



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 5 Issue 4
October 2021



2021 CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING

Bob Kuk - Jon Soucek
Memorial Dinner

NORTH COAST
HOSTA SOCIETY of OHIO
Saturday, October 23, 2021
11:00 AM

The Club House of Pine Lakes
10949 Woodrun Dr.,
Strongsville, Ohio.
Dinner will be fully catered

RESERVATIONS ARE
REQUIRED

Please call or email Joyce at
440-846-2634 or
jlsjjs@att.net
By October 15

President's letter

Hello Hosta friends. Autumn has arrived; soon it will be time to get our hosta beds ready for winter. Each time you go out to work in the garden, please take a little time to stand still and watch the area you will be working in for yellowjacket activity. They seem to be in overabundance this year. They are mostly ground nesting insects. They also like to build nests in potted plants. If you find a nest, it is probably best to hire an exterminator. In the past, I have gone out after dark and used a duster filled with Sevin to spray directly into the hole and run like the devil directly into the house. I still saw activity the following day, so I waited until after dark and sprayed more. There was no activity after that. Phew! Be careful. Yellowjackets will also attack at night if their nest is disturbed.



Our Jon Soucek, Bob Kuk Memorial meeting will be held on Saturday, October 23 at 11am at the Pine Lakes Clubhouse, 10949 Woodrun Dr., Strongsville, Ohio. This will be a catered event. Please RSVP to Joyce Spuhler (440-846-2634) by October 15th. There will be a presentation by David Bibby featuring the drone pictures he took at the garden tours this summer. Marilyn Ruff will bring miniature hostas to sell if they are in decent shape at that time of year. We will discuss next years calendar of events and would like your input, so bring your suggestions for club events and/or crafts. Hope to see you there.

-Barb Rauckhorst

I am always looking for new information about hosta to present to the members. I thought this article reprinted from the Delaware Valley Hosta Society from this summer about Hostas with Watermarks was interesting and new to most of us.

Hostas With Watermarks



H. 'Tattoo'. Tony Avent 1998. Photo: Kathy Miller

It probably wasn't hostas that the staff at Merriam-Webster were thinking about when they created their definition of "watermark". It is "a marking in paper resulting from differences in thickness usually produced by pressure of a projecting design in the mold or on a processing roll and visible when the paper is held up to the light".

Nevertheless the term is often applied to a certain type of hosta leaf variegation. For some cultivars it doesn't always show up on every leaf and for others it comes and goes throughout the season.

Donald Rawson, author of the web page "The Hosta Lists", gives us a list of watermarked hostas. Many are pictured here. Perhaps the most well-known watermarked hosta is *H. 'Tattoo'* (above) with its "maple leaf" mark. Marilyn Romenesko's perfectly marked plant is by far the most photographed watermarked hosta in the Delaware Valley, having won many awards.



H. 'Moonlight'. Pauline Banyai 1977. Photo: Kathy Miller

H. 'Aurora's Glow'
E. McHugh
2012

Photo: EdMcHugh
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Gentlemen Prefer Blonds'
Alex Malloy
NR

Photo: Carol Brashear
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Xanadu Dlanor'
Brian Skaggs
NR

Photo: Brian Skaggs
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Fire Opal'
Kim Larsen
2003

Photo: Kim Larsen
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Total Eclipse'
Brian Skaggs
NR

Photo: Brian Skaggs
via The Hosta Library



The following is reprinted with permission from the East Tennessee Hosta Society "Hosta Happenings" September 2021

Companion Plant of the Month:

Spring Flowering Bulbs Mary L. Albrecht, Professor Emerita, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee Autumn is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs. They make a great companion plants to hosta. Many emerge and flower long before trees have fully leafed out. Bulbs may be purchased locally at garden centers or through various online vendors.



General guideline for planting is dig holes to about 2 to 3 times the height of the bulbs. Spacing will be dependent on the species. Another common questions is when can they be dug and replanted. Once the bulbs have finished flowering and the foliage fades, then the bulbs can be dug, divided, extras shared with friends, and replanted.

There is no need to store and replant in the fall, a common misconception. For detailed information about the various species, check out the Pacific Bulb Society's website, specifically the link to their Wiki page Photographs and Information AZ listing of bulbous plants.

The Missouri Botanical Gardens Plant Finder has very good planting and cultural information. Just search on the name of the plant your looking for information.

Here's a few that make good companions:

Narcissus:

Whether you call them narcissus, jonquils, or daffodils, there's a plethora to chose from including the dwarfs, early, mid, and late season, doubles, yellow, pinks, whites, or bicolors. Of course, you can also learn more at the American Daffodil Society's webpage. Any narcissus noted as being "good for naturalizing" may prove to be too aggressive for interplanting with hosta.



Above: 'Tete a tete' miniature daffodil.

Scilla and Chionodoxa:

There are a number of scillas or squills, but the most common one grown is *Scilla siberica*, Siberian squill. A dainty blue flower that emerges early in April. Some confuse it with grape hyacinths. The difference is really the looser inflorescence and much larger flowers. These are good for naturalizing and are low maintenance.



It is considered invasive in the northern states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Maine. And, taxonomists have now lumped the genus *Chionodoxa* () into *Scilla*. Others consider *Scilla* a synonym for *Chionodoxa*. Regardless, you can say they are probably "kissing cousins".

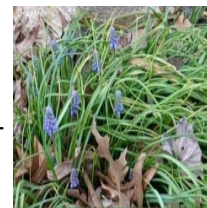
Chionodoxa come in blue, pink, and white; prefers full sun to part shade; and are harbingers of spring since they can bloom as early as February.

Note: I was taught that taxonomists are considered lumpers (combining genera or families) or dividers (dividing genera or families). In recent years, the use of DNA analysis has lead to more lumping or splitting. But that's a conversation for another column.



Muscari:

Just like *Scilla*, taxonomists don't agree on the classification of the subspecies as subspecies or separate genera. The most commonly cultivated species is *Muscari armeniacum*, grape hyacinth, common to woods and meadows from Greece into Turkey and the Caucasus. Another early spring flowering bulb, typically in March and April, is small and planted only about 3 inches deep. Foliage dies back shortly after flowering and then reemerges in autumn. And the common name comes from the small clusters of deep violet blue flowers on a dense inflorescence resembling a upside-down grape cluster. Again, full sun to part shade.





Lycoris:

There are a number of different species of Lycoris; however, the most common are *Lycoris radiata*, spider lily (below), and *Lycoris squamigera*, naked ladies, resurrection lily, or surprise lily (right). I first saw *L. squamigera* in Kansas. I never saw them in Ohio or New Jersey. Not sure why. I have *Lycoris radiata* in my yard and dearly love them. Their flowering signals the beginning of the end of summer.

Both flower in the late summer without any foliage. Resurrection lily emerges first then spider lily. Spider lily foliage emerges after the flowers and will be persistent throughout the winter, fading away by midspring. Resurrection lily grayish-green foliage doesn't emerge until spring and is commonly confused with that of daffodils. It dies back by summer with the flowers emerging in late summer.

Allium:

The genus contains approximately 750 species. I won't get into the taxonomy because it changes on a regular basis as to which plant family it belongs. Of course, there are several that are edible like red, yellow, and white onions, garlic, leeks, and chives. Then there are as many, if not more, that are grown for the flowers in the garden. And, the weedy wild onion (*Allium canadense*) and wild garlic (*Allium vineale*). They come in a variety of heights and sizes of the inflorescence. The Missouri Botanical Garden lists 43 different species and varieties in their gardens. Flower color ranges from white to pink to blue to purple.



Lilium:

A garden wouldn't be complete without lilies. And, again, there are many to choose from, with over 100 species, interspecific hybrids, and hybrids. Lilies are subdivided into Sections: American, Asiatic, Candidum, Dauricum, Martagon, Oriental, Trumpet, and Hybrids. More information is available through the Pacific Bulb Society entry on *Lilium*



Photo credits: Mary L. Albrecht, collage of packaged bulbs; bulbs in box; Narcissus images; Muscari, grape hyacinth; *Lycoris radiata*, spider lily K. van Bourgondien, Martagon lily <https://www.dutchbulbs.com/product/martagon-lily-mixture-89538> ; and Asiatic lily, https://www.dutchbulbs.com/product/Asiatic_Lily_Mix Missouri Botanical Gardens: *Scilla siberica* 'Spring Beauty', <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/Full-ImageDisplay.aspx?documentid=3609> ; *Chionodoxa forbesii* 'Blue Giant', <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=295720&isprofile=1&basic=chionodoxa> ; *Lycoris squamigera*, resurrection lily, <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=275706&isprofile=1&basic=lycoris> Proven Winners: *Allium* 'Millenium', <https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/allium/millenium-ornamentalonion-allium-hybrid> ; available locally from Brian White's Nursery, Maynardville, TN

Asiatic Lilies



Martagon Lilies



HOSTA ID

Why We Care about Veins

By Judith Artley, NEHS Editor Reprinted from the New England Hosta Society Leaf Letters Newsletter Vol. 11, No. 3, July 2021 (Editors Note: We often hear people referring to vein pairs in hosta publications and on Facebook, especially with regard to identifying a hosta's name. This excellent and informative article should answer all of one's questions about what vein pairs references and how you count them.) Courtesy of Illinois Prairie Hosta Society.

Hosta ID By The Veins

Veins are the circulatory system of the leaf, carrying water and nutrients between the roots and leaves. In hostas, veins run from the base of the leaf to the tip and are parallel (the veins do not cross). Veins may divide, terminate or merge. There are more complex veining patterns not covered here. The midrib is the vein in the center of the leaf. Most hosta have matched sets (pairs) of veins on either side of the midrib. Counting the number of these vein pairs (VP) is helpful in identifying a hosta cultivar. The leaves of some varieties emerge with a finite number vein pairs and other varieties develop more pairs as they mature.

George Schmid wrote in *The Genus Hosta* about the variability in VP: a cultivar “displays some variability in the number of veins, and so the count given in the descriptions is the average maximum number of principal veins normally seen in that cultivar. Occasionally, this number may be exceeded by one or two, while the younger summer leaves may produce fewer veins. It is best to make a count on several mature vernal leaves and then take the average.” He continues, “One significant point must be made: The outermost vein or veins are often abbreviated and do not extend to the leaf tip but usually terminate at the leaf margin between a third- and halfway up from the petiole intersection. Although these veins end at the margin and are thus incomplete, they must be counted.”

To count VP, choose a mature leaf. Veins are more prominent on the back of the leaf, so flip the leaf over. Count from the center toward the edge (do not count the midrib). Repeat on the other half of the leaf. Count the veins on a few other leaves and take the average. Examples of stating the vein pair count are “VP is 10”, “average VP is 10,” “VP is 10- 11” and “average VP is 10-12.”

Read the complete registration data for H. ‘Red October’ here: <https://hostatreasury.org/detail.php?id=4251>. References: American Hosta Society, “Education” > “Dictionary of Hosta Terms” web

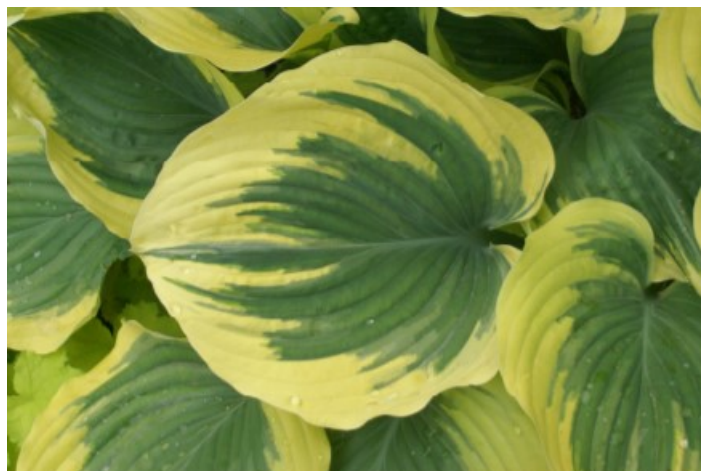
page, retrieved June 18, 2021 <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Education/HostaDictionary.htm>

De Mink, Andrea. “ID Tip of the Day: Counting Vein Pairs” Hosta ID Facebook Group post, May 12, 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1015128831939070/permalink/3955689054549685/>

Schmid, W. George. *The Genus HOSTA Giboshizoku*, page 25. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc, 1991.



Hosta ‘Afterglow’ is a really nice hosta, note darker center and one that is not common in the market place (can be found on-line). ‘Afterglow’ has 13 veins on both sides. Registration calls out 14-15 pairs of veins and a 10 inch leaf with medium green center and yellow margin, oval shape. In this case the margin is not exactly yellow and would question the plant name, but it is correct.



Hosta ‘Ivory Coast’ is one of those hostas that when noticed 50 feet away you want one for the yard. This one has 12 veins and according to registration 12 veins is correct. It has light green center and creamy margin. The registration also gives you leaf size and width along with dimensions on margin.

As with all hostas you want to identify go to the AHS Registration site for more details.



GARDEN GOSSIP:

BY CINDY HUGHES

Becky Solomon set up a fund raising platform with Lynch Creek Farm for NCHS . Becky has been buying from them and liked their products. Lynch Creek Farms returns 15% to organizations so Becky thought this would be an opportunity for us.

While many of us prefer to do our own holiday greens decorations or buy local, the Board has agreed to present this as an alternative for members. Please see page 7 for details.

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!

2022 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 _____

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

Please list names as you wish on your card: _____

Please send your check made payable to: NORTH COAST HOSTA SOCIETY
Attn: Jim Spuhler
13586 Bridgecreek Circle
Strongsville, OH 44136

For members of record in 2020, dues payments were rolled over to

FOR SALE GOOD EATS

A Garden OF
HOSTA RECIPES



NORTH COAST
HOSTA SOCIETY
OF OHIO



Great news North Coast Hosta Club Members !

We have started an online fundraising campaign for **NCHS** at Lynch Creek Farm.

Every time someone shops online through our group's fundraising page, we receive 15% of their purchase. It really is that easy!

I have been buying these stunning wreaths, centerpieces and tabletop Christmas trees as family gifts for several years and discovered they have a simple way for my purchases to benefit the North Coast Hosta Society. If you're like me and have out-of-state family, client or hostess gifts to give during the holidays, this is a thoughtful, wonderfully fragrant and appreciated gift to send!!

As you plan this season's gift-giving, please consider this option and help our club financially!

Join us as a teammate online by entering our invite code **FKYRP4** to: https://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/teams/join?fundraiser_name=&joincode=FKYRP4

Thanks in advance for your consideration! And maybe send yourself a little gift – it's been a rough year, you deserve it!!

All the best,

Becky Spilak Salamon, NCHS member



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



'Diamond Lake' - Hosta of the Year 2022

Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens

FIRST CLASS



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