



**Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 5 Issue 2
April 2021**



2021 CALENDAR

April 24 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	CANCELLED
May 22 <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS PLANT AUCTION <i>Location TBA</i>
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.

Happy April....

While we are not able to get together in person this month, many of you responded to my request for a note about your "favorite" hosta. This has been a fun way to learn a little about our members and to learn about the hostas that YOU like.

I agree with those of you who say they can't choose just one and sympathize with those who see hosta we have not seen before and "just have to have!"

President, Barb Rauckhorst has provided a summary of the recent virtual Hosta College, which was enjoyable and well-received. Also included is an article by Don Rawson that covers the humongous hosta he spoke about. Links to the Q & A Session are in the articles and are open **until April 15.**

As it is April on the north coast, listed below is a link I copied regarding frost protection. (No guarantee it works!)

'How do you protect from late frost?' There is an excellent article by Gail Russo in the AHS e-newsletter. The article is in two parts: Spring Frost Damage to Hostas, Questions & Answers: A Guide with Solutions, <http://americanhostasociety.org/Publications/eNewsletter/january2021/january2021.pdf> Preventing Frost Damage to Hostas: Protection Coverings, <http://americanhostasociety.org/Publications/eNewsletter/april2021/april2021.pdf>

I hope all are well and that we will soon be able to see each other in hostatality very, very soon.

Cindy Hughes, Newsletter Editor
editor

Meet Members and their favorite hostas

Mary Bibby, Hartville, OH

This is one of my favorites because it is a much better grower than I expected. I am so happy that it is happy and puts on a great show since it is one of the few that can be seen by the road. The leaves are large, dark, shiny and the flowers are prominent, sturdy and beautiful. The leaves are well shaped and stay lovely all summer.

It does all this despite the fact that it is one of the few hostas that I stumble with remembering the name. I will not proceed in my walk until I do remember it.



H. 'Moonlight Sonata' ML Height: 26" Width 55"

Blue-green, shiny, bit rippled margin, corrugated, slight cup, has a haze over leaves, mod ovate, distinct tip. Near white large, fragrant flower in July-August.

Mary couldn't choose just one...



This is a favorite because it is symmetrical in its growth habit, making a nice mounded shape. The chartreuse leaves are eye catching and it is a bright welcome to visitors since this location does get some morning sun. It is very forgiving of being on the corner getting occasional foot traffic, unruly garden hoses, and squirrel chases in the gardens.

H. 'August Moon' ML: Height 22" Width 43"

Chartreuse>yellow, lutescent, corrugated, round, cupped, slight ripple edge. Can tolerate sun. Lavender flowers July-August.

Karen Keary, Secret Gardens Hostas, Chagrin Falls

My favorite hosta for the moment (since there are so many) is **H. 'Touch of Class'** for its beautiful blue color and classy thick leaves. It reminds me of a gentleman in a tux. I just love it



SM: Height 14" Width 20"

Chartreuse-yellow center, very wide blue-green edge, medio, thick, glaucous top and bottom, cordate.

Pale lavender striped bell flower July-August.



Sally Knurek, Fairview Park, OH

Love **H. 'Rainbows End'**. Its leaves are interesting and beautiful and the flowers are stunning. Altogether, it is a condensed jewel which invites further inspection and appreciation.

S: Height 11" Width 21"

Yellow-creamy white with edge shades of medium and dark green, flat, elliptical, rounded base.

Pale lavender flower with darker lavender center July-September



Barb Kachmarik, North Royalton, OH

I don't know how any hosta lover could possibly pick just one favorite.

I have two favorites: **H. 'Krossa Regal'** and **H. 'June'**. I like **'Krossa Regal'** because of the vase like shape and it is a reliable hosta in my gardens. It is tall and makes a beautiful backdrop for other hostas.



ML: Height 33– 36" Width 71"

Gray green>dark green, thick, ovate, wavy edge, shiny small distinct tip, thick bloom

Lavender funnel shape flower in July-August up to 7' scapes.

Barb couldn't choose just one either...

I love the coloration in **'H. June'** and **'June'** is a sturdy hosta with a beautiful shape. I guess I should include **H. 'Halcyon'** as a favorite (**'June'** is a sport of **'Halcyon'**). All three of these hostas mound nicely and come back reliably every year. Also, all three of these hostas seem to remain beautiful well into the



fall. They are usually the last ones I cut down for winter.

pale green-yellow, irregular blue-green edge, medio to center. Lutescent thick, ovate Pale lavender flared flower July-August.



M: Height 18" Width 39"

Blue, thick, a bit wavy, heart shaped, prominent veins Pale lavender flowers on 28" scapes July-August.

Diane Morris, Westlake, OH

(Diane is one of our reps to Great Lakes Region Hosta Society and Hosta College)

My favorite hosta is always the one I don't have !!!



But In all seriousness I would have to say the tried and true **H. 'Sum and Substance'** is my pick. It does not disappoint. Year after year I'm in awe of it's massive leaves. Although I've split mine 4 times, after 20 years you can imagine it's impressive size. It's a true show stopper. It was my first (hosta) and remains my favorite.

XL: Height 35" Width 39" Pale green>golden yellow, lutescent, thick. Wavy, glossy, corrugated, cordate Pale lavender flower on scape that droop, July-August

Cont'd on page 7

2021 HOSTA COLLEGE REVIEW

First off, I must give the Hosta College representatives that worked to bring back Hosta College, a big “virtual” round of applause. They did a wonderful job getting all the details to work together and create a really good experience with very few glitches. The five and a half hours went by so quickly. There was so much information to take in, and great pictures that made my plant wish list exponentially longer!

Broch Martindale gave a talk titled *New Perennials*. My “must haves” from this talk are Salvia



Salvia 'Back to the Fuchsia'
Photo from Walters Garden

bush clematis called ‘Rain Dance’. Nepeta ‘Blue Prelude’ which is a good pollinator plant and stands 3’ tall. Lavender ‘Sensational’ which has large, thick flowers a dense growing habit and good cold tolerance. And finally, ‘Night Embers’ Sedum which is tall, yet won’t flop, and has dark colored foliage and flowers which is a great color contrast to most gardens.

His notes from the presentation should be on the Hosta College website soon. (400 people listened to this presentation.)

Bob Solberg gave a presentation titled *Underappreciated Hostas*. (overrated, underrated or properly rated). I learned a few things I hadn’t known about Bob previous to this talk. He is not a fan of streaked hostas. He concentrates on hybridizing solid-colored hostas. He is not overly fond of variegated hostas. He mentioned a number of hosta that he considers rightfully rated as “weird”, *H.* ‘Praying Hands’, *H.* ‘Stitch in Time’, *H.* ‘Foxfire Palm Sunday’, *H.* ‘Whee’, and *H.* ‘Road Rage’, for example. I would have used the word interesting to describe these!

Bob believes that the hostas June, Blue Mouse Ears, Sum and Substance, Empress Wu and Fire and Ice, are all over appreciated. And that hostas Jet Stream, Parthenon, Picasso, Twist Tie and Wonderful, are some of the hostas he considers under appreciated.

He believes hosta flowers to be underrated and showed some amazing photos of some of the work that is being done to improve hosta flowers.

He ended by stating that Hosta College is “Rightly and Properly” rated, awesome! (There were 415 people that listened to his presentation that day.)

Rob Mortko’s presentation was titled *Where do all the new Hostas come from?* The very detailed Power Point presentation was all about tissue culturing of hosta. This is a fascinating science to me, although it isn’t something I think I could accomplish, especially if I had a failure. It seems to be a lot of work.

Rob talked about how many hostas can be produced from one tiny bud, the numbers are nearly impossible to reproduce by using natural plant growth and division. It would take many, many years to get that many plants naturally.

He showed the dormant bud that needs to be taken from the parent plant and how to prepare that bud in order to get started with tissue culturing. Then he talked about the chemicals used to nourish the buds and to get them to grow leaves and then roots. He showed one of his failures where the growth of bacteria took over. There were a few beakers full of bacteria, each beaker had a different kind of bacteria and each was a different color.

He talked about some of the plants that have not done well in tissue culture. (423 people listened to his presentation.)

Bob Iames gave a nice slide show presentation titled *Hostas and their shady friends*. The plant list for the plants he spoke about and a list of questions and answers can be found by using this link: <https://www.hostacollege.com/audience-questions-answers> then go to Bob Iames, click on plant list and/or Q&A. (411 people listened to his talk.)

Hosta College was very different this year, but like many things during this pandemic, we made the best of what we had to work with. All who helped make this possible should be very proud of the event you put together. **Thank you.**

Barb Rauckhorst



Sedum 'Night Embers'
Photo from Bluestone Perennials

The Bigger, the Better: Growing Humongous Hostas

by Don Rawson

Gigantic hostas make tremendous focal points in the garden, whether planted alone as individual specimens or when planted in mass to cover a large area. These impressive monarchs have an allure and beauty all their own which readily attracts our attention whenever we meander through a shady glade. However, humongous clumps of mature hostas seldom are the work of happenstance...they are the product of a gardener's prudent planning, hard work, and persistent care.

As hostas mature, they get larger and larger as long as they are blessed with ideal growing conditions. In this four-part series, I will offer 12 tips on how to provide the perfect environment for cultivating enormous specimens in your own hosta glade. I invite you to join me on a quest to grow some absolutely enormous hostas!

Tip #1: Select the Best Location

Choosing the right site is the first step to growing these monsters to their full potential. Hostas grow best in an area that offers morning sun and afternoon shade, but they also do well in bright, indirect sunlight as well as in locations with high, overhead dappled shade.

While we usually think of them as shade plants, hostas are not shade LOVERS, they are shade TOLERANT. Take away the sunlight and NO hosta will grow. Do not select a location in deep shade. Secondly, when selecting a site to grow giant hostas, be sure to think into the future about how large they will really get to ensure they will not be crowded out by a tree or shrub. The root systems need space too, so keep that in mind when you are planting. Finally, be aware that your hostas need good air flow to grow large, healthy leaves. This may require thinning out the forest canopy which shelters your garden to provide adequate air movement.

Tip #2: Prepare the Planting Site Well

Once the location is selected, site preparation is the next crucial step, since it's unlikely you've chosen a place where the soil is already rich, loose and well-drained.

With all plants, the right soil is the first and most important thing for them to grow well. To grow humongous hostas in particular, you will need to start with the very best soil you can possibly have. Fluffy, deep, rich soil full of nutrients will help your plants achieve their full potential. The better the soil, the healthier the root system, and the healthier the root system, the bigger and better your plant will be.



Don Rawson digging *H. 'Royal Empress'* by Pam Rawson

There is a saying, "No pain, no gain", and that certainly is true in light of the hard work required to create a new garden. As a labor of love, preparing the planting area involves some grunt work, but it's well worth the effort. Your preliminary exertion will reward you well in the end.

About 8" of rich, humusy topsoil is adequate, but 12" is better and even more is ideal.

Whereas a shallow layer of topsoil may allow small hostas to survive, very large hostas have much more extensive root systems and require a larger preparation.

Hostas have lots of delicate little feeder roots that spread out, so they do not like hard, compact soil. Organic amendments improve soil texture, add nutrients, and increase aeration, water infiltration, and both water and nutrient holding capacity. Heavy clay soils especially need a lot of organic matter to loosen the soil particles, and very sandy soils also benefit from the addition of organic matter to retain moisture.

My favorite amendment for hostas is composted manure. Fresh manure can harm plants due to elevated ammonia levels. To avoid this problem, use only aged or composted manure which has been piled for at least six months.

Other good soil amendments include compost, peat moss, leaf mold, shredded bark, and grass clippings. The goal is to provide a better environment for roots. To do its work, an amendment must be thoroughly mixed into the soil, not simply buried at the bottom of the hole. And don't skimp...incorporate a generous amount. With improved aeration and deeper rooting, plants are more efficient in capturing rain and absorbing the necessary moisture they need to grow.

Humongous Hostas *Continued*

While I will discuss fertilizing your hostas later, let me say at this point that it is good to mix in some powdered rock phosphate and Epsom salt. Other amendments sometimes recommended for preparing a hosta bed include green sand (for trace minerals), cottonseed meal, and alfalfa meal. Hostas are not too fussy about the pH, but grow best when the soil pH level is at 5.8 - 6.5. To know exactly what type of soil you have, you will need to test it.

Tip #3: Plant on a Raised Mound

Now I'm going to share with you a clever technique that I use throughout my landscape. Have you ever noticed how much larger something appears simply because it's on a raised platform? I admit that this tip isn't actually about how to make your hosta larger, but it nevertheless has a similar effect to those who view it. Planting a hosta on a raised mound will make it *look* bigger, and the bigger that it appears to be, the more impressive it is!

Like placing a hosta on a pedestal, a hosta which is on an 8" raised mound will be 8" taller, so a huge hosta which may normally be 36" high now becomes 44" high. And to make the mound inconspicuous, position an assortment of smaller companion plants in the foreground. Just remember that when making a new bed (which includes the liberal addition of organic matter), some settling will occur, so an 8" mound may very well end up being 4 - 6" high once that occurs. Therefore, on new beds, begin with a mound which is 12" high or more. Once your humongous hosta is fully leafed out and the smaller companion plants are disguising the raised bed, no one will be the wiser. I promise!

In the **next edition**, I will share three more tips on growing humongous hostas, because if you are like me, the bigger, the better!

Reprinted from Michigan Hosta Society Hosta Happenings Dec 2020

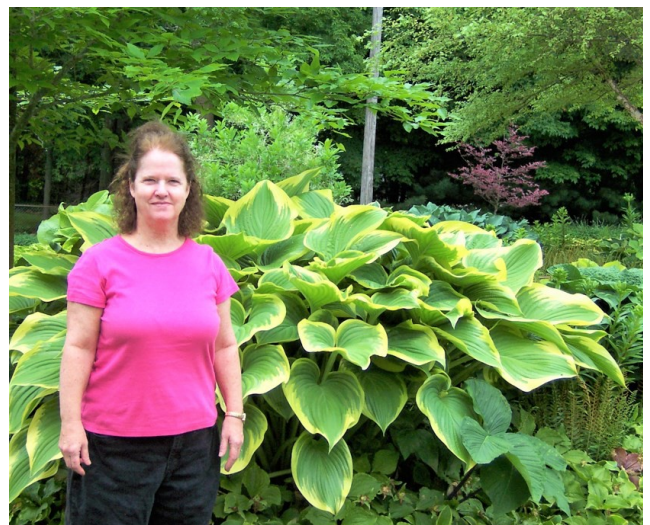


H. 'Sum and Substance' with Van Wade pic by Don Rawson

To see Don Rawson's answers to gardeners' questions about growing humongous hostas, refer to this link to the Hosta College question and answer period:

<https://www.hostacollege.com/audience-questions-answers>

H. 'Victory' with Pam Rawson pic by Don Rawson



Andy and Denise Mullins, Norton, OH

Andy's vote is for '**June**'. He always immediately zooms over to this one whenever we're in a nursery. He loves everything about this one. (*Andy is one of three gentlemen who chose 'June'.*)

I'd cast my vote for **H. 'Guacamole'** because I love the vibrant green, large foliage and the sweet fragrance. I'm also a sucker for **H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'**, because I love the substance and twist of the leaves and the compact flowers.



M: Height 24" Width 53"

Chartreuse>yellow gold(dark green edge) streak to center, very shiny folded, wavy; fragrant, near white 3" wide tube flowers July-August



S: Height 8" Width 20"

Blue-green, thick, deeply cupped, round Pale lavender striped bell flowers July

Chris Pappas, Chagrin Falls, OH

I feel disloyal, like picking a favorite child. I pick **H. 'Victory'**. Bold leaves, good substance, stable pattern, slug resistance, scapes tall as my head.

Dragonflies always rest on mine!



VL: Height 30" Width 71"

Green (chartreuse>creamy yellow edge), thick, smooth, very shiny, broad ovate, cordate; near white tube flower July-August

Lori Roach, Chagrin Falls, OH

Congratulations to Lori who posted this honor on Facebook

What an incredible honor to have my garden (and my photo) on the cover of this ebook! Looks wonderful.

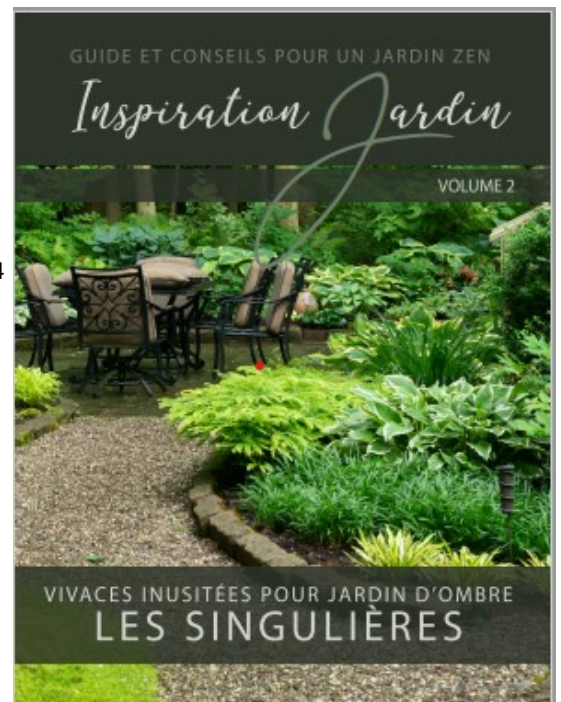
"**Jennifer Létourneau** MhitaSrpdonfc-shm 2m7d nnansot gl2:4uar8 fPfiEdgMo · I'm crazy with joy! Been working on this for 4 years. let me introduce you half, volume 1 is not quite finished. Thank you to Mona Larochelle- Le Jardin Baroque —mona larochelle Karl Gercens **Lori Court Roach** Nancy Juneau Doucet Jardin Nancy Juneau & Pierrot Doucet Pascal Vigot Pierre Morrisette"

My favorite hosta is **H. 'Prima Donna'**. I like it because it is huge and graceful and not too common.



L: Height 21" Width 56"
Dark green with yellow-gold, slightly rippled margin
Light lavender flower July-August

Baby Prima Donna in Hughes garden



This is the third vote for 'June' and the other gentleman who loves "her". One question that came up was, "what are hostas: male, female or it? I say it depends...How about you?"

Dale Rothenberger, Cleveland Heights, OH

My favorite Hosta is '**June**'. She is simply beautiful, hearty and long lasting. Nothing flashy here, just beautiful. I bought her at Kuk's Forest in Brecksville in the late 1990s, when Joyce and I were on a bus trip with the Michigan Hosta Society to the Cleveland area. It was love-at-first-sight. I have divided her many times and she comes through for me each time.



Virginia Schmidt, Twinsburg, OH



My current favorite hosta is *H. 'Curly Fries'*. I have two in containers, and people always ask about the cute plant with the wavy leaves. I love the size—not too big, not too small—and they are doing great in the containers.

The name has a personal meaning for me. My husband worked for the Idaho Potato Commission for 18 years, therefore fries and all things potato have been a big part of our lives!

I really enjoyed Hosta College!

S: Height 11" Width 20"

Greenish-yellow, highly ruffled, narrow leaf on purple-red petiole. Lavender flower on purple scape July-August.

Ed Hughes, Mentor OH

One of my favorites is *H. 'Dress Blues'*. It reminds me of my first date with Cindy. I was stationed in Albuquerque NM and our date was a base function that required my Army dress blue uniform. *H. 'Oh Cindy'* is also in our garden.

ML: Height 24" Width 25"

Blue-green with gold to creamy white edge, spear shape. Lavender flowers in August



M: Height 24" Width 48"

Dark green with yellow > creamy white edge, thick, rippled.

Cindy Hughes We don't have an Ed and, unfortunately, the *Hosta* 'Michael' we had for our son didn't survive the winter of 2019. We do have *H. 'Anne'* and *H. 'Megan's Angel'* for our daughter and one of our granddaughters.



L—NR

Dark green, broad yellow edge
Mauve/lilac to white flower July-August.

L: Height 22" Width 55"

Dark green, pale yellow 1" wavy margin, twisted tip
Pale lavender flower July.



Another member who could not choose just one!

Susan Weaver, North Canton, OH

Well what a year. My favorite hosta? That is a good question. My first would be *H. 'Stitch in Time'*, then *H. 'Star Dust'* and *H. Liberty*. They all have beautiful colors, texture and puckering.

Can't wait to see everyone again.



SM: Height 8" Width 20"

Irregular dark green center, wide golden yellow, slightly rippled margin, Light wavy & shiny. Pale lavender flower June-July.



L-VL Height 28" Width 48"

Yellow gold, slightly rippled & shiny. Near white bell flower July.

L: Height 22" Width 55"

Dark Green with pale yellow >creamy white 1" margin, twisted tip, slight ripple
Pale lavender flower July.



Marianne Woodside, Doylestown, OH

My favorite hosta is *H. 'Guardian Angel'*.

I love the color. The blue outer edges and the ivory center. The texture and the edges are certainly distinctive.

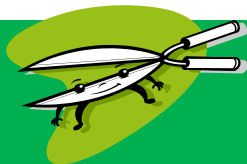
But I think the real reason that I like this hosta is the name. When I turned 60, my siblings gave me 60 hostas. Well, they didn't actually give me the plants, but gave me money. (They really had no idea how many varieties there were; they were concerned I couldn't find 60, and they actually have no idea how much money you can spend on a hosta plant).



At that time my husband had been diagnosed with incurable cancer. But, he wanted me to get my plants and make my "Birthday Garden". He specifically wanted 'Guardian Angel' so that he would always be with me and be there to guard me. I have since divided that plant and, when a special friend of mine loses their husband, I give them part of my plant so that their husband can guard them as well.

L: Height 24 Width 36-59"

Light green with intense heavily rippled blue-green margin. Center emerges white in spring—viridescent in early summer. Many near white tubular flowers June and July.



GARDEN GOSSIP:

BY CINDY HUGHES

We are sorry to pass along the following obituary for Shirley J. Wade, Our condolences to the Wade family.

Bellville - Moving to Bellville in 1946, Shirley J. Wade, loving wife, mom and grandma passed away Friday, January 22, 2021 at Crystal Care Center of Mansfield after several years of dealing with Alzheimer's and due to complications from COVID-19. She enjoyed life for 91 years.

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:

- * Member prices on 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 .

And Much, much more!

2021 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

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

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

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

FOR SALE GOOD EATS

A Garden OF HOSTA RECIPES



NORTH COAST
HOSTA SOCIETY
OF OHIO



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



Hosta 'Easter Sunday' - unregistered

FIRST CLASS



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