



**Newsletter of the
North Coast Hosta
Society
Volume 8 Issue 1
February 2024**



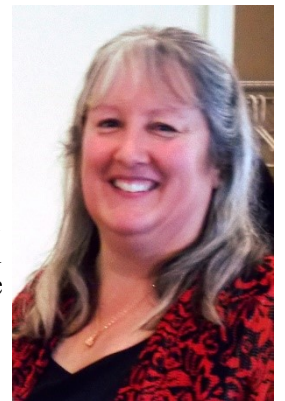
2024 CALENDAR

February 17 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	Used garden items swap Club House at Pine Lakes Chili, Soup, Salad and Bread
March 15 & 16	HOSTA COLLEGE Piqua, Ohio No Meeting
April 27 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	Parma Powers Library Finger Foods Program TBA
May ?? <i>Saturday</i>	<i>Open</i>
June 15 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	PLANT AUCTION Club House Pine Lakes Village NCHS will supply meat Members sides and deserts
June 29 Satur- day 9:30 AM	Garden Tour and Picnic Wooster - Hosted by Carl and Marilyn Schmid, Eric Schmid, Matt and Sally Call
July 13 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	Hosta Swap and Picnic hosted by Anne and Greg Takacs at their home in Medina
August 17 <i>Saturday</i>	<i>TBA</i>
14-Sep	NCHS Board Meeting
October 26 11:00 AM <i>Saturday</i>	Annual Jon Soucek and Bob Kuk Annual Meeting Clubhouse at Pine Lakes Village Crock Pot Luck and sides Share your recipe by your crockpot
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Hosta Friends,

Spring is almost here. I can hardly wait.. neither can my crocus, they are starting to peek through the ground. I'm sure those of you to the south of North Royalton have some in bloom already. The Skunk Cabbage blooms are already up and doing their thing.



I hope to see all of you eager gardeners at our February 17 Meeting at 11am at the Pine Lakes Clubhouse, 10949 Woodrun Dr., Strongsville, Ohio. Our meeting will be a Chili, soup, salad, or bread menu, please bring your favorite dish to share. We always have such delicious choices, so be sure not to miss this meeting.

It will be a "Yankee swap" of used garden tools, so bring an item or 2 that you think we can't live without.. one man's trash is another man's treasure, so they say!

Hosta college will be held on March 15-16th. Registration is now open. Classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register ASAP.

See you at the meeting,

Barb Rauckhorst,
President, NCHS

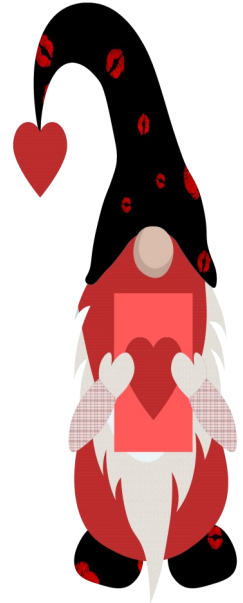




As this crazy winter weather becomes an above average temp February, do you have the urge to clean out the garden shed, garage, storage bin, attic? Do you have a garden item that no longer fits your garden theme -some extra tools or maybe some gadget you can't use any more? If so, wrap it up as a surprise and bring it to our meeting on February 17.

Don't have anything to swap? No problem. Come and swap garden stories.

Re-connect with hosta friends and enjoy the good eats our members provide. Lots of good chile and soup!



To get the conversations started, I have a couple of topics that it would be interesting to get feedback on either at the meeting or, if you can't attend, send me to include in the newsletter.

1. Do you have a garden, or hosta, culture, winter protection, spring cleanup, critter control, summer love'n, water (or lack of it) fall cleanup, etc., hint, idea, complaint that you could share. We all love to hear and tell stories and get new ideas.
2. I know when asked "what is your favorite hosta" we say, "it depends!" I know mine often depends on how it stands up and talks to me, or shines in the sun, or waves gently in the wind. BUT, isn't there at least one that you would REALLY like to add to your garden? What hosta would you like and why? Just maybe a member has one that they would be willing to swap. You never know.



IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR REGISTRATION IN FOR HOSTA COLLEGE, DO IT NOW!!

31st Annual Great Lakes Region Hosta College

Friday & Saturday March 15 & 16, 2024

Upper Valley Career Center, 8811 Career Drive, Piqua, OH

Register for Hosta College:

www.hostacollege.org

Registration opens for GLR Hosta Society Members: February 3rd

Companion Plant of the Month: Saxifragaceae

By Mary L. Albrecht, Professor Emerita, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee

(Editors Note: This very informative and award-winning article about the saxifrage family of plants is reprinted from the East Tennessee Hosta Society's Hosta Happenings newsletter, August 2021 edition. The saxifrage family consists of a number of different familiar garden plants and includes both perennial plants and shrubs that enjoy widespread popularity in our South-east gardens.) Reprinted from [Georgia Hosta Notes](#), October 2022

The what? Saxifragaceae? The saxifrages are things like Heuchera (coral bells, alum root), Tiarella (foam flower, false mitrewort), Heucherella (foamy bells), Astilbe (false spirea, false goat's beard), Bergenia (winter begonia, pig squeak), and Rodgersia (rodgersia). Oh, and there's also Saxifraga (rockfoil, saxifrage).

But then, they are also plants like Hydrangea, Itea (sweet spire), Deutzia (deutzia, slender deutzia), and Philadelphus (mock orange). And, if you are growing fruit, there's Ribes (currents and gooseberries).

According to Bailey's Manual of Cultivated Plants (1975 15th printing of the 1949 revised edition), the saxifrage family is "allied to Rosaceae but differs in having fewer or more definite stamens, pistils mostly fewer than sepals and sometimes combined into a single compound pistil, leaves usually without stipules and sometimes opposite; flowers bisexual or unisexual, usually regular; sepals prevailingly 4 or 5, and petals and stamens of same number of stamens twice as many (or more), the petals and stamens inserted at the edge of a disk; pistils free or united, ovary inferior or superior, placentation axile or parietal, usually 1-5 celled: fruit a capsule or berry with many seeds that contain abundant albumen." Clear as mud! Right?

Britanica.com more simply describes the family as "Members of the family have leaves that characteristically alternate along the stem and are sometimes deeply lobed or form rosettes. The flowers possess both male and female parts and four or five sepals and petals; they are generally borne in branched clusters and range in colour [sic] from greenish to white or yellow and from pink or red to purple. The fruit is a capsule with many seeds.

"Now we're getting closer to understanding. It's clear from the descriptions that the flower characteristics hold this plant family together, not necessarily whether or not the plants are woody or herbaceous. That's true for other plant families. Now let's look at some of these plants used for ornamental purposes.

Herbaceous Plants



Astilbe (false spirea, false goat's beard) have been a backbone plant for the perennial garden for decades. They handle the same growing conditions as hosta and benefit from some morning sun and afternoon shade. Flowers are small but presented in very large, showy plumelike inflorescences borne well above the foliage, and come in white and shades of pink and red, even a lavender variety. Sizes vary. The smallest are mounds of foliage about 6 to 8 inches tall to the very large that can reach about 12 inches tall with an equal spread.



Bergenia (winter begonia, pig squeak) is a little used but delightful plant with very deep green foliage. Again, a mound forming plant (about 12 to 18 inches tall and wide) that will spread slowly from a rhizome. Flowers are only pink. A plus is rabbits and deer don't like it! It also can handle moist soils. It gets the name pig squeak from the foliage - if you hold a leaf between you thumb and forefinger and then pull along the leaf, it makes a sound like a pig squeaking! And, it's evergreen so adds to the winter garden. Treat the foliage like hellebores by removing spent foliage in the late winter or early spring before new growth.

Companion Plant of the Month: Saxifragaceae (Continued)



Heuchera (coral bells, alum root) is one that we all know and grow. It has gained in popularity over the years and there are numerous cultivars available that range from silver to chartreuse green to deep burgundy and purple that is almost black. Many come with veins being a contrasting color to the blades. Flowers are borne on tall, wispy inflorescences. Take care not to keep the crowns wet, especially through winter months. And, they benefit from some light clean-up before new growth appears in the spring. Try to give them some morning sun. And, some of the varieties are short lived depending upon environmental conditions. You may not have success with all of them. Mt. Cuba Center (located in Hockessin, DE) trialed 83 varieties and published a report available at mtcubacenter.org/trial/



x Heucherella (foamy bells) is an intergeneric hybrid created from Heuchera and Tiarella, introduced to the bedding plant industry in 2002 with the variety 'Sunspot'. It is generally more compact and delicate in appearance than its Heuchera parent. It forms a dense, compact (5 to 8 inches) clump with distinctly veined foliage with deep lobes. Similar to coral bells, the foliage will usually retain some color in winter. Tiny star-shaped pink or white flowers appear in airy to dense inflorescences atop stems rising well above the foliage clump (typically to 15-20" tall) in late spring to midsummer. Rodgersia (rogersia) varies on size depending on species.



Rodgersia podophyllum ranges from 3 to 6 feet and as wide. Rodgersia aesculifolia (aesculifolia from Aesculus, the genus of horse chestnut, and folia, meaning foliage, so horse chestnut-like foliage) is also a large species. Best to grow in moist shade. A good choice for smaller gardens is Rodgersia 'Bronze Peacock, from Terra Nova Nurseries, as it is only about 2 feet tall and wide. Missouri Botanic Garden recommends deadheading (removing flower stalks) when done flowering.



Saxifraga (rockfoil, saxifrage) common to gardens predominantly come from two species, *S. x arendsii* (USDA Zones 5 to 7) and *S. stolonifera* (USDA Zones 6 to 9). These are good groundcovers. Growing conditions for both align well with hosta.



tiarella (foam flower, false mitrewort) performs better in deeper shade than Heuchera, so a dappled shade works well. They are a low maintenance plant and don't need dividing for years. Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in part shade to full shade. Prefers soils high in organic matter for moisture retention. Soil should not be allowed to dry out; yet, avoid wet soils which can be fatal particularly in winter. Removal of flower spikes after bloom will improve the appearance of the foliage mound. If they appear a little tattered from the old foliage, they can easily be trimmed back to allow new growth. Another plus is it appears that deer and rabbits leave them alone.

Saxifragaceae (Continued) Shrubs



Deutzia (deutzia, slender deutzia) is an underused deciduous shrub for the sunny to partly sunny landscape. There are several cultivars of Deutzia available, and most produce a profusion of pure white, fragrant flowers during late April and early May. Deutzia will grow well in USDA Zones 5 to 8, which covers most all of South Carolina. In the warmer parts of the state, they will perform best with partial shade.

The sizes of cultivars range from the dwarf selection 'Nikko', which grows to 2 or 3 feet tall, to the species that has a mounding limb habit and reaches 3 to 5 feet tall. However, there are a few with pink flower buds, such as 'Nikko Blush'. (from <https://hgic.clemson.edu/deutzia/>)



Hydrangea has become more popular over the past few years as the choices have exploded. Most commonly used in the landscape are *H. microphylla* (hortensis and lacecap groups), *H. anomala* (climbing hydrangea), *H. quercifolia* (oakleaf hydrangea), *H. arborescens* (smooth or snowhill hydrangea), and *H. paniculate* (peegee hydrangea). For good cultural information, see this article from Clemson University Extension - <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/hydrangea/>.



Itea (sweet spire) is a native deciduous to semievergreen shrub of the southeastern US. Great addition because of the abundant fragrant flowers that attract pollinators. And, reportedly deer resistant! Keys to good growth and flowering are moist, slightly acidic, humusy soils with 4 hours of sun per day. Good information is available from North Carolina State Extension at <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/iteavirginica/>. May be somewhat difficult to find so look for it at native plant nurseries.



Philadelphus (mock orange) genus contains approximately 60 species of deciduous shrubs. Typically they have fragrant, white flowers with showy stamens. You will run across different species and varieties at garden centers. A nice edition to the landscape provided you can provide some sunlight; they tend not to do well in full shade. New cultivars provide for more compact, less messy growth. And, the newer cultivars appear to be deer resistant and drought tolerant.

photo credits: Astilbe and Bergenia, courtesy Harold McDonell. Deutzia, Monrovia, <https://www.monrovia.com/dwarfnikko-deutzia.html> x Heucherella, Bloomin Designs Nursery, <http://www.bloomindesigns.com> tiarella, New Garden Plants, <http://www.newgardenplants.com> saxifraga, Missouri Botanical Garden, <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org> Philadelphus and heuchera, Proven Winners, <https://www.provenwinners.com/> Hydrangea and Itea,, Wayside Gardens, <https://www.waysidegarden.com/> Rodgersia, TERRA NOVA® Nurseries, Inc., <https://www.terranovanurseries.com>

Note: Some photos from original article were substituted

GARDEN GOSSIP



By Cindy Hughes, Editor

Our Representative to The Great Lakes Region and Hosta College is Noreen Molek. As our rep she works very hard with the Hosta College committee to prepare the program, is in charge of part of the event and puts in a lot of hours on this project. GLR has requested that the various clubs in the region donate to the Auction that provides funds to sustain the programs. She has requested that any members who could donate items for the auction or that could contribute to a basket of items, contact her: mole182@roadrunner.com. Also, if anyone is willing and able to force a hosta that could be put in the auction, that would be great!

Club Co-Op Supplies

As in previous years, we are again offering our members Co-Op items. We have the following items available at meetings.

Liquid Fence **Once our current supply is gone, we will no longer handle this product**

Plant Markers

**Garden Gloves in small, medium, large and XL
Handbook on Troughs**

Please contact Sue Gold (216-382-9848) to pre-order any items to be brought to the next meeting.

Note: NCHS could use one other person to help Sue with the Co-op Supplies. Please volunteer!

Membership in NCHS gives the following benefits:

- * Member prices on supplies, 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!

2024 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

Family Membership \$10.00 for one year - Calendar year Jan 1 - Dec 31

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

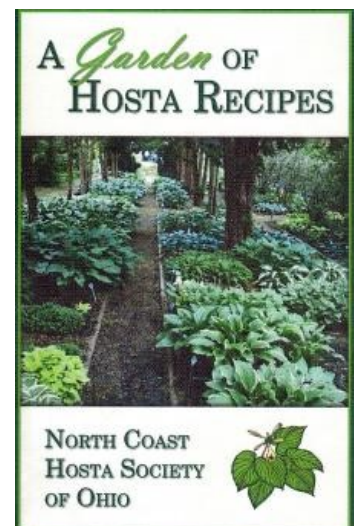
E-MAIL _____

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 DO
YOU HAVE YOURS?
MAKES A GREAT GIFT**



American Hosta Society 2024 National Convention



June 18th - 22nd
Marlborough, Massachusetts

JOIN US in New England for **A WHALE of a TIME**

Garden Tours ~ Accredited Hosta Show
New England Clambake/BBQ ~ Vendors
New England Sport and Seedling Competition
Speakers ~ Workshops ~ Judges Bootcamp
Optional "Experience Boston" Day
Taste of New England Welcome Reception



Registration information at
www.hostaconvention.org

By MAIL - Fill out form on back and return
with your payment

Early Registration Deadline 1/31/24
Registration Deadline 4/30/24
Late Registration Deadline 6/8/24



Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 460-0700
Ask for American Hosta Society 2024 room rate

For more information and schedule of events,
please visit www.hostaconvention.org

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. “So Sweet”

Photo courtesy of the Chicago Botanical Garden

FIRST CLASS



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