



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 6 Issue 3
April 2022



2022 CALENDAR

April 23 Saturday 11:00AM Strongsville Public Library	Speaker on Ohio Native Plants Finger Food
May	<i>No planned event</i>
June 8-11	AHS Convention Minnesota
June 18 Saturday 11:00AM Club House at Pine Lakes	NCHS PLANT AUCTION SOLBRG PLANT DISTRIBUTION
June 24-26 Great Lakes Region TailGate Grand Rapids MI	Watch for details
July 10	Special event: Page 7
August	TBA
September	TBA
October 22 Saturday	Annual Meeting Club House at Pine Lakes
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

President's letter



Hello everyone, it is raining snow pellets all over my daffodils as I type this message. They'll get over it, I guess I will too. I was hoping to mow the lawn, but that will have to wait to see what mother nature brings tomorrow.

Our February meeting was very enjoyable. Jim and Joyce planned a very nice lunch and dessert, followed by an informative talk on ferns by Cuyahoga County Master Gardener, Deb Osgood.

Vice President, Mike Kovach, led us in a game of garden swap where everyone brought a nicely wrapped garden related item. Each donor received a ticket. As tickets were pulled a member picked a gift, unwrapped it and tried not to get too attached because the next person could steal it from you as an option to selecting one of the packages that were left. It was a lot of fun for everyone.

Our meeting on Saturday, April 23 will be at 11:00 am at the Strongsville Library in meeting room A. Our speaker will be North Royalton Garden Club President, Pam Wetterau. She will give a presentation on Ohio's Native Plants. Refreshments will be member provided finger food of their choice – nothing assigned. The club will provide water and coffee.

I hope you were able to watch the virtual Hosta College presentations. Be prepared to give your opinion at our April meeting, if you'd like. Hope to see you all there.

Barb Rauckhorst, President



April is
*Ohio Native
Plant Month*

We are pleased to have Pam Wetterare as our speaker for the April 23 meeting on the topic of Native Plants. Pam is President of the North Royalton Garden Club of the Garden Club of Ohio.

In a previous email, I pointed out an article in the latest issue of "Forest and Gardens" from Holden Arboretum and the Botanical Garden which highlighted Ohio native plants and provided information about the wildflower gardens at both locations and their efforts to promote native plants. Holden has a plant sale spring and fall where you can purchase native plants. **Please remember, never buy native plants that are dug in the wild!!!**

There is a wealth of information on the OhioNativePlantMonth.org website.



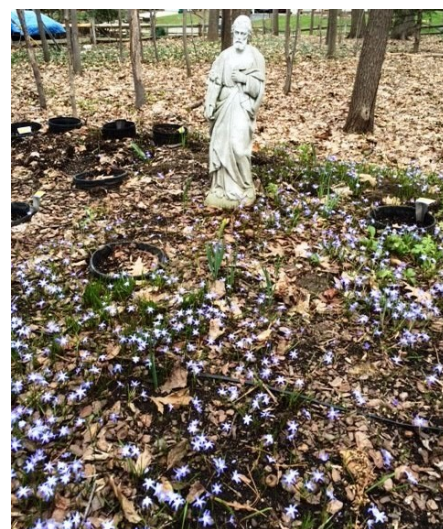
Bloodroot



Blue Eyed Mary

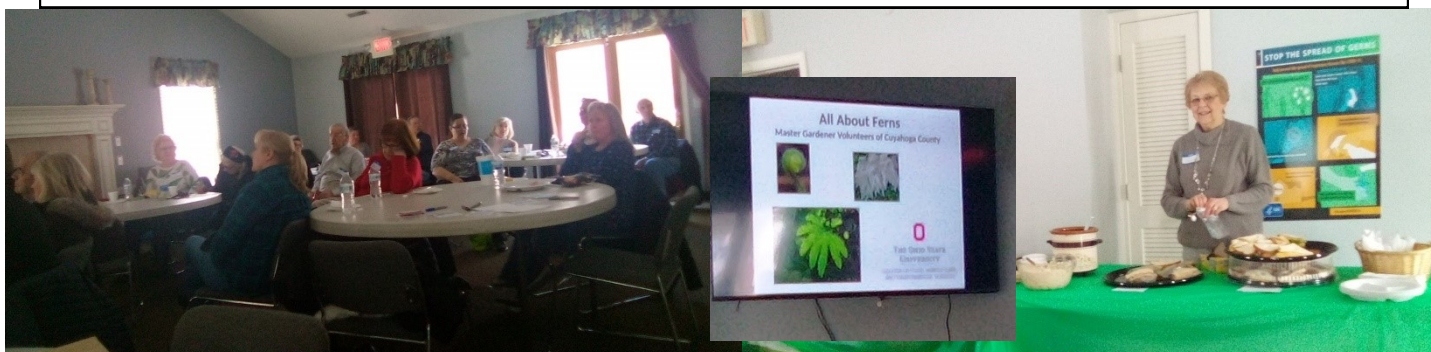


Cut Leaved Toothwort



Beautiful blue carpet.

Last meeting we were treated to a program on Ferns as companion plants for hostas. And, as usual, thanks to Joyce Spuhler, we ate VERY well! Sorry for the pictures quality. But we had a lot of fun!



Hosta Color Changes

Portions of this article originated at the Walters Gardens, Inc. web site and are reprinted from other local hosta society newsletters.

Hostas go through three main types of color changes:

Viridescence color change — The root word of viridescence means green, so a viridescence hosta becomes greener as the season progresses. It may start off yellow, chartreuse, whitish-green, and then darkens to green.

Lutescent color change — Hostas that are lutescent lighten as the season progresses. This may mean a shift from chartreuse to yellow or a shift from dark to light green. **Albescent color change** — The word alba means white, and hostas that whiten from yellow or chartreuse to white are called albescent.

H. 'Zebra Stripes'
Viridescence
Emerges white with green veins. Later, becomes greener.



Also at the Hosta Library site are the Rawson's Lists, a number of lists compiled by Don Rawson of hostas with particular characteristics, including seasonal color changes. Mr. Rawson expands the color-change categories to include:

Azurescent hostas, which become bluer during the growing season. **Flip-Flop** hostas, such as 'Yellow Polka Dot Bikini' in which the variegated colors reverse during the growing season.

H. 'Old Cardboard Boxes'
Azurescent
Emerges blue-green. Later, becomes deeper blue.



To help you understand how hostas experience color changes, let's look at some examples of a few popular varieties. *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata' is an older variety that uses Latin in its name to describe its variegation. "Aureo" comes from the Latin word aureus meaning golden while "marginata" means margin. This would lead one to believe that this is a green hosta with a gold margin. Though it does exhibit a yellowish margin for a couple weeks in early spring, it quickly turns creamy white when the leaves completely unfurl. Often the margin lightens even further to white in summer. Thus, you can see how the name 'Aureomarginata' could be deceiving.

Another springtime favorite is Hosta 'Sea Fire'. As its name implies, this hosta is ablaze with color in the

springtime. Just when the daffodils are blooming, 'Sea Fire' has emerged with nearly the same light yellow coloring. Few plants can rival its excitement as it emerges from a long winter sleep. However, as the warmer weather of summer approaches, its leaves turn from yellow to tropical green.

People familiar with the classic *H.* 'Gold Standard' recognize the characteristic parchment gold center of its leaves. Amazingly though, its early spring color would not remind you of a plant named 'Gold Standard', for there is no gold to it at all when the leaves first emerge. Rather, the young leaves are green or chartreuse with a deep green margin. The golden color is not achieved until later in the season.

Another classic, *H.* 'Undulata Mediopicta', is described as having attractive green leaves with white centers. However, the heat of summer often causes the white center to darken, initially producing a green frosting or fogging and eventually darkening to all-green.

H. 'Remember Me' really requires two photographs to tell its whole story. When the plant emerges in spring, its leaves are bright gold surrounded by blue-green borders. By midsummer, however, the center of the leaves brighten to ivory or near white. The change is so drastic that many people would not even recognize the plant if they were familiar with it only in one season.

Though not all hostas are chameleons, changing their leaf colors during the season, most are. Perhaps the only hostas that do not exhibit any kind of color change are those that are solid green.

H. 'Cameo'
Albescent
Emerges with yellow margin. Later, margin fades to white.



H. 'Ian Winslow'
Lutescent
Emerges all green. Late in season, center fades to olive green.



H. 'Hanky Panky'
Flip-Flop
Emerges with dark center and light margin. Later, margin becomes darker than center.

Dandelion Tales

An article in the East Tennessee Hosta Society March newsletter by Mary L. Albrecht, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee, inspired an article based on fact and fond memories. We tend to have a love/hate relationship with this yellow/fuzzy, flower/weed. Searches yielded interesting and fun facts. Have fun by searching all things dandelion. There is a wealth of info for fun and science.

dandelion

['dændl,ɪən]

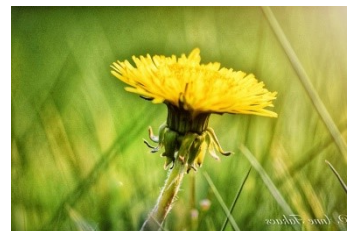
NOUN A widely distributed weed of the daisy family, with a rosette of leaves, bright yellow flowers followed by globular heads of seeds with downy tufts, and stems containing a milky latex.

ORIGIN Late Middle English from French *dent-de-lion*, translation of medieval Latin *dens leonis* 'lion's tooth' (because of the jagged shape of the leaves).

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is a common meadow herb of the **Asteraceae** or **sunflower family**. There are about 100 species of dandelion, and all are beneficial. This sun-loving beauty is a native of Greece, naturalized in temperate regions throughout the world, and familiar to nearly everyone.



As a child, we played games with the dandelion flowers. Reflected yellow on your chin meant you will be rich one day. Blowing dandelion seed heads was not only fun, but apparently has many meanings. There is also a dandelion promise, meaning that you should never break something delicate like a promise. In 'The Hunger Games' films, the dandelions symbolize hope for the character Katniss.



The big surprise was the use of dandelions in **Witchcraft and Wicca**. Along with many other flowers, Dandelions can be used in spells in rituals. At this time, Dandelions are extremely common and are amazing beginner herbs for baby witches. They grow in large and vast groups, and can be found almost everywhere. Common belief says that blowing a dandelion and sending its seeds flying in the wind while thinking about your greatest desire will make your wish come true. Pair these dandelions to a wishing spell and the outcome is sure to have faster and greater effects.



Boiling the dandelion flower and leaves into a tea and drinking it can help temporarily increase psychic abilities. It is also said that pouring boiling water into a bowl of dandelion roots will aid in calling spirits.

Dandelion as food and Medicine



In Mary Albrecht's article she mentioned that according to her mother, her grandfather used to collect dandelions in New York City and made dandelion wine. Though never cultivated as a vegetable in Europe, plants were brought to market in England in the 19th century when lettuce and endive were scarce. Nearly all parts of this plant can be eaten. Regardless of which part you intend to eat, make sure the dandelions have not been treated with chemicals and wash them thoroughly to remove all soil and insects from the underside of the leaves or roots. The leaves, which are high in calcium, potassium, and iron, are best when they are young and tender, and are most flavorful in early spring before the first flower buds appear.

The roots can be eaten as a vegetable with a turnip-like flavor if dug in early spring. Be cautious of ingesting too many roots as they are reported to be both a diuretic and a laxative. The leaves, flowers and roots of dandelion are edible. Blossoms, too, can be eaten fresh and are sweetest when picked early in the season. They should be used immediately after picking because the flowers will close up quickly.

Dandelion sap contains latex. Anyone allergic to latex should also avoid handling fresh dandelions.

Dandelions are seen as signs of hope and new beginnings in many cultures because they represent resurrection as they arrive in the spring after the dark of winter,

The flowers are utilized by bees and other pollinators and can be an important nectar source early in the season when few other flowers are blooming.



Dandelion Flower Varieties

In addition to the common dandelion, there is variety, **Red-seeded (Taraxacum erythrospermum)**, which has reddish stems. It is native to Europe but is also found in the more northern regions of North America.

Japanese white dandelion (Taraxacum albidum) is native to southern Japan, where it grows along roadsides and meadows.

Pink dandelion (Taraxacum pseudoroeseum) has pastel pink blooms with a yellow center, making it one of the most unusual and different dandelion flowers.

Dandelion

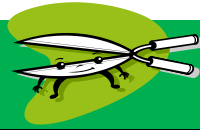
To some it is useful, to others it is a nuisance.

No matter how many dandelion leaves and flowers you pick to eat early in the season, this probably won't be sufficient to control their spread in your yard. Dandelions are generally only a problem in lawns that are not growing vigorously enough to out-compete the weeds. If you are having a dandelion issue, perhaps the lawn needs more fertilizer or the soil is too compacted or the grass has not been mown at the proper height.

Your method of control, digging or chemicals, is up to you.



Pictures courtesy of member, Anne Takacs, and the University of Wisconsin. Information from various internet sources including Susan Mahr, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Read more at "Gardening Know How: Dandelion varieties."



The Hellebores are just beautiful; standing straight and tall. Wildflowers are popping up everywhere. Primroses are blooming with bright colors in the dull ground. The chippies ate most of the crocus and are now going after the tops and bulbs of tulips they didn't get earlier! At least we have kept them out of the bird feeder. Sprayed Liquid Fence once and need another round—so far no deer damage since they ate the buds off some of the Rhododendron in the winter. Squirrels are digging in the hosta pots. They think its special when I cover something that heaved a bit, "Gee, wonder what they planted there?"

We have about 80% of our 700+ varieties breaking dormancy. We moved some hostas from the garage to the front porch in mid March (3/17 "Munchkin Fire"). Then "Miss Ruby" on 3/25 after she got 3" tall—now about 8-10. Followed by "Bottle Rockets", "Raspberry Sorbet" and "Half and Half" which are now also fully unfurled. With snow/cold for tonight, we will spray with Frost Proof which is a great product to protect even annuals from frost.

Note: As you go through the garden, watch out for those pips and try not to step on those just peeking up.

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



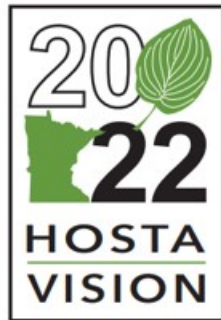


**Tailgate 2022
June 24-26
Grand Rapids, MI**



Come visit me on July 10, 2022

Marilyn Ruff has invited NCHS, MHS, and COHS to a Pot Luck event at her home in Marshallville, Ohio with a Goat Milk Soap Making Demonstration and sale. Marilyn will also have her mini and small hostas for sale. If anyone would like to bring other garden related items to sell, contact her at miniature-hostas@gmail.com to make arrangements. **WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**



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

Nation's Largest Event of Its Kind Coming to Minnesota, June 8-11, 2022 — Hundreds of garden enthusiasts from around the country and the world are expected to attend the annual American Hosta Society (AHS) National Convention, being held at the Minneapolis Marriott NW, Brooklyn Park, MN. Founded in 1968, the AHS is a non-profit organization that has grown from a handful of members in its early days to over 2,000 active members today. As the world's leading association promoting the hosta plant, their purpose is to foster the development of the genus and its public interest and, of course, share with others the enjoyment that hostas and gardening in general offer.

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."

For Registration, accommodations and schedule, visit the website shown above.

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



FIRST CLASS



8241 Starburst Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060

Officers:

President: Barb Rauckhorst

phone: 440-237-6709

Vice President: Mike Kovach

email: majk2@cox.net

Phone: 216-642-7895

Treasurer: Jim Spuhler

email: jjsjs@att.net

phone: 440-846-2634

Secretary: Bonnie Erickson

email: bcerickson@att.net

phone: 440-835-0726

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Hughes

email: hughce3537@sbcglobal.net