



**Newsletter of the
North Coast Hosta
Society
Volume 6 Issue 7
December 2022**



2023 CALENDAR

January	No Meeting
February 18 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	Used garden items swap Club House at Pine Lakes Chili, Soup, Salad and Bread
March 17 & 18 <i>Friday and Saturday</i>	HOSTA COLLEGE Piqua, Ohio No NCHS meeting
April 22 <i>Saturday</i>	New Bay Village Public Library <i>Finger Foods</i> <i>Speaker to be determined</i>
May 20 <i>Saturday</i>	POKER RUN ending at Emerald Forest Nursery Picnic
June 10 <i>Saturday</i>	PLANT AUCTION Club House Pine Lakes Village NCHS will supply meat; members sides & dessert
June 7-10	AHS NATIONAL CONVENTION -Ames, Iowa
JULY 8 <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS Hosta Swap At the home of Maryanne Woodside Doylestown, OH
July 29 <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Miller Nature Preserve, Avon, Ohio Catered lunch
RSVP EVENT	

Hi Everybody,

Your Board of Directors has planned such a busy schedule for 2023 that it didn't fit the usual space in the Newsletter! The used garden items swap was such a hit this year it is being brought back as the first event of the year.

New this year is the Poker Run, Stay tuned for the details of this fun hosta garden event.

This is our Club's 25th Anniversary. A catered lunch has been arranged at the Miller Nature Preserve. In 2014 NCHS donated two benches in honor of Bob Kuk and John Soucek so we are looking forward to revisiting the Preserve.

And, we had so much fun at our Halloween Costume Party that we brought it back for next October's Annual Meeting.

Looking forward to seeing many members at these events.

Cindy Hughes, Newsletter Editor

August 19 <i>Saturday</i>	Joint Meeting with Midland 50 Shades of Green Nursery Southington, OH
September	No Meeting Scheduled
October 21 <i>Saturday</i>	Jon Soucek/Bob Kuk Annual Memorial Meeting Halloween Party <i>Come in Costume</i> <i>NCHS will supply meat;</i> <i>members sides & dessert</i>
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

President's letter

Hello Hosta friends,

For most of us the weather has provided many great opportunities to get our fall cleaning done. Fall cleaning is important for a few reasons. Leaf debris in the garden is a good place for fungal spores to overwinter and heaven knows, we don't need those. Leaves left over winter will also help insulate slug eggs from the killing cold and any predators that would like easier access to them. Moles and voles appreciate an extra layer of protection from the cold also. In the spring, if there are oak leaves on the ground, smaller hosta may have a harder time pushing up through them. Timing is tricky for spring removal of leaf debris because the warmth it provides may cause the hosta to emerge earlier than normal and then a frost will harm the plants if you remove the fallen leaves too soon. Leaf debris can have its benefits, such as insulating tender dwarf hosta crowns from drying winds if there is no snow layer. Leaf debris is also good for the soil as organic material. It comes down to personal preference. Be sure to share your experiences with other gardeners, we can all learn some new "tricks".

Note the 2023 calendar on Page 1 and check the webpage for updates. This coming year looks to be a lot of fun with a used garden item swap, plant auction, luncheon at Miller Preserve in Avon and a joint meeting/craft with Midland Hosta Society to be announced.

I am hoping for a mild winter as are most of you, I'm sure. Well, maybe any skiers will disagree! Have a wonderful holiday season and I will see you in February.

Barb Rauckhorst, President North Coast Hosta Society



Annual Jon Soucek /Bob Kuk memorial meeting was held October 22 at the Club House. As usual, we ate very well, were entertained, enjoyed the company of some great hostaphiles and got a preview of the 2023 program schedule. Tom Rabung and Becky Salamon were elected to the Board of Directors. There was also spirited bidding on a donated bonsai tree adding funds to our treasury.



Why you should have Houseplants in the new “Work from Home” Office

Reprinted from the Upper New York Hosta Society Newsletter “Shades of Green” March 2022. Prepared by Dave Jennings, Master Gardener Volunteer for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County and Member of the Garden Club of the Capital District . Source: Information published by The National Garden Bureau written by Teri Knight. Parts of the original article appeared in the Minnesota Nursery Landscape Association newsletter.

It’s a well-known fact that people breathe in Oxygen and exhale Carbon Dioxide. Many of us have chosen or been required to work from home and plants “breathe” in that Carbon Dioxide and release oxygen as part of photosynthesis making us great partners with houseplants. A great way for this partnership to work is to fill your home office with a variety of houseplants that have lower light requirements such as Dracaenas, Pothos, Philodendrons, many Succulents, a few Cactus, Snake Plants, Rex or Angel Wing Begonias, Peperomia and Bromeliads because most homes don’t have enough light for other types of plants to thrive.

Angel Wing Begonia



Pothos



Bromeliad



Houseplants help to clean and clear the air; they often reduce noise levels by buffering sounds; they add much needed moisture in the winter thus increasing the humidity through transpiration and have been known to reduce the level of airborne toxins in closed small areas. Almost all of us working from home or isolating in place now have felt the benefit of having plants all around us and have experienced their calming effect. Some are slowly returning to work now and want their workplaces to also have that homey feel and are bringing their newfound friends (their plants) back to work with them. Many businesses have again started to appreciate the value of providing small desktop plants in the office which results in happier employees. Walk into any office lobby and see it with all its splendor of large, lush greenery, then picture it without any plants you will most certainly experience the difference plants properly placed can make. The color of the greenery is noted for having an overall calming and relaxing effect (thus reducing stress, anxiety and often depression as well) in the wide-open areas and/or as small desktop plants. Numerous plants in a work atmosphere can help us concentrate better, help us to connect better with nature, increase productivity & creativity and are helpful in so many other ways. Recent University studies have reported that enhancing the environment with the addition of plants has decreased anger issues and depression rates as well as increasing productivity and lowering absenteeism. As we all know it’s so important to keep employees happy, healthy & inspired and something as simple as plants on their desks go a long way in achieving these goals. Indoor landscaping (on any scale) plays a major role in helping to balance our lives. One final benefit is in helping to attract qualified job applicants. Everything we can do for this is so important in this time of high demand and short supply as Gen Z individuals are entering the job market earlier than any generation before them.

Dracaena



Peperomia



Split Leaf Philodendron



The more natural light and humidity you can give your plants, the more choices you will have in the types of houseplants that will thrive! Every day should be a “Bring your plants to work with you day” or just leave them be and let them do their thing naturally in your business or home office!

I am always looking for companion plants for my really shady hosta garden. I found this article which told the story of one of my favorites. It grows just about anywhere I put it, is attractive, not invasive for me and the little flowers are delightful. Thanks to Don Rawson for this article reprinted from the Michigan Hosta Society October 2022 issue of Hosta Happenings.

Unusual Woodlanders for the Shade Garden: Strawberry Begonia

If there ever was a plant with an identity crisis, it surely must be the Strawberry Begonia (*Saxifraga stolonifera*). It is not a strawberry nor a begonia, and is not closely related to either. It is also called Strawberry Geranium, but it's not a geranium. Take your pick: a slew of other names include Mother of Thousands, Creeping Rockfoil, Aaron's Beard, Roving Sailor, and Creeping Saxifrage.

Saxifraga stolonifera has beautiful round leaves etched in silver



Photo by Don Rawson

In reality, it is a mat-forming perennial of the saxifrage family, Saxifragaceae, hardy to USDA Zone 5. The clusters of small but attractive flowers which bloom during late spring and early summer have white, pointed petals and a bright yellow ovary. The real attraction of the Strawberry Begonia, however, is the foliage. Rounded, hairy dark green leaves (to 4" wide) are marbled with silver veining on top and have pink-red undersides. Strawberry Begonia prefers a sheltered spot with full or partial shade and will flourish in humus-rich, well-drained soil. Bright, indirect light is also fine. Just make sure that any direct rays from the sun are blocked or filtered. This charming little plant does not generally do well in the sunshine. Like strawberry plants, the stolons allow *Saxifraga stolonifera* to spread easily, and thus the name Mother of Thousands in reference to the plantlets that form at the stolon tips. Its creeping silvery-green foliage makes good ground cover, although it is not overly aggressive. Unwanted plantlets are shallow rooted and can be weeded out easily. In favorable conditions, it is semi-evergreen.

A Wonderful Woodlander

If you're looking for a colorful, easy-to-care-for plant, add strawberry begonia to the list. Native to China, Japan, and South Korea, *Saxifraga stolonifera* thrives in forests and meadows, even on rock cliffs at altitudes to 15,000 ft. The plant spreads by strawberry-like runners and has begonia/geranium-like leaves – which explains why it is often called Strawberry Begonia and Strawberry Geranium.

There are a few tough and versatile plants that I appreciate more and more each year, and Strawberry Begonia is one of them. It is perfect for the woodland garden and is a great choice for the rock garden as well. It is even well-suited for hanging baskets and containers. The truth is that it may work throughout your landscape in many different situations.

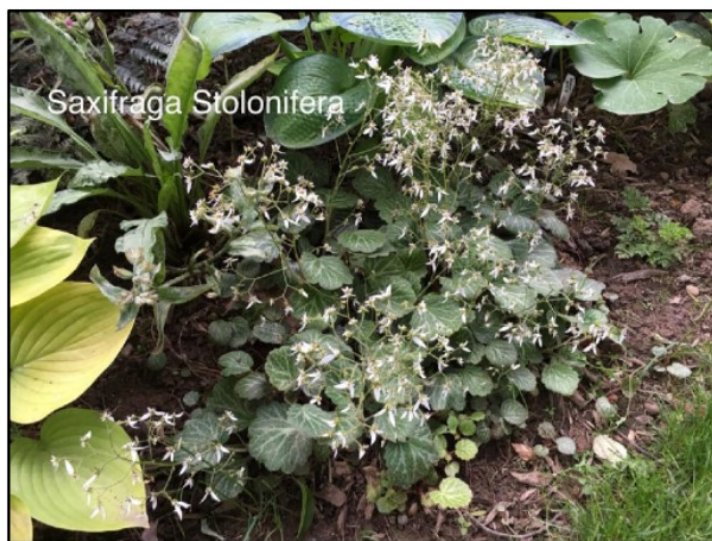


Photo by Carol Weber



Photo by Don Rawson

Photo by Don Rawson

Strawberry Begonia combines well with hostas and other woodlanders. Here it happily grows with Hosta 'Lonesome and Blue', one of Herb Benedict's rarest introductions. It is superb when planted in mass along streams, ponds or fountains. Strawberry Begonia looks great under trees and shrubs, too.



As a diminutive companion, Strawberry Begonia can be aesthetically incorporated with your other shade plants – from hostas, ferns, Solomon's seals, may apples, and shredded umbrella plants to bugbane, coleus, hellebores, heucheras, bleeding hearts, and columbines. But I particularly enjoy this showy little ground-hugger when planted in mass under large hostas where it covers the otherwise barren ground. Not only does the silvery foliage nicely complement the color of the hostas (especially the blues), but it saves on the need to apply mulch each year. Plants like this form a kind of "living mulch" and eliminate the need to buy fresh mulch annually.

Strawberry Begonia is an ideal, low-growing groundcover for use beneath large hostas, such as seen here with H. 'Great Expectations'.

In short, I enthusiastically endorse the Strawberry Begonia and think it is vastly underused in the North American landscape. It takes just about any condition and yet it keeps on growing. It withstands the cold, snow, and ice without damage. It persists all year long, showing a burst of fresh growth as it blooms each spring. Furthermore, because it is a dependable, rapid grower, you will be able to share it with friends who are sure to want it. Give it a try!



Other Interesting Strawberry Begonia Facts:

- ◇ No serious insect or disease problems.
- ◇ Propagate by seed, or detach the little individual babies (rosettes) from the mother.
- ◇ Strawberry Begonia is used as an ornamental worldwide. (You may find it at your local Wal-Mart among the houseplants!)
- ◇ It can be planted indoors during any time of the year and will grow rapidly, allowing you to enjoy its beautiful foliage. With the right conditions, it may even bloom.
- ◇ The foliage is occasionally used fresh or cooked in Japanese cuisine.
- ◇ It was also used as an herbal remedy in classical Japan.
- ◇ Several cultivars with variations in leaf shape, size and color are available, including 'Cuscutiformis', 'Maroon Beauty', 'Nezu Jinja', and 'Tricolor'.



“Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.”

“In nature, nothing exists alone.”
~Rachel Carson



“Money can’t buy happiness. But it can buy plants, and that’s the same thing.”



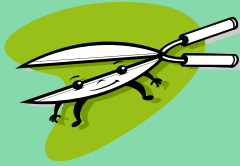
“Without flowers, there would be no us.” ~Unknown ~



Of all the seasons do your wonder,
I like it best when its snowed under?
-Glen Lorang



GARDEN GOSSIP:



BY CINDY HUGHES

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful year! Please check out the website for updates to club activities.

Hope everyone has been able to get as much garden clean up as you wanted. JUST A HINT from **Marilyn Schmid**. I had to cut down several plants before they were completely done. Marilyn advised me to use a serrated blade knife instead of clippers. IT REALLY WORKS GREAT!!!

Jim Spuhler adds: "When using any knife to cut down hosta leaves, it is best to dip it in a bleach/water solution between cuts of different plants to kill any bacteria to avoid spreading to other plants. Some say 20% bleach 80% water. My preference is 40% bleach balance water in a jar deep enough to cover the entire knife blade."

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 contact **Tom Rabung (440-552-7851)** or **Diane Morris (440-892-4646)** 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!

2023 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. 'Winter Snow'



H. 'Christmas Candy'

FIRST CLASS



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