



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 6 Issue 1
February 2022



2022 CALENDAR

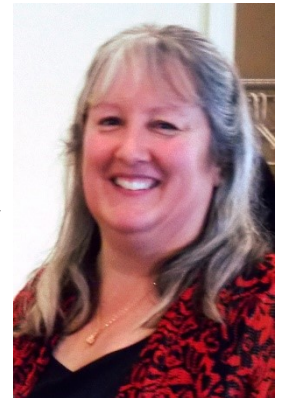
February 26 <i>Saturday</i>	Club House at Pine Lakes Garden Swap & Speaker "All About Ferns"
March 19	Virtual Hosta College
April 23	Location and program TBA
May 28	TBA
June 8-11	AHS Convention Minnesota
June 18 <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS PLANT AUCTION Club House at Pine Lakes
July 23	TBA
August 27	TBA
September 24	TBA
October 22 <i>Saturday</i>	Annual Meeting <i>Pot Luck Club House at Pine Lakes</i>
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

Tentative Schedule based on 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

Hello Hosta friends,

As I write this message, we are all anticipating a winter storm. The hostas are happily dormant under a blanket of snow left by the last storm. I am glad they are covered in case we get very cold temperatures. The snow is good insulation to protect them. I am not so happy about the fact that another storm will send my husband and me back out to clear a 157.5 foot long driveway! Be careful everyone.



Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 26 at 11am at the Pine Lakes Clubhouse, 10949 Woodrun Drive, Strongsville. NCHS will provide food and beverages. Debbie Osgood of the Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners will present a program on ferns. We will also be having a swap, but instead of plants we are asking anyone that wants to participate to bring in a wrapped item pertaining to gardening. It could be a lightly used or new gardening tool or a yard ornament of some kind, statues, wind chimes, etc. This game is always fun for everyone, even if you don't end up getting the item you REALLY, REALLY wanted!

At the meeting, we will discuss Hosta College. It is going to be "virtual" again this year. A "Watch Party" has been proposed. Details need to be decided on.

I will be glad to see you all at the meeting. It's been quite a long time since I've seen all of you.

President, Barb Rauckorst

We Yankee Swaps!

Some of our most fun events of the summer have been plant swaps with lots of excitement, laughter and fun. We are going for a winter version this time. Do you have a garden item to swap; an item that no longer fits your garden theme; some extra tools or maybe some gadget you can't use any more? If so, dig through the snow to the shed, check the garage or barn, or even the attic. Wrap it up and bring it to our meeting on February 26.



NCHS will provide a light lunch with coffee, tea and water.

RSVP'S ARE REQUESTED

Please respond to Joyce Spuhler at
440-846-2634 or email jlsjjs@att.net

BY FEBRUARY 22

THANK YOU

The Pine Lakes Club House is located at
10949 Woodrun Drive, Strongsville, Ohio 44136.

Going NORTH on West 130th Street cross Turnpike Bridge to the first Street on your left Burlwood Drive. Turn left and follow signs to Club House. Going SOUTH on West 130th Street cross Albion Road(Maria's Garden Center is on your left) The first street on the right is Burlwood Drive Turn right and follow signs to the Club House.

An Exciting Future for Hosta Flowers

This summer Doug Beilstein introduced us to his new passion of hosta flowers. We are anxious to see what he develops. Also, member, Dave Bowe, has done some hybridizing for flowers and posts some nice ones on Facebook. Editor's project for 2021 was to photograph each of our 700 some that bloomed this year. Hosta flowers are inspiring. Take another look!

Finally, 2020 is nearing the end. Wonderful fall colors are upon us. The election season with those endless negative commercials and mailboxes filled with political flyers is finally over, thank goodness. Covid-19 is still with us, unfortunately, but hopefully 2021 will usher in newer and better treatments as well as preventive vaccines. I certainly hope so. I would like to reach the point sometime next year when my overarching daily thought is not just pondering why my nose always starts to itch AFTER I put on my mask!

Yes, it is time to look to a better future and I think the future of hostas will include better and better floral presentations. Already, if you really take the time to look closely at individual hosta flowers, you will discover that many of them are absolutely beautiful. Right now, most come in colors of lavender and/or white, or in combinations of those colors. Many display interesting patterns. In this issue of Georgia Hosta Notes, I have included pictures of quite a few hosta flowers to highlight the different colors, patterns and forms already in existence.

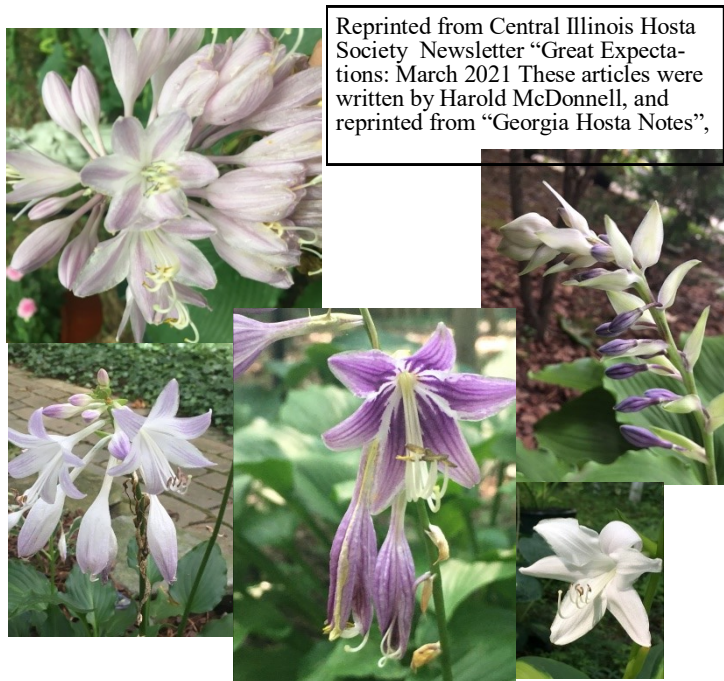
However, hosta flowers are normally relatively small and, even when observed en masse in a clump, the overall presentation may not be that exciting. Other faults we have to deal with in our hosta flowers are scapes so tall that they look out of proportion to the rest of the plant or scapes so short that the flowers are mostly hidden within the foliage. Even worse to me are the so-called arching scapes that often arch right over to the ground. Some arching can be pleasant but most of our hostas with arching scapes just look a jumbled mess when in bloom. No wonder so many people remove their hosta scapes even before they begin to bloom. Some hostas have relatively few blooms and often the blooms all appear on one side of the scape rather than being arranged around it which really stands out as a fault when the scape is leaning precariously toward the ground.

Even with all these faults, the overall beauty of flowering hostas is improving every day. More and more of our wonderful hybridizers are paying more attention to developing better scapes on new hybrids as well as working diligently on the development of

new flower colors such as true red and yellow. It is a tedious process, but this group of dedicated people have the patience to persist. In the not-too distant future, I think we will have hostas with true red flowers (to go with all those red pigments being brought up into the scapes and leaves) and distinctively yellow flowers as opposed to the washed-out yellows in existence today. There will be more hostas with reliably branched scapes that will greatly increase bud count for a better overall floral presentation. There will be more double flowers and more spider flowers. More hostas will have flowers arranged spirally around the scapes and scapes will be stronger and in better proportion to the plants. Patterns in individual flowers will also become more prominent. Note I did not mention larger flowers since many small flowers can be even more exciting and more visually pleasing than fewer larger flowers. However, I think flower size overall probably will increase. We have a lot to look forward to in the future of hostas and more exciting floral presentations will certainly be one of the improvements we will see. I can't wait.

Hosta Flower Power While we love our hostas, we often overlook the beauty of their flowers. Yes, hosta flowers are sometimes nondescript but many are absolutely beautiful and worthy of our admiration. Now many of our hybridizers are working to further improve them. Mr. Hiroshie Abe, a dedicated Japanese plant enthusiast who posts absolutely wonderful pictures of all sorts of exciting plants on Facebook, has a great collection of hostas which produce beautiful flowers.

(Pictures were included in the original article, but I cannot reproduce. Attached are some of mine taken with an old I phone. Check out the Hosta Library or the AHS Facebook page for lots of great hosta pics)



Reprinted from Central Illinois Hosta Society Newsletter "Great Expectations: March 2021 These articles were written by Harold McDonnell, and reprinted from "Georgia Hosta Notes",

Growing notes gleaned from Bob Solberg's "The Green Hill Gossip"

Ed and I enjoyed very much reading the December 2021 edition of "The Green Hill Gossip". We always learn something and appreciate Bob's personal insights into hosta growing. There is always something I can compare with my garden or an idea to try and even some scientific fact that is relative to our hosta garden.

#1 Notes on potting mixes:

As we grow our hostas in pots in the ground, we are always interested in various types of soil mixes and what we can do to improve ours. Bob uses a mix with aged bark, 10% granite fines, little rocks and adjusted to a pH of 5.6.

Me: INTERESTING...I may try to test my mix for pH this year to see what we are getting.

#2 Notes on watering: Bob notes that overhead watering has never removed the white wax from their blue hostas. No comment made about rain with the attendant pollution.

#3 Notes on Light: "Most hosta gardens are too shady. If your hostas do not bloom, it is either too shady or you do not fertilize enough or both."

Me: I may need to try to move a couple.LOL

#4 Notes on Fertilizer: "Hostas need high nitrogen to make leaves as big as possible mostly in spring and early summer. "He wants to top dress pots with slow release in March." Recently he has been using green beads from Harrell's—a 17-6-12, 6-7 month formulation.

#5 Winter protection: Here is his theory of ways to protect containerized hostas

; "Hostas want to be dry in the winter. A wet winter with freezing and thawing will rot the crowns of hostas, especially the blue ones, from the tops down leaving the roots below perfectly intact. We put white plastic on our hoop houses over the shade cloth between Christmas and New Year's," (so pots freeze and stay frozen)

"In a dry winter we may water once but usually there is no need to. The white plastic also delays the emergence of our hosta by a two to three week period over those exposed to the sun."

"in the backyard nursery, I would cover the pots of hostas with pine straw that can easily be removed in the spring. These hostas emerged earlier than the ones in the ground and were subject to those late

freezes. "So keep your containerized hostas dry in the winter. ...I fill the pots to the top with potting mix to prevent ice forming. You may need to water them so they don't go bone dry. ...They may emerge a little early and need some protection then." Try unheated garage or shed.

Me: I found that pine straw does work amazingly well and have enough for my "nursery plants—new divides or holds for giving away"—but do need to watch closely. We may even have to use frost cloth for a late freeze. We hold a large number of pots on and under a large picnic table covered with a tarp over the winter. I wonder if white plastic and shade cloth might be better combinations. Hmmm.

So far this winter, after such a long warm spell, we have enough snow and cold to ward off a big thaw/freeze situation. Fingers crossed.

#6: Notes on dividing: "Spring is not a bad time to divide ...most hostas. "I like to do it in August or early September."

Me: Here is where the science comes in. Bob detailed the growth of Hostas which seems strange to us as we watch the leaves come up in the spring and expect the whole plant to be "growing". Here is the story:

Hostas sleep all winter, they are dormant. They do not make new roots like other perennial do. In the spring their buds swell and the leaves emerge first. If the hosta was mature, these will be large, mature leaves.....These leaves will emerge, expand, and harden off in about three or so weeks depending on whether the spring weather is cool or warm.

As the first leaves harden off and second flush of leaves appear, the hosta will begin making new roots from the base of the new shoot. Thus, hostas do not make new roots until the first foliage hardens off.

He notes the beautiful spring days of bright sun, cool breezes and low humidity are very stressful for new hosta leaves and the desiccation rates are very high.

burn is cosmetic may be



Hosta leaves may on the edges. This metric, but clumps reduced in size.

If you are interested, Bob Solberg publishes the unique "Green Hill Gossip" annually and a newsletter, the "Gossip Jr." in August and November. The cost is \$5.00 per year. To subscribe, email Bob at: HostaBob@gmail.com

Hosta events scheduled for 2022



HOSTA COLLEGE March 19, 2022 will again be virtual!

Free to all who register for this event.
TO REGISTER GO TO OUR NEW WEBSITE
HOSTACOLLEGE.ORG
TO BE LAUNCHED JAN 31, 2022



American Hosta Society
National Convention
June 8 - 11, 2022
Minneapolis Marriott NW
www.HostaVision2022.com

In 2018 the AHS celebrated its 50th anniversary at the annual convention held in Philadelphia, PA. In 2022 the Minnesota Hosta Society is hosting the annual convention for the third time. Convention chair Amy Peterson says “The MHS is proud to once again host the convention. Our membership is excited to join in fellowship with other hosta gardening enthusiasts, often termed “hostaholics”. Our theme “**Hosta Vision 2022**” reflects the ever expanding use of the genius *Hosta* in the garden as one of the top perennials of choice due to their versatility in use and form in the landscape. Plus they are very hardy in Minnesota’s Zone 4 climate! A major part of the convention is participating in area garden tours by motor coach bus or a self-driving tour over the span of two days, with many gardens displaying well over 500 hosta varieties. The accredited Hosta Leaf Show creates an opportunity for membership and the general public to see the plethora of variety in form and color the genius *Hosta* provides as a landscape plant. Also as part of the 2022 convention a philanthropic element is included and in alignment with our theme, attendees and community attendees are requested to bring used eyeglasses for donation to LIONS INTERNATIONAL.”

GARDEN GOSSIP:



BY CINDY HUGHES

Our February Program will feature a speaker from the Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners on ferns. Great companions to hosta.

Be sure to order your Solberg plants by February 15 AND, to make room for them, plan to dig your donations for the plant auction in June.

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 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



H. 'Arctic Blast'

FIRST CLASS



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