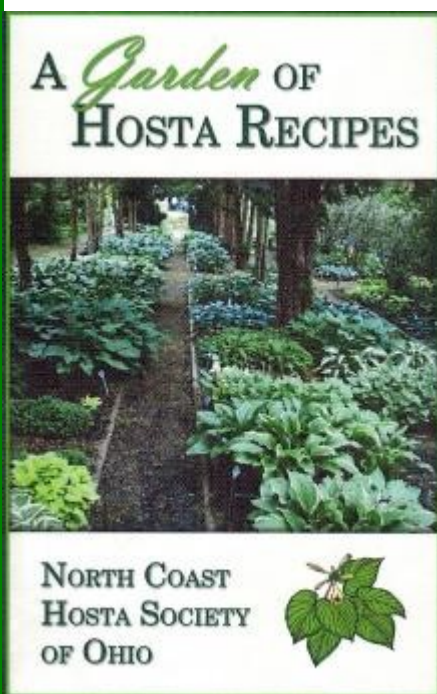
PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

For members of record in 2020, dues payments have been rolled over to 2021.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ () Renewal () New () 1 year () 2 year

Please list names as you wish on your card: _____



Invite Other Plant Lovers to Join the Club

Check out our Website (northcoasthostasociety.weebly.com)
and Facebook page (North Coast Hosta Society).

INVITE A FRIEND



H. 'Winter Snow'



H. 'Korean Snow'

H. 'Lakeside April Snow'



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