



**Newsletter of  
the North Coast  
Hosta Society  
Volume 3 Issue 1  
January 2019**



## 2019 CALENDAR

<b>January</b>	No Meeting
<b>February 23 Saturday</b>	<i>Parma Public Library Chili, Salad, and Bread Speaker: Rita Mullet</i>
<b>March 15 &amp; 16 Friday &amp; Saturday</b>	<b>No Meeting</b> <b>GLR HOSTA COLLEGE, PIQUA, OHIO</b>
<b>April 13 Saturday</b>	Parma Public Library <i>Finger Foods</i> <i>Speaker to be determined</i>
<b>May 18 Saturday</b>	Preparation for HostaTailgating <i>Pizza</i>
<b>June 21, 22 &amp; 23 Friday, Saturday and Sunday</b>	<b>Hosta Tailgate Weekend</b> Hosted by North Coast Hosta Society, <b>Friday, Cahoon Park, Bay Village, OH</b> <b>Saturday and Sunday, Garden Tours</b>
<b>July 13 Saturday</b>	<b>Hosta Swap and Picnic</b> <i>Hosted by Becky and Steve Salamon at their home in Valley City</i>
<b>August 10 Saturday</b>	<b>NCHS Plant Auction</b> <i>Club House at Pine Lakes Village in Strongsville</i>
<b>September</b>	No Meeting Scheduled
<b>October 26 Saturday</b>	<b>Hosta Halloween Party</b> <i>Pot Luck</i> <i>Come in Costume</i>
<b>November</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Hosta Friends,

We have enjoyed a very mild winter up until a couple days ago. None of you really thought it would last until March, did you?! Some of the early spring flowering bulbs in my yard were apparently hoping it would. I'm starting to see the green tips of my crocuses peeking through the soil. Be very aware of frost heaving. This is when the crown and some of the roots of your hostas can be seen above the soil. It happens because of the freeze/thaw cycle we have had all winter. You should get some soil or potting mix moistened and cover the crown and roots completely so that the plant will not dry out, this would kill the plant. Re-plant the plant as soon as the soil can be worked and the freezing and thawing will be finished for the year.



Hosta College is coming up quickly. Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>. You should have gotten your green postcard in the mail by now. Registration for GLRHS members begins on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Registration for non-members begins on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. REGISTRATION CLOSES on February 23 for everyone. Gift plants for this year are *H*. 'Diamonds are Forever' and *H*. 'Wiggles and Squiggles'. Go to: <https://www.ihostohio.org> for all the information you need on this enjoyable and informational event. **(More on page 3)**

Continued on Page 2

Our Tailgate is fast approaching. Please seriously consider helping in any way you can with this project. Contact Diane Morris. She has many tasks to choose from that will fit most anyone's ability and time availability. Even if you don't want to commit at this time, it will surely be helpful if she knows you will be there to lend a hand on the day of registration. She will be able to find you a job to do! Let her know you will help! Thank you in advance for helping. Whatever

time you can give will make this a successful and fun weekend.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am at the Parma Library on Powers Blvd, across from UH Parma Hospital. Chili, Bread and Salad will be the very popular theme. Speaker is to be announced. Hope to see you all there.

Barb Rauckhorst

President, NCHS

## Speaker Set For the February Meeting

Vice President, Mike Kovach, announces that our guest speaker for the February meeting will be Rita Mullet and her talk is titled **"Sunny Places...Shady Spaces"**. Rita is a member of the Stark County Master Gardeners. She has over 500 different varieties of hostas and 400 different varieties of day lilies in her garden. Rita's garden was part of the Midland Tailgate Hosta Tour, so many of us may have already seen her garden. Rita's talk will concentrate on gardening in sunny and shady spots and pairing companion plants with both. It's going to be a great presentation."



Photo by Bob Solberg

### Hosta of The Year 2019 - *H. 'Paisley Print'*

**10" Tall x 30" Wide Pale lavender flowers in summer Parent - Chastain seedling X Chastain seedling (M. Chastain 2006)**

This has been an outstanding beauty in our Garden. We have two in different locations and it does not make a bit of difference for the quality of the plant. To quote another newsletter:

"This truly beautiful hosta makes a medium-sized flat mound with its highly ruffled variegated leaves cupped up like fancy saucers. The leaf center is a starburst of cream color bordered by light green flashing into the wide rich green leaf margin. Light lavender flowers appear in July on 24" scapes. It is the ultimate specimen hosta! "

## TAILGATE SHIRTS ARE A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT NCHS



By Becky Salamon

We were pleased with the response to the advance sale for Tailgate T shirts. We sold more than the minimum and received extra funds to apply expenses for the Tailgate weekend. Thanks to all who participated. The shirts that were purchased will be given out at the February meeting in time for them to be worn at Hosta College.

If you didn't purchase your tee-shirt or sweatshirt, there will be another phase of fundraising beginning on March 17. Your support of the Great Lakes Region--and our local club-- is greatly appreciated

## Hosta College 2019 March 15 - 16



### News from Marcia Sully, President, Great Lakes Region Hosta Society

Hosta College course listings have been posted on the website <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/> for March 15 and 16 2019 event.

Browse by period (1-6) or review the complete list of classes. You must select a lunch period (either 3rd or 4th period).

Click on Home to get an idea of the registration and payment process if this will be your first time to register. Also be sure you log in with the Hosta College Site Registration ahead of time, so you know your user name and password. This information is needed when you go to register for the classes you want to take.

#### **Registration opens:**

6 AM, **January 26 to Feb. 15** for GLRHS members (\$42.00 for members) If you are a paid North Coast Hosta Society member, then you are automatically listed as a Great Lakes Region Hosta Society member!

6 AM, February 2 to Feb. 15 for non-members (\$55.00 for non-members)

Most classes will fill up very quickly, so your best bet to get what you want is to have your desired schedule in front of you (1st and 2nd choice for each period) when you log in January 26th.

## **NEW THIS SPRING**

### **HOSTA COLLEGE FOR KIDGES AGES 10-15**

If your child or grandchild is 10-15 years old as of Jan. 1, 2019 you can register him/her for age appropriate classes.

Directions for registration will be on the website. Lunch for your child will be included in the registration fee. The hours for class will be the same as the adult classes.

Youth are also welcome to register to attend the banquet with you. Fee schedules are on the website. The American Hosta Society has committed financial support to help defray the cost of youth registrations!

### **Look at the fabulous line up of classes:**

Friday evening topics - Bald Eagles and Painting Rock Garden Rocks

Saturday AM and PM topics - Intro to Hosta Gardening, Growing Hosta Seeds, Monarch Butterflies (including building a butterfly feeding station), Bee Studies, Bats and the building of a bat house, and Bluebirds, with the building of a Bluebird house.

Help make our **Hosta College for Kids** a successful one by registering your child after you finish your own registration.

See you in Piqua, Ohio March 15 and 16!

Print your own map to bring with you or pick one up at our registration table. (option located on the schedule page of the website)

Be sure to book your room early. See our website for a list of hotels where rooms have been blocked at discounted prices. Mention Hosta College when booking.



As a follow up to last Spring's article on Nematodes, I thought you would find this article by Harold McDonell as interesting as I did. Last fall we thought we had a real problem, but after the "water test" on many of them, I found no nematodes. Mr. McDonell's research has given me hope. Lots of reading. Curl up with a good blanket and enjoy!  
Cindy Reprinted with permission

### Foliar Nematodes or Not – Some Surprising Finds in My Garden Last Summer By Harold McDonell, Georgia Hosta Notes January 2019

Like many in the Georgia Hosta Society, I have been concerned about the spread of foliar nematodes in my hosta garden. A few years ago, I ordered two quarts of NemaKill™ at considerable expense after seeing the results of the AHS study on foliar nematode controls indicating it to be an effective deterrent. I started using it on all suspected infested plants in my garden. Almost all of my applications were on potted hostas since that is where I have the most trouble. On some plants it seemed to help but on others the apparent nematode problems persisted. (Note: See article following this for more information about Nema Stop™, a new product with the same ingredients as NemaKill, but with different concentrations and efficacy claims.)

Along came an article by Bill Meyer about bacterial leaf spot which mimics the look of nematode infestation, especially in its earliest stages. That article is posted on the Hosta Library website [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org). Bill provided some examples of bacterial leaf spot vs. nematode damage along with some tips on how to tell the difference. He also recommended, among other things, the use of cheap and readily available copper-based fungicides or Daconil™ as an effective barrier against infection of bacterial leaf spot as well as a deterrent for the many foliar fungal diseases that can plague hostas. I tried this approach in 2017 on some plants which I suspected of having bacterial leaf spot problems the year before and I also treated a large number of my other hostas in the garden. The result was greatly reduced foliar problems that year. I am not quite sure how a fungicide can protect a plant against a bacteria-based assault but apparently it does.

Last year, I was not as diligent with timely applications of either NemaKill or fungicides and I experienced increased early (July/August) foliar problems. Some of the increased problems probably can be attributed to the fact that the growing season last year was extremely long. My potted hostas (and I have many in containers) started breaking dormancy as early as mid-February. It may have been asking a little much to expect them to continue to look good into October, so many months after emerging. I have also noted from observations over the years that some hostas always seem to fall apart early on in the season. That is especially true for me with the many "Tiara" hos-

tas; 'Rainforest Sunrise' (RS sport 'Pocketful of Sunshine' holds up much better, maybe due to having extra green surface on the leaves); and two truly beautiful dark green hostas, 'Green Jeans' and 'Puddles and Bumps', which always go completely dormant shortly after blooming in July. Of course, there are other early-to-bed examples that could be named. Maybe it is time to consider eliminating some of them from my garden.

Still, much of the foliar damage showing up in July and August certainly had the look of nematodes. Taking the advice of other AHS members on Facebook, I invested in a good 10x jewelers' loupe and started looking for foliar nematodes in those hostas showing signs of nematode damage. You do this by cutting pieces of affected and surrounding tissue from the suspected infested leaves into small strips which are then immersed in water for a few hours. Then use bright light to illuminate the leaves and water which will make the wiggly little nematodes readily visible, like little silvery worms, under the jewelers' loupe. My first dozen or so attempts to find nematodes failed. Not one appeared in those first samples. I was beginning to think maybe the 10x loupe might not be powerful enough to



Foliar Nematode  
in Water Next to  
Leaf Fragment

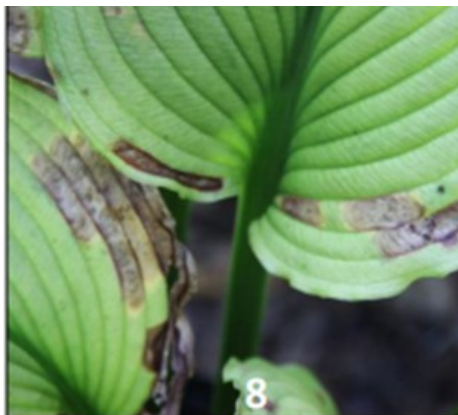
Photo: Scout  
Horticultural  
Consulting

make them visible to my old eyes. However, I persisted and finally I began finding them.

Surprisingly, only four hostas appeared positive for nematode infestation of the 27 hostas I tested. Some were tested several times. Either the other hostas had other problems that mimicked foliar nematodes or the nematodes just were not present in the samples I took. I think the former is the more likely scenario. Take a look at these photos, which I took of the sampled hosta leaves on September 12, 2017, and see if you can determine which leaves definitely have nematodes and which probably do not. There are only three that definitely have nematodes

Continued on Page 6 (After pictures on page 5)

# Foliar Nematode Damage or Not?





The only leaves shown on the previous page that are definitely infested with nematodes are in photos number 1, 6, and 11. The others are apparently suffering from other problems. Photo number 10 is a perfect example of what many call “the summer uglies.”

The moral of the story is this: lay people like me may not be able to easily distinguish between what is truly foliar nematode damage and what may be other foliar problems such as fungal leaf spot diseases or bacterial leaf spot diseases. The problem might also be a genetic disposition of some hostas to deteriorate earlier than others. Or perhaps it is the result of other environment-induced “summer uglies” problems, as many describe extensive foliar damage that some of our hostas may experience in some years. Hopefully future research will help us to become better able to readily distinguish the various problems from one another. However, we can help ourselves by making close observations of what is going on with our hostas and making notes of those that have the same problems at the same time every year (genetic problems); by learning as best we can to identify the differences, some admittedly subtle but others more readily apparent, between fungal diseases, bacterial leaf spot, and foliar nematodes; and by testing our hostas for nematodes using the simple jewelers’ loupe observations before we spend a lot of money for products like NemaKill or Nema Stop to treat plants that are not infested with them.

If you bring a lot of hostas into your garden from many sources, the odds are about 100% that you will eventually have foliar nematodes. They can also come into our gardens on other susceptible plants such as ferns, begonias, and strawberries. We must also keep in mind that if we do determine we have nematodes, there is no permanent cure at this time. Products like Nema Stop may help but total eradication, even in containerized plants and with perfect timing of application, is unlikely. Once you have them, control - not eradication - is the realistic objective.

No plant, including hosta, can be perfect for us all the time, so lighten up and accept some imperfection – to a point. Some hostas seem to be impervious to foliar diseases and look great every year well into late fall. In my garden, these include H. ‘Spartacus’, ‘Deep Blue Sea’, ‘Niagara Falls’, ‘Venetian Blue’, ‘Cold Heart’, ‘Guacamole’, ‘Stained Glass’, ‘Clear Fork River Valley’, ‘Smoke Signals’, ‘Annabel Lee’, ‘Afterglow’, ‘Bob Olson’, ‘Earth Angel’, and ‘Jade Cascade’. There are many more. Concentrate on growing more of these hostas. Even though some of them may not be the latest or greatest, they will provide more garden value. Also consider getting rid of the perennially poor performers. Consider using fungicides to control foliar

diseases, but only when the damage becomes significant enough to really affect your enjoyment of your garden. Finally, don’t go overboard with expensive nematicide treatments until you are certain that the damage you are seeing is really the result of nematodes. Even then, understand the difficulty of controlling them and accept that, until better controls are discovered, you are just going to have to learn to live with the little buggers and the damage they cause. **Note: For more information on foliar nematodes as well as other hosta problems, check out the brand new Hosta Pest and Disease Problems section on the Hosta Library web page ([www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org)).**

## New Name for Nematode Control . . . NEMA STOP™

By Wendy Kamischke, CIHS President (This article is courtesy of the Central Illinois Hosta Society via their newsletter, Great Expectations, Volume 24, Issue 8, October 2018.)

I was told recently by Barry Ankney (President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society) that there have been some developments in the world of nematode control, namely that a new product is available with the same ingredients as NemaKill™. NemaKill is the American Hosta Society’s (AHS) recommended product to control nematodes on hostas. I also read an article in the September 2018 issue of the AHS newsletter addressing the same subject. The article is titled “Combating Foliar Nematodes,” by Warren I. Pollock. This information is important enough to pass on to our local chapter members because I know many have had nematode damage to their beloved hostas and would like to control them. I won’t go into great detail what nematode damage looks like here because there are many photos online that illustrate it. Nematodes are invisible worm like animals found naturally in the soil. Damage usually surfaces mid growing season with brown lacy looking areas between leaf veins where something has chewed the plant material.

Now available is a product called NEMA STOP™. It contains the same three chemicals as NemaKill, namely the oils of clove, cinnamon, and thyme. It is considered organic. PureGro™ is the marketing company for NEMA STOP. PureGro had representatives at the 2018 AHS Convention selling the product. NEMA STOP, when applied, kills nematodes on contact. So, what’s different would you ask? PureGro says NEMA STOP also has the ability when sprayed on a leaf surface to flow to the lower  
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unsprayed surface and can also move into plant tissue for a short distance to kill nematodes. That is not a claim made by NemaKill previously. I'm wondering if this means that even if you did your best spraying it on the underneath side of hosta leaves that any places not covered would have better chances controlling nematodes than it did with NemaKill. PureGro also claims NEMA STOP acts through inhalation activity. Be careful not to inhale the product when using it especially with the concentrated oils in it.

Although not included with the product, the suggested application instructions known by the hosta community and published in Fall 2016 issue of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society Newsletter (Volume 24, No.4) says in late winter or very early spring, BEFORE buds emerge from the crown, drench crown and soil around the hosta with NEMA STOP solution. Also, thoroughly soak the pips (eyes). This is a bit earlier than I was told when to apply NemaKill. It also says to drench the crown and soil 2 weeks later and again 2 weeks afterward. There are arguments whether the extra 2nd and 3rd applications are needed. If you want to be sure you have them under control you may want to continue with the follow-up applications. It's your decision.

The best news about NEMA STOP is that it's available in smaller containers so it can be marketed to homeowners and smaller nurseries, than NemaKill at a lower price. I did some online research to pass on to our members to help them purchase NEMA STOP for themselves. Since application is early (March/April) you may want to go ahead and purchase it so you have it ready to use. The PureGro website is found at: <https://www.puregrousa.com/products/nemastopconcentrate> It comes in a 16 oz. (pint) concentrate container for \$50.00. It requires 1/3 oz (2 tsp.) per gallon so one 16 oz. container makes 48 gallons of spray at \$1.04 per gallon. This means it will treat about 100 hosta clumps using a 1/2 gallon drench per clump. The cost per clump is about 50 cents and it can be purchased 3 online. PureGro says that NEMA STOP shelf life is 2 years.

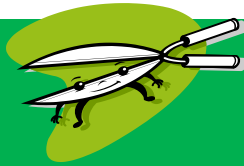
I also found two other vendors selling NEMA STOP although neither was mentioned in the AHS article. Both of these vendors claim the same Fairfield, Iowa address which I found curious. One vendor was SOIL TECH whose website is found at: <https://www.soiltechcorp.com/product/nemastop>. They sell online a larger 1 Quart (32 oz.) container for \$37.95 which seems cheaper. However, the instructions (after calculating it from a chart) are to mix 1 oz. per gallon (6 tsp.). This is a less concentrated product than PureGro has. It would make 32 gallons of mix for a price of \$1.18 per gallon of mix. Using the same application rate as above of 1/2 gallon per hosta clump means that its price is 59 cents per clump. It would treat about

64 clumps. Even though its slightly more expensive than from PureGro, the quantity you may need for the cost could be just right for your garden. (You can also buy a 1- gallon container for \$149.00, a five-gallon container for \$689.00 or a 55-gallon drum for \$6,932.00.)

The last vendor (although at the same address as SOIL TECH) is AMERICAN NATURAL PRODUCTS CO. Its website can be found at: <http://americanatural.com/products/insect-animal-controls/repellents/nemastop.html>. A pint bottle (16 oz.) costs \$24.95. It requires 1 oz. per gallon (6 tsp.) making 16 gallons of mix (same concentration as SOIL TECH). Its cost is \$1.55 per gallon of mix or 78 cents per hosta clump. Clearly the smaller amount you buy translates to the more cost per clump treated. You can also buy a 1-gallon container for \$149.00 from AMERICAN NATURAL PRODUCTS. No shelf life was mentioned by these last two companies. If you want to add a 2nd and 3rd treatment in your schedule you must take that into consideration as to how much to buy.

My hope is that this information is useful over the next few months while preparing for the 2019 growing season. At least the cost is becoming easier for homeowners to buy their own supply and not have to buy a more expensive larger quantity to control nematodes risking a limited shelf life before it becomes inactive.





# GARDEN GOSSIP:

BY CINDY HUGHES

\*For those who missed the Annual Meeting, Anniversary Mugs will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the next meeting.

Pick up your tailgate shirts at the February meeting. Thanks to Becky Salamon for putting this part of the tailgate project together.

Be sure to renew your membership and sign up to participate in the tailgate.

**AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST; enjoy the epimedium photo on page 6. I can't wait for these guys to show their pretty little heads and declare that spring is here. Photo courtesy of member, Anne Takacs**

### 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 and large**

**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:

- \* Members Only prices on Club "special purchase hosta"
- \* Great prices on our "Hoop House" plants.
- \* Member prices on slug bait, fertilizer, 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 .

## 2019 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

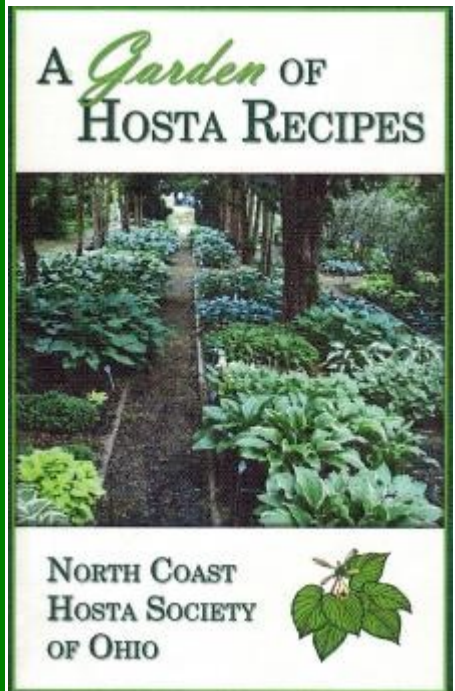
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

*NOTE: this form is also available on our website*





Invite Other Plant Lovers to Join the  
North Coast Hosta Society

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

Sign up for the tailgate committee

RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
INVITE A FRIEND

*H. 'Blue Hawaii'* in case  
you are dreaming of some  
place warmer than NE  
Ohio



FIRST CLASS



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