



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 6 Issue
September 2022



2022 CALENDAR

October 22 Saturday 11:00 AM	Annual Meeting Club House at Pine Lakes
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

LET US KNOW.....

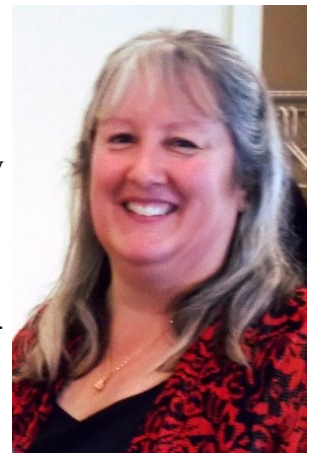
If you have suggestions for programs, tours, activities, etc. for the coming year, please contact one of our board members. Their email addresses are on the last page. This is Your Club and we value your input as we prepare for 2023.

Details of program, menu, etc. for the Annual Dinner Meeting will be emailed October 9 or sooner. We will also provide driving directions as we will welcome several new members at this event.

President's letter

Hi Hosta friends,

Summer is quickly winding down. We received some much-needed rain; unfortunately it had to be on a holiday weekend. Remember not to fertilize your hostas anymore this season so they will go dormant. Fertilizer might make them start to put out more leaves that will be damaged by frost.



Thank you to Tom Rabung for letting our group use his property for our Make and Take day. Many of our members enjoyed participating in this event and went away with a very nice planter. Just remember to bring them in if you used plants that are not winter hardy! It would be a good idea to use a systemic insecticide on the planter before bringing it inside for the winter so that you do not bring in insects that will harm your houseplants.

We do not have an event in September, but we will be together again for the annual Bob Kuk, Jon Soucek Memorial Dinner on Saturday, October 22 at 11am at the Pine Lakes Clubhouse 10949 Woodrun Dr. Strongsville, Ohio 44136. The Board will be getting together prior to this meeting in order to have a nice year of events planned for 2023. Please join us in October for great food and friends in anticipation of a wonderful year to come. See you then,

-Barb Rauckhorst President

September to fall Garden Cleanup

Reprinted with permission from Central IL Hosta Society
"Great Expectations" Sept 2022 By Ray Rodgers, CIHS

Planting hostas can be done anytime as long as the soil is not frozen, but the chances for survival are better if plantings are completed by early September, to allow four to six weeks for the plants to reestablish before first frost (approx. October 14 in central Illinois). Hostas are completely dormant during the winter, making late plantings more susceptible to rot.

Do not try to keep your hostas actively growing late in the year. It is better to let plants die down somewhat naturally rather than letting a hard frost do all



H. 'First Frost'

the damage. All fertilization should have stopped well prior to September, but it is important for gardens to continue receiving the equivalent of 1 to 1 ½ inches of rainfall per week through September.

Although October is the time to start cutting back on watering, hostas do not want to be dry when they go into dormancy. Each gardener will have to decide for themselves whether their gardens need supplemental watering during October; considering soil type, temperatures, and amount of rainfall received.

We have very little control during the winter, but keep in mind that hostas prefer to remain on the dry side during dormancy. Excessive moisture and cold temperatures lead to rotting.

Continue to watch for foliar nematodes (brown streaks between the veins of hosta leaves). If you

have infected plants, get rid of them, or have more infected plants next season.

Mole activity usually picks up in the fall. Moles won't directly cause damage to hostas, other than occasionally uprooting young plants, but eliminating moles will reduce the likelihood of voles which use the mole runs to reach and eat hosta roots and crowns. It is a good idea to drop poison bait into vole holes throughout the winter. (Look for nickel size holes.) I suggest alternating the use of a variety of baits to increase the chances of success. Place a brick or other heavy object over the hole to prevent poisoning of birds and other animals. Several gardeners have also had success with mouse traps baited with a mixture of peanut butter and oatmeal placed next to vole holes. Again, cover the hole and trap in a manner to protect birds and pets. A clay pot turned upside down with a brick on top works well.

Depending on how early, cutting your hostas back before they go dormant may reduce the amount of energy that they are able to store, resulting in smaller plants the following season. If you prefer this method, it is advisable to sanitize your garden tools between each plant. One commonly used sanitizer is a bleach/water solution (10-50% bleach). Most people use a mix closer to 10%. If your confidence level goes up proportionately as the percent of bleach increases, it may be worth the extra expense. It is your decision but do use some form of sanitizer. Remember that viruses spread when the sap from an infected plant comes in contact with the sap of another plant.

Mother Nature can make the removal of hosta foliage much easier than cutting petioles at ground level. After one or more hard freezes, it becomes very easy to pull hosta foliage off without any tools. If you try



H. 'Red October'

pulling the foliage off too early, you may end up completely pulling some divisions and/or smaller hostas out of the ground.

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Some of the reasons for cleaning your gardens in the fall include: - Removal of all hosta leaves and other debris from the garden helps reduce slug populations the following year, as slugs often lay their eggs on these surfaces. - Eliminates cover for rodents (mice, moles and voles). - Reduces a variety of fungal diseases the following year. - May reduce the spread of foliar nematodes. Some people believe that if infected leaves are not removed in the fall, they can be blown around infecting other areas. If unsure, why risk it. For many of the above reasons, it is not advisable to put hosta leaves on the compost pile. Burning the garden clutter can be a bit of a challenge, as hosta leaves are typically very moisture retentive, but doing so eliminates any possible problems associated with discarding the waste elsewhere.

One of the arguments against cleaning gardens in the fall is that the old foliage helps to maintain soil temperatures and protects hostas from extreme cold. This is not without merit, but generally speaking, if your gardens are already mulched, and any exposed buds are covered with a little surrounding soil, there is no need for additional protection of established plants.

If additional protection is desired, a thin layer of low moisture retentive coarse mulch, such as various types of wood chips or pine bark nuggets, can be added.

A thin layer of mulch will also help prevent heaving of young plants. An additional benefit of a coarse layer of mulch added anytime from fall through winter is by helping to maintain soil temperatures; emergence of new plant growth in the spring will be slightly delayed, making plant tissue less susceptible to freezing temperatures. On the negative side, adding an additional layer of compost before the ground is frozen increases the likelihood of rodent damage.

For trough gardens, putting them on the east or north side of a building and covering and surrounding them with a coarse mulch will provide winter protection. For additional protection, some gardeners prefer to first bury the bottom one-third of the trough in the ground. For additional detail, I recommend the following articles, written by Bob Solberg: -

How late is too late to plant hostas in the fall? <http://www.hostahosta.com/tips.html#late> –

Preparing the Garden for Winter <http://www.hostahosta.com/tips.html#winter>

We had a great time at the Auction at the Club House. There were lotsa hotstas and other interesting items. The spirited bidding was prompted by Mike and his helpers. Thanks to all who participated, it was a successful event raising funds for club activities. As usual, we also had a tasty lunch.



We also ate well at the Picnic and Hosta Swap at Dave and Beth Bowe's, one of our favorite summer gatherings.



Our last outdoor event was the **Echivera Make and Take** at Tom Raybungs' Emerald Forrest.

Now You See It, Now You Don't: Overwintering Hostas In Containers.

By Warren Pollock and Kathy Miller. DVHS Newsletter, Midsummer, 2022. Reprinted with permission.

My favorite, really big hosta is – no, was- ‘Seducer’ It lived in a huge pot on my deck. It was so mature and so healthy – how could anything possibly happen to it? The pictures below tell the sad story. Overwintered with no protection, it was reduced to mush. No longer very seductive. All of my container grown hostas are protected in some way or other, as I will describe near the end, but somehow, this one just slid under the radar.



H. 'Seducer' 2021



H. 'Seducer' 2022

The following are excerpts from Warren Pollock's much longer article "Growing and Overwintering Hostas in Containers". The entire text can be found in the Hosta Library. www.hostalibrary.org. Go to the menu and look under Articles. Although Warren has long since moved to Maris Grove, there are some lovely pictures from his previous garden in the article. He writes:

I put our containers in our unheated garage, usually about Thanksgiving before we have harsh freezing weather. (This date would be earlier in northern regions and maybe somewhat later in southern locations.) Strong wooden shelves along the back of the garage, four tiers high were specially constructed to hold all of our pots. The largest containers rest on two-by-fours on the concrete floor which is the bottom shelf. All the containers are watered thoroughly before I bring them into the garage.

If the soil in any pot gets very dry during winter storage, I add water to it. This is often necessary with the smaller pots such as the four-inch sizes on the top-most shelves where it is the warmest. This is done only on a mild day and when the soil in the container is not frozen. Caveat: Never water a containerized hosta with a frozen root ball. This is a sure way to kill the plant. In the spring you'll find smelly, mushy, rotting roots.

Given a choice in the winter between over watering or under watering your containerized hostas, always select the latter. Dry roots are not necessarily dead roots; they almost always recover when watered. Rotted roots are dead roots. What will kill a hosta in a container is having water sitting atop a frozen root mass in a container when the ambient temperature is above 45-50 °F. Here's a scenario to illustrate the problem: A hosta in a container is outdoors unprotected.

It is sitting on the ground with no covering. The temperature falls below freezing and the potting mix with the root mass freezes. Then it warms up considerably, and rains. The weather from then on remains above freezing. The soil in the pot does not thaw out immediately; it may take days depending on the size of the pot, ambient temperature and how sheltered the location is. Meanwhile the crown of the hosta is in contact with warm water. Come spring, you'll likely find the roots rotted.

Some other overwintering strategies:

Tip the pots on their side and leave outside. Remove hostas from the container and place in raised bed with loose, highly composted soil. Top with pine needles or shredded leaves.

Sink a plastic container in the ground in a pre-frost-dug hole to fit container. Cover the container with shredded leaves, an inch or maybe more.

Other containers can be grouped together, covered with shredded leaves and then a plastic sheeting like polyethylene can be put over everything. The plastic sheet may need to be removed and then put back on several times in early spring.

Remove mulch, plastic sheeting, leaves, etc. when shoots start to emerge. You want as much direct light on the emerging divisions and unfurling leaves as weather permits.

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Having such a small garden, I grow many of my hostas in containers like Warren does. In the winter, pots are lined up on the concrete floor of the unheated, but attached, garage. I water just slightly about once a month. Because the plants are dormant, the roots are not taking up water and it is very easy to over water. But, completely dry soil will begin to suck water out of the plant. So a little bit of water is necessary. Large pots pose a problem. Neither Steve nor I are young enough to move them. So big pots stay in place in the garden and get big round wooden covers. These wooden circles can be found in the lumber section of Lowes, and probably other DIY stores. Not sure what they were designed for, but they work well in the garden. I paint them to match my pots. For insurance, something heavy like a rock or garden ornament helps hold down the lid.

No need to water. There is enough moisture in a big pot to get through the winter. I leave them on until May. I think the key is to keep the plants cold, dry and dark.



The Miller garden in Winter

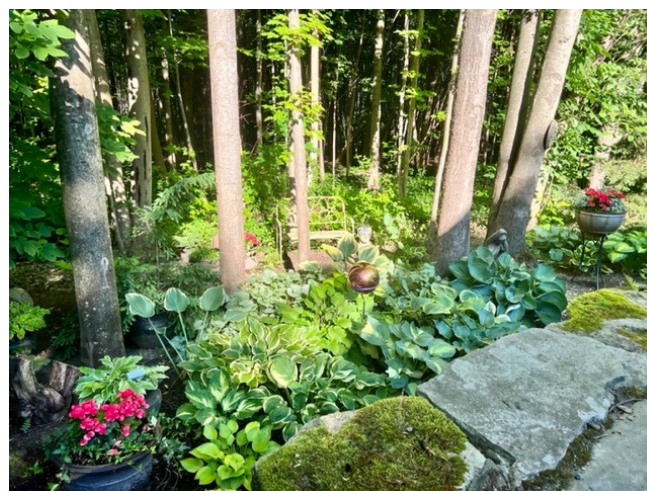
Once they begin to warm up, they are more susceptible to sudden spring frosts

We enjoyed our members' gardens at Pop-up Open House garden tours

Our first was the home of Mike Kovach with a kaleidoscope of hostas.



Myra Wallis' garden had many points of interest and elevations providing beautiful backdrops for her hostas.



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AHS Membership Rates:

Individual - \$30.00 / 1 year; \$80.00 / 3 years; \$129.00 / 5 years; \$900.00 / lifetime.

Family - \$34.00 / 1 year; \$90.00 / 3 years; \$146.00 / 5 years.

Membership Year is January 1 through December 31

Register online at:

www.AmericanHostaSociety.org

I would encourage all members to take advantage of the information on the Hosta Library and Facebook pages for American Hosta Society, Hostas Mini and Small, Hosta Diseases and Pests and Hosta ID. And most of all, pictures of hostas to lust after!

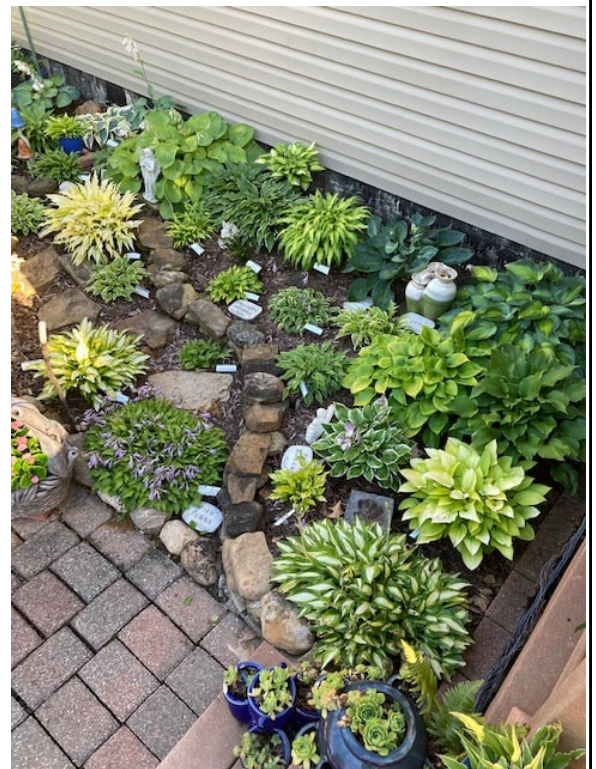
The Open House at Dave and Beth Bowe's was our Picnic and Swap....Dave has a wonderful collection of hostas, including his own introductions, but the stars of the day were the Daylilies which were intent on showing off!



The garden of Jim and Joyce Spuhler. 2022 must have been the year of the daylily. They stole the show in this garden, too.



These and more pictures can be seen on the website. We thank all who opened their gardens to us. Not pictured was the get-together at Marilyn Ruff's home in Marshallville, Ohio.



GARDEN GOSSIP:



BY CINDY HUGHES

This August we welcomed several new members to NCHS. Some of the info in this newsletter is not “new” to a lot of hostaphiles, but I thought a review was timely.

Club Co-Op Supplies are a great perk of membership. Carl Schmid is retiring as a keeper of supplies. We need a volunteer to take over this project. I know Carl will be most happy to explain what is involved.

We also need someone to step up and take over storage of Club supplies (11 cases of vases for leaf shows) from Jim Spuhler. Please Contact Barb if you can help with these essential projects.

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!

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. 'Autumn Frost'

FIRST CLASS



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