



**Newsletter of the  
North Coast Hosta  
Society  
Volume 7 Issue 2  
March 2023**



## 2023 CALENDAR

<b>April 22</b> <i>Saturday</i> 11:00 AM	New Bay Village Public Library <i>Finger Foods</i> <b>Deb Collins</b> <i>Hosta: Flowers, Pollinators, Fragrance</i>
<b>May 20</b> <i>Saturday</i>	POKER RUN and Picnic ending at at Emerald Forest Nursery
<b>June 10</b> <i>Saturday</i>	PLANT AUCTION Club House Pine Lakes Village NCHS will supply meat; members sides & dessert
<b>June 7-10</b>	AHS NATIONAL CONVENTION -Ames, Iowa
<b>JULY 8 or 15</b> <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS Hosta Swap At the home of Maryanne Woodside Doylestown, Oh
<b>July 29</b> <i>Saturday</i>	NCHS 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Miller Nature Preserve, Avon, Ohio Catered lunch
<b>August 19</b> <i>Saturday</i>	Joint Meeting with Midland 50 Shades of Green Nursery Southington, OH
<b>September</b>	<b>No Meeting Scheduled</b>
<b>October 21</b> <i>Saturday</i>	Jon Soucek/Bob Kuk Annual Memorial Meeting Costume Halloween Party <i>NCHS will supply meat; members sides &amp; dessert</i>
<b>November</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>

## President's Message

Hi Everyone, There are increasing signs of spring every day around my garden and if I am not mistaken, we seem to be a full 2 weeks ahead of where we are supposed to be. Forsythia are blooming, which doesn't usually happen until mid April and my Rhubarb is starting to send up its flower stalks. It will be hard to resist cleaning up the leaves I didn't remove from the garden in the fall. We are sure to get more snow and a freeze or two which will cause great damage to any plants starting to emerge under the warm layer of leaves. I choose to leave the leaves on the hosta garden because I have many spring ephemeral plants like Trout Lily, Hepatica, Jack in the pulpit and Ramps all of which naturally grow in the woods. I will remove the leaves when the hostas start peeking through.

We have an exciting year planned! A garden marker commemorating our 25th Anniversary will be provided to each member family. Our Garden tour/Poker Run is a new event and sounds like a lot of fun, be sure to attend this! See our contest on Page 3 and bring your entry in April. Our Plant Auction and Hosta swap are popular events which we will enjoy again this summer. So think about this when dividing your plants. We are planning to have an event with Midland Hosta Society. Watch for more information at a later date.

I am looking forward to this year with my hosta friends. I hope mother nature cooperates!

Barb Rauckhorst, President



# The slugs are coming! Time to Be Pro-active! +

Garden slugs are brown or gray in color, slimy and softbodied, without any legs. In St. Louis they are generally small – one-fourth to one inch in length. Each slug is capable of laying hundreds of eggs in its lifetime. The eggs are laid in moist soil, under mulch, rocks or garden detritus. Now, as winter weather abates, all those overwintering slug eggs begin to hatch and any slugs that have survived the winter begin to feed regularly.

There are some non-chemical controls that can be tried and may work if you are tenacious and persistent.



photo from Missouri Botanical Garden

Slugs crawl everywhere. Their soft bodies do not like to crawl over anything that irritates their skin. Things like coffee grounds, wood ashes, sand, crushed eggshells and diatomaceous earth can be used as barriers around a plant. Slugs like to live and lay eggs in garden debris. Destroy their homes by removing old decayed foliage and leaf litter from your beds. Pull mulch away from the crowns of your hostas. Slugs are a favorite food of snakes, toads, frogs, beetles and other beneficial insects. Encourage these predators to stay in your garden.

There are two primary types of chemical slug baits, those with metaldehyde as the primary ingredient and those with iron phosphate. Brand names include Sluggo, Slug Magic, and Garden Safe Slug and Snail Bait. Both types also contain additives such as yeast to lure the slugs and snails to the bait.

For metaldehyde and iron phosphate baits, all that is necessary is to evenly apply the bait over the infested area at the rate recommended on the product label. More is not better. In about two or three weeks, apply the bait again. This will take out many of the slugs hatched from eggs after the first application. Applied properly, more treatments will probably not be necessary until late fall when a final application should be applied to knock down the slug population prior to onset of winter.

Environmentalists are fiercely debating whether these baits constitute a significant danger to pets and wildlife. Chemical slug baits have been banned in some parts of Europe and may soon be in the US also. Stay tuned for more information on this discussion.

Whether you use slug baits or non-chemical controls such as spun wool, hair, beer, garlic spray or ammonia and water, the key is to get started early, just as the pips are emerging from the soil. Waiting until holes appear is much too late – many generations of slugs are already thriving in your garden.



Used with permission from the St. Louis Hosta Society "Shady Notes" March 2023

The speaker for the April meeting will be **NCHS member Deb Collins**. Deb has been a member of the American Hosta Society for 16 years having collected over 89 varieties of Hosta in her gardens, all for the "Love of the Leaf." She will concentrate on **Hostas, Flowers, Pollinators and Fragrance**, a similar presentation to the one she provided last summer through the Ohio State Master Gardener Program at Root Candle which was sold out.





How many poker related registered hosta names can you unscramble ?

Diane Morris has prepared a little game to build up interest in the May 20 Poker Run Garden Tour and Picnic. She has come up with 20 hosta names plus a bonus name related to playing cards. Bring your unscrambled names to the April meeting to see who's the champ!

<p>----- K P R O E</p> <p>----- P A S S D E G F I K O N</p> <p>----- S E F A E R T. U O H T Q N</p> <p>----- P F S A. E D A K C O J S</p> <p>----- A L L O Y H F U S R</p> <p>----- K O J R E</p>	<p>----- S P F A D C E O A E S</p> <p>----- F S O Q E P A E U N D S E</p> <p>----- O D J I A M N D C F K A S O</p> <p>----- F H I H T T S A R L U S G</p> <p><b>Bonus:</b></p> <p>----- T I Q O S S. N G R E N A H U S E F K E</p>
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"From Garden to Kitchen"



As a NCHS representative to the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society, Diane prepared this cute basket as the NCHS donation to the Hosta College. The club donated metal plant markers, garden gloves, the NCHS cookbook, a CD of the gardens of the 2018 Tailgate and one of the metal containers from our Echeveria workshop. She added some other items to make the theme "From Garden to Kitchen". The basket brought \$32.00. One hundred percent of the proceeds of the plant raffle, silent auction, plant auction, (donations from our own Tom Rabung), Park A Plant and Bookstore are used to keep the cost of Hosta College down.

**NCHS needs a second delegate to GLRHS. Contact Diane or Barb if you have questions and are willing to serve.**

# Hosta Cultivar Survey... or Hosta Cultivars to Avoid



Reprinted from the Central Illinois Hosta Society newsletter "Great Expectations" March 201

*"Recently an e-mail poll of Northern Illinois Hosta Society members was conducted with the following question: Based on personal experience, which host cultivars would you NOT*

*recommend and why? The survey yielded a variety of responses, ranging from cultivars to avoid to caveats about other cultivars. The following is a summary of those responses."*

In the category of cultivars to avoid, white-centered cultivars with thin substance (such as 'White Christmas,' 'Moon Struck,' and 'Calypso')



were named because the white leaf centers tend to melt out by mid-summer. Other white-centered hostas that have greater substance

(and are less prone to melting out) tend to be poor growers due to the large portion of the leaf that has no chlorophyll. Named in this survey were 'Fire and Ice,' 'Sea Thunder,' 'Banana Boat,' 'Color Parade,' 'Eskimo Pie,' **'Fantasy Island,'** and 'White Feather.' In short, hostas with a large percentage of white in the leaf will, at best, be slow growers, and at worst, melt out if they have thin substance.

Thin substance poses problems even with hostas that do not have white leaves. Some, like 'Wide Brim' and the 'Tiara' series, are particularly attractive to slugs. Others, like 'Brim Cup' and "Queen Josephine," develop tattered leaf edges by late summer.

Slug bait can help control slugs, but little can be done to prevent tattered leaf edges.

Many mini hostas (such as 'Pandora's Box,' 'Cat's Eyes,' 'Cherish,' 'Hope,' 'Country Mouse,' and 'Uzono-Mai') can be problems due to their shallow root systems. They are prone to frost heave if not mulched in winter. They can also be difficult to grow successfully in the garden because their shallow root systems make it more likely that they will dry out between waterings. Better results can be achieved if they are grown in pots or trough gardens that are filled with very well-draining soil, and are located where they will get watered daily. There are also some not-so-mini hostas (such as 'Tattoo' and "Flame Stitch") that can often be problematic in the garden, but successfully grown in pots and trough gardens in the same way.

Though a long time favorite, 'Francis Williams' has a tendency to "burn," that is develop brown spots in the gold portion of the leaves. The cause is unknown, but this characteristic is more prevalent in some years than others and is also present in some related hostas (such as 'Color Glory' and **'Carnival'**). 'Olive Bailey Langdon' is a look-alike for 'Francis Williams' that is less likely to exhibit the burning.



There are hostas that are naturally slow to mature.

Most notable is 'Sagae,' which can take five years to exhibit the form that made it the AHS 2010 Benedict medal winner. In the same category are **'Patriot,'** 'Ice Age Trail,' 'Minuteman,' 'Stitch in Time,' 'Thunderbolt,'



Continued on Page 5

and **‘Remember Me.’**

These are garden worth hostas that simply require patience from the gardener. There are some hostas, however, (such as ‘Great Expectations’ and ‘Blue Moon’) where patience may not lead to success. While some gardeners are able to grow excellent specimens of these plants, others (no matter how patient they are) are not successful.



Some hostas (such as *ventricosa* ‘Aureomaculata’ and ‘Photo Finish’) are viridescens, which means that they emerge variegated in the spring, but then turn green as the season progresses. So long as the gardener realizes that this will occur, there is no reason not to include viridescens cultivars in their garden.

Finally, a gardener’s personal preference should be the guiding force in deciding whether hostas with unusual leaf or flowering characteristics should be included in the garden. Some examples are **‘Praying Hands’** (upright twisted leaves), ‘Lunar Eclipse’ (cupped “drawstring” leaf effect) and



**‘Allegan Fog’** and **‘Gunther’s Prize’** (grass clipping leaf variegation). The



spectacular double flowers of **‘Aphrodite’** enchant many hosta gardeners with their size and fragrance, but in zone 5a, flowering is achieved in only about one year out of three (if conditions are favorable).

*Also check [Hostalists.org](http://Hostalists.org)*

**Editor’s notes:** Photos are from our garden. (Names are bolded in the text) We can affirm **‘and Ice’**, **‘Color Parade’**, **‘Sea Thunder’** and **‘Eskimo Pie’** did not last long for us. Of the minis, I am giving **‘Pandora’s Box’** one final try - 3 times and you are out! Believe it or not, we are having to give **‘Sagae’** another try as the deer decimated the first and it didn’t recover. As a fun note, we discovered a variegated **‘Praying Hands’** last summer. We are excited to see if the variegation holds!

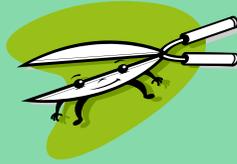
## 2023 HOSTA OF THE YEAR IS *H.* **‘NEPTUNE’**

The American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) has selected *H.* “Neptune” as the 2023 Hosta of the Year. Developed by Hans Hansen of Walters Gardens and registered in 2006, *H.* ‘Neptune’ is appropriately named for the mythological god of the sea. It is a medium-large hosta, 24 inches tall by 47 inches wide, with cascading waves of rippled, narrow wedge-shaped pointed leaves. As the season progresses the leaves turn more blue-green. The backs of the leaves are white. Lavender flowers appear in late summer on tall arching scapes, approaching 32 inches. The leaves are of heavy substance which offers some resistance to slugs. Moderately fast growing, it makes a beautiful specimen in the home garden and is easily recognized from afar.



*photo from Walters Gardens*

# GARDEN GOSSIP:



BY CINDY HUGHES

Welcome to our new members! The "Friendship Plant" has brought us together to share growing hints, plants and hostality!

If you have garden pictures or stories to share, I am always looking for new material. Anything pertaining to gardening is welcome. Also the club belongs to all of us and it is important that members participate in the planning and execution of our activities. Help is always needed and most welcome. Contact any officer if you are willing to volunteer.

Remember to pick up your Solberg Hostas at the May meeting or make arrangements to pick them up from Marilyn Ruff. [MiniatureHostas@MarilynsHostaGarden.com](mailto:MiniatureHostas@MarilynsHostaGarden.com)

## 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) 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



# Join the American Hosta Society

## Discover Hostas!

Join the American Hosta Society and receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the Members Only section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions.

**For more information or to join** Are you a member of The American Hosta Society? To join, go to [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org) and click the "Membership" tab. Members receive two printed copies of *The Hosta Journal* and one Online Hosta Journal per year!

BECOME A MEMBER!



- Receive *The Hosta Journal*, mailed to you
- Gain access to members-only online materials
- Participate in exciting events and auctions
- Further your love of hostas and gardening

**HOSTA.org**

## Please order your AHS Member Plant before April 15th!

*Hosta 'Speakeasy' (Zilis, 2022) is available to AHS Members only this year. Be sure to order yours before April 15, 2023. 'Speakeasy' is a sport of H. 'Powder Blue', found by Mark Zilis in his tissue culture lab.*



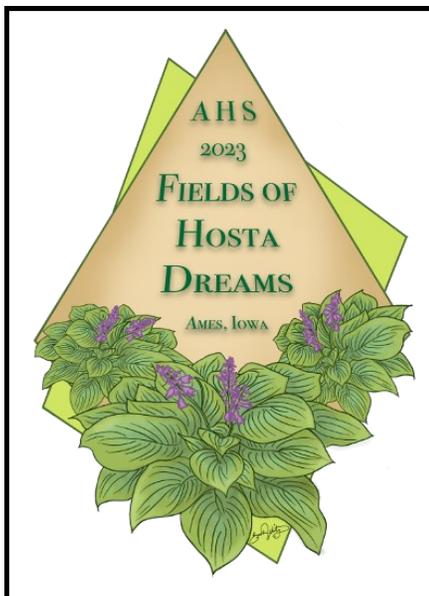
You will receive a three year old plant that has a well developed root system

'Speakeasy' is being grown out at our grower's nursery and will ship to you in early May.

The cost of \$26 includes shipping. You may order more than one.

Send a check payable to AHS to the Membership Secretary at the address below, or call 309-678-4119 to reserve your plant.

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY  
Barry Ankney, Membership Secretary,  
1104 Oxford Court,  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181– 5249



### ANOTHER PERK OF MEMBERSHIP:

#### FUN CONVENTIONS

The American Hosta Society National Convention will be held at the

Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, Iowa

June 7–10, 2023

Featuring:

Garden tours, Hosta Auction, Education Vendors, and AHS sanctioned Hosta Show

Get Registered: [www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)

Invite Other Plant Lovers to Join the Club

Check out our Website ([northcoasthostasociety.weebly.com](http://northcoasthostasociety.weebly.com))  
and Facebook page (North Coast Hosta Society).

## INVITE A FRIEND



H. "Hallelujah"

FIRST CLASS



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