



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 6 Issue 2
March 2022



2022 CALENDAR

March 19	Virtual Hosta College See Page 2 for registration details
April 23 11:00AM	Strongsville Public Library Program TBA
May	<i>No planned event</i>
June 8-11	AHS Convention Minnesota
June 18 Saturday 11:00AM <i>Club House at Pine Lakes</i>	NCHS Plant Auction Solberg Plant Distribution See Page 2 for more information
July	TBA
August	TBA
September	TBA
October 22 Saturday	Annual Meeting <i>Club House at Pine Lakes</i>
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

These are the events that are scheduled to date. Please watch your e-mails and check the website for any up-to-date information.

President's letter

Hello to all my hosta friends,

It is so promising to see all the crocus and daffodils starting to poke their way through the soil towards the sunshine.

Thank you to Mike Kovach for planning a very enjoyable meeting with an informative presentation by Cuyahoga County Master Gardener, Deb Osgood on ferns as companions to hostas.

VP Mike Kovach came up with the idea of a Garden Swap with everyone bringing a wrapped garden related item. The swap was run the same as the plant swap in the summer. It seemed like everyone enjoyed it with steals and lots of laughter. Thank you. Also, to Jim and Joyce Spuhler for the really delicious lunch and dessert.

I was pleased to announce the NCHS awards to the AHS President's Wall of Honor to the 2019 Tailgate Committee. As I could only nominate two at a time, I nominated Mike Kovach and Diane Morris for 2020 and Tom Rabung and Becky Salamon for the 2021 Award. Congratulations!

I'm excited that we will be doing the garden open houses the same way we did them last year. Contact Cindy Hughes to tell her when you would like to put your garden on display. She will keep a calendar and advise members when we can visit your garden as a group. It is completely up to you to decide on the date and time. No refreshments are required.

I hope to see you all at the April meeting.

Barb Rauckhorst President



Solberg Plant Distribution

The Solberg plants that many of our members purchased are to be shipped in time to be distributed at the June 18 Auction at the Club House in Strongsville. If you cannot make it to the auction to pick up your plants, please contact Marilyn Ruff. She will take care of them until you can make arrangements to pick them up. miniaturehostas@gmail.com

A big thank you to Marilyn who will be sorting these plants into individual orders and preparing them for pickup.

Our Representative to the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society, Diane Morris, is encouraging everyone to visit the 2022 Virtual Hosta College. The 2021 virtual college had over 600 viewers from around the world: Germany, Netherlands, Canada, UK, Southern states, Montana, Minnesota and New England!

The 2022 Hosta College will be on a Zoom Video Conferencing Platform between 9 am and 3:30 pm. There will be six speakers back to back with five minute breaks between (see schedule below). **NOTE THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS EVENT! BUT YOU MUST REGISTER ON LINE at the Hosta College.org website.**

Diane also reported that the 2022 Tail Gate will be held June 24-26 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Here is some info from the website to give you an idea of the Zoom Video Conference experience. Please go to the website for more detailed info including bios of the speakers, etc.



FROM THE WEBSITE:

Although Hosta College will be more abbreviated in nature this year, we are sure this will be a rewarding experience for all as we utilize the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform. We are hosting six wonderful teachers who have prepared educational and interesting virtual presentations. There is no charge for this event. The classes run back to back, with a five-minute break in between. Please refer to the schedule and registration info below.

NOTE: This year's online format will feature only one lecture at a time in Zoom's Webinar format, therefore you do not have to log in and log out throughout the day, but rather stay connected in one continuous zoom session. With Zoom's Webinar Format (versus a meeting format which many of you are familiar with) your camera is not shared, your microphone is automatically muted, and neither are needed to participate. All questions will be conducted through the chat feature with written questions submitted to the speaker.

9:00 Welcome

9:00 – 9:50 Chris Wilson, "Hosta Diseases: Bacterial Infection vs. Nematodes".

10:00 – 10:50 Steve English, "Home Landscaping for Wildlife".

11:00 – 11:50 Sandy Wilkins, "The Arctic and Antarctic: To the Ends of the Earth".

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30 – 1:20 Noah Schwartz, "Hosta from Bare Root and Tissue Culture Liner".

1:30 – 2:20 Bob Solberg, "Growing Hostas in Containers from My Nursery to Your Garden".

2:30 – 3:20 Gale Martin, "Incorporating Natives into Existing Hosta Gardens".

3:30 Thank you and Closing



GREAT LAKES REGION HOSTA COLLEGE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for HOSTA COLLEGE!

March 19, 2022 from 9am-3:30pm ET



Location: Hosta College 2022 will be a Zoom Event. You can enjoy the sessions from the comfort of your home on a PC, laptop, Smart Phone, Tablet, or screen share on a TV if you have access.

Suggestion: Make it a Hosta College Party Day. Find a hostaholic or gardening friend who has a big screen TV and gather there to view the sessions together. Bring your own snacks!



Registration: Hosta College has a new website that will go LIVE on February 1, 2022. The registration form is on the website – hostacollege.org – and there is also information on the schedule of speakers and their topics. A Zoom link will have important information on what is needed to attend a Zoom event. All who register will receive an email link to the Virtual event prior to Hosta College day.



Fee: There is no fee for participation this year. A person who registers that can't attend on March 19 will have an opportunity to view the sessions after Hosta College day for a period of time.

Be sure to register if you want to view the sessions a later date!

More Hosta events scheduled for 2022

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE ON
GROWING GREAT HOSTAS FROM
A LOCAL HOSTA SPECIALIST
MARCH 22, 2022 (BEGINNING AT 12:10 PM)

The Upper New York Hosta Society has shared with us the information on this special Hosta Webinar via Zoom. See details on page 5. NOTE; You should register even if you can't watch the webinar live since you will be sent details on how to watch it at your leisure after the presentation. *(See page 5)*



American Hosta Society

National Convention

June 8 - 11, 2022

Minneapolis Marriott NW

www.HostaVision2022.com



Tailgate 2022

June 24-26

Grand Rapids, MI

Watch for details



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 miniaature-hostas@gmail.com to make arrangements. **WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE ON GROWING GREAT HOSTAS FROM A LOCAL HOSTA SPECIALIST

MARCH 22, 2022 (BEGINNING AT 12:10 PM)



Presented by: David L. Jennings , Master Gardener for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County Upstate NY Hosta Society, Co-founder and current Newsletter Editor/Communications Chair

Special Thanks to my fellowHOSTAholicš for approval to use some of their images shared from the American Hosta Society and their Facebook pages today.

Professional Guidance on Growing Great Hostas from a Local Hosta Specialist **Be sure to Register even if you can't watch it on the day of the Webinar so you will be sent the recording to watch it later at your convenience**

- **Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 12:10 PM – 1:15 PM** **Fee (Free)**

Presented by: Dave Jennings, Master Gardener Volunteer for CCE of Saratoga County and co-founder & newsletter editor for the Upstate New York Hosta Society

This will be a fully illustrated presentation of detailed information on the genus *Hosta* brought to you via Zoom by a local Horticulture Specialist. He will discuss cultural information such as sight selection, individual characteristics of a wide variety of cultivars, propagation techniques from both seed and divisions as well as discussion on dealing with problems such as frost protection, pests (deer, voles and slugs). etc. There will be fully labeled photos of many of the most popular and newer varieties of *Hosta* for you to add to your ever growing "Wish List" of plants you can't live without but have no idea of where they will fit into your garden.

Please plan to join us for this free "Lunch & Learn" webinar by registering at: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/GreatHostas_241



'Island Breeze'

American Hosta Growers Assn. Hosta of the Year 2022

Medio-variegated sport of 'Fire Island'. Medium size mound, 15 x 30. An improvement on its parent by virtue of its wider green margin and thicker substance. Emerges with a brilliant yellow center. The red petiole bleeds into the base of the leaf. Dark Lavender flowers in late summer.

Watch Where You Step

Reprinted from Shady Notes, newsletter of the St. Louis Hosta Society

It's the first of February and our hostas are still sound asleep. It has been a warm fall and winter. Can spring be any different? The growing season might only be 4- 6 weeks away. Soon we hostaholics will commence our annual "hosta dance". Each afternoon we will skip outside and dance about our garden straining to catch sight of the first pips to poke through the ground.

As the temperatures warm and the days grow longer, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the soil. Those little pointy things that look like bullets are called pips or eyes. Each pip is comprised of tightly wrapped sets of three or four leaves encased in a sheath. The sheath protects the tender leaves until the pip has pushed through the ground and the leaves are ready to unfold.

Some pips are pencil thin, others thick and fat. Young and small hostas may only have one or two eyes and so are hard to see. The size varies depending on genetics, age, ultimate plant size and growing conditions. Some are green, others shades of purple. If covered by thick mulch or leaves, they may even be white.

Genetics has a lot to do with which hostas break ground first. Some early risers are H. montana 'Aureomarginata', H. plantaginea and most fragrant flowered cultivars, H. lancifolia, H. 'Sagae', H. 'Wolverine' and H. 'Sum and Substance' and its sports and seedlings. Be prepared to protect these varieties if a late frost is forecast. Location also affects emergence. Hostas sheltered from the warming rays of the sun will be slower to emerge. Hostas in pots tend to erupt earlier than those planted in the ground.

At first, the pips will be right at the soil line or just below that thin decaying layer of mulch. Be careful! Accidentally stepping on an emerging hosta pip can have dire consequences. Bending or crushing the growing tip can tear the unfurled leaves before they even have a chance to unfold and expand, resulting in tattered leaves. That beautiful hosta that you have been waiting for all winter will spend the rest of the season sporting damaged leaves.

There are so many things, such as hail and falling tree debris that can't be prevented. But stepped-on damage isn't one of them. If the anticipation is just too much and you must dance around in your hosta beds, step very, very carefully.



Bent tips of stepped-on pips

Photo: <https://patoiejunction.wordpress.com>



Resulting leaf damage

Photo: <http://sproutsandstuff.blogspot.com/>

Have Fairies Danced in Your Garden?

By Joan Poos Northern Illinois HS Hosta HAPPENINGS! MARCH. Reprinted from St. Louis Hosta Society Newsletter, Feb 2022.

The hosta's circle of life is amazing. In a single year, the plant emerges from the ground, unfurls leaves which in a matter of weeks rapidly expand, flowers then returns to dormancy. Year after year the cycle continues with the plants gaining in size. A large clump forms. Hostas can remain for decades and decades, undisturbed, ever growing larger.

However, you may notice in the spring that your once beautiful clump now has a hole in the middle. It is not unusual for large clumps to begin to decline over time. This phenomena is called centering-out, clump decline, center dieback, or the more picturesque name 'fairy ring'. This whimsical name was given because the problem was said to result from fairies dancing in the middle of the plant. This ring effect is not usually an indication of disease.



In the beginning, you planted a single division which each year added new buds on the outer edge of the crown. Over time, these new divisions increase the diameter of the clump. Each new division adds more new buds. The oldest part of the clump is now at the center. Eventually the middle eyes get crowded out and begin to die.



Overlapping leaves may keep water and fertilizer from reaching the center of the clump accelerating the decline. Examples of 'fairy ring' In the spring the ring might be unsightly. But, by the time the leaves have fully expanded, the ring is no longer visible. Nothing really needs to be done. However, this could be the time to rejuvenate your plant.

Some people use a shovel or sharp knife to cut out the dead center area. They then fill the hole with fresh soil and depending on the size of the hole may cut a section from the ring and place it in the center. In a year or two this part of the clump will fill in. Others like to dig up the entire clump, remove the dead center part, cut the ring into smaller divisions and replant. Loosen the roots of each division before replanting and water thoroughly. Any extra divisions can be given to friends or donated to a hosta society for their plant sale or auction. Hint. Hint.

GARDEN GOSSIP:



BY CINDY HUGHES

The American Hosta Society is delighted to thank those members of local Societies who have worked tirelessly for many years to ensure the smooth running of their local clubs. Their names are inscribed on the President's Wall of Honor

For 2020
Mike Kovach and Diane Morris
For 2021
Tom Rabung and Becky Salamon

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. 'Celtic Dancer'

FIRST CLASS



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