

New Logo to be voted on at the Annual Meeting

**Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 1 Issue 1
September 2017**



2017 Calendar

October 21—11:00 AM Annual Jon Soucek and Bob Kuk Memorial Dinner meeting at the Club House of Pine Lakes Village.

**10949 Woodrun Dr. Strongsville,
Ohio 44136**

As this is a catered event, please let Joyce Spuhler know via phone or email that you will attend.

The Board will be meeting in October to plan for next year. If you have suggestions for programs, speakers, special gardens to view, etc., contact any board member or email the newsletter editor, if it is easier.

SPECIAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Sports - Pages 2 and 3

Hosta Seeds -Pages 3 and 4

Reversions - Page 4

Hostaphile or Hostaholic - this is a long one, but worth the read! - Pages 5 and 6

By the way, you can get a lot of information on the Hosta Library website for just about anything you would like to know.

President's letter

Hello Hosta friends,

Thank you for all the get well wishes for my surgery. It's been 2 weeks since I had a Hiatal hernia and Umbilical Hernia repaired and I feel pretty much back to my old self.



Unfortunately I had to miss the Hosta Swap, which I hear was a really fun affair. Thank you to Mike Kovach for organizing this and to the Kachmarik's for hosting the event. There were many requests to do this next year. Hopefully it can be arranged.

This is a great time of year to divide your hostas. Make sure they are well watered the day before you do so and also once they are replanted. Keep in mind that all plants should go into the winter under moderately moist conditions. Dry soil conditions in winter can be deadly to plants. We've had a dry August and not a whole lot of rain in some areas this month. Just keep this in mind in October and November.

Our end of the year memorial meeting will be the next event. It will be catered by Stancato's and is a very well attended function of the club. Please respond to Joyce Spuhler [440-846-2634](tel:440-846-2634) (jlsjjs@att.net) so we can have an idea about how much food to order.

Hope to see you there.

Barb Rauckhorst, President NCHS

Is that a sport? What do I do ?

This article on sport preservation has been passed around by AHS editors since 2002. It was written by Van R. Wade, Wade & Gatton Nurseries and originally appeared in Hosta Science, Vol.1 No. 1. It is reprinted from the March 2017 Illinois Prairie Hosta Herald, edited for the Tri-State Tribune by Roberta Chopko and reprinted again from the Ontario Hosta Society Newsletter Fall 2017.

Sport Preservation By Van R. Wade

Introduction

I have developed a very simple method to preserve, help save, or to establish a new hosta sport; a method to help you save that sport you may have just discovered. I have been using this method since 1986 and find that it works very well. I have been able to rediscover and duplicate known hostas, and also have developed dozens of new varieties.

Materials and Methods

To discover a potentially new sport, watch all of your hostas very carefully. Any single leaf different from the parent may be the start of a totally new plant. The leaf may be all green on a gold plant, or all gold on a green or blue plant. It may have only a yellow, gold, or white streak in a leaf. It may be a leaf with half green or blue and the other half white, gold, or streaked. It may have a center different than the edge. The new leaf can be of almost any different pattern of color, shape, or form, but different from the mother plant or parent. Watch and study the new leaf, group of leaves, or small new plant! You will notice that it is attached to the mother plant and is a part of it.

Determine the value of the mother plant

Is it the only one you have? Could you get another if you should lose it? Find out, or try to determine, what your possible new plant might be. Maybe you are just duplicating what someone else has, or the new plant that is different from the mother might possibly be another known plant, rather than an absolutely new one. Consult an expert or the reference materials on hostas before proceeding to "save" what you think is a sport.

What I like to do is trim back part or all of the mother plant. Keep all of her roots intact. Trim part or all of the leaves back to just above the ground, leaving a few nearest to your sport's leaves a little longer (or full size) at first. The purpose here is to give more strength to the new sport. Be sure that the plant doesn't receive too much sun now. Then you wait... Often in a few weeks, the leaf gets bigger, changes occur, and it slowly gets another leaf or two. Other buds may form, but usually they don't sprout the first year. The first year, under normal conditions, you may have to trim back the mother plant several times, often two or three times, because she will sprout up. But, you see, you are forcing more of the mother's strength into your new little sport. Protect it over the winter, the same as you normally might a new plant.

Fertilize it in the early spring

As the plant develops, you will notice that the bud that had been forced to develop more fully at the base of the leaf will be more fully developed, or is a more stable plant. Again, repeatedly trim back mother, as she is strong, and this makes more strength available for your little sport, now stronger and better able to survive. It is possible that after a year or so, you can start to remove a part of the mother by cutting her away piece by piece. I usually wait another year, depending on the size, location, and value of the mother.

I do not want to cut away the new plant, dig it up and replant it yet. Most people do this in the first or second year. I wait. Remember, if you cut the end off of a new root, it does not get longer or branch. A new root must form from the root rhizome in order for it to benefit the new plant. Just keep your new baby where it is and let all the new roots and buds form as they will, without transplanting it.

Continued on Page 3.

What is a sport? Just to be sure I checked *The Hostapedia*. Mark Zilis gives this definition:

Leaf color mutations form in hostas at a fairly high rate...When a mutation leads to a stable color combination the resulting plant is deemed a "sport". He goes on to say that other types of mutations are possible but rarer, changes in leaf shape, margins, mounding habit, flower color and form. (A good example is 'Praying Hands'. The most significant sport, in his opinion, was 'Gold Standard'.

Sport Preservation continued from Page 2

After two or three years of cutting and trimming your mother plant, and doing all you can to help your new baby sport develop, you will come to realize what it is, and exactly how it differs from your mother plant.

Eventually, in two to four years, you should carefully cut a crown or eye away with all of its roots intact, leaving the base plant there. I usually like to do this in April or early September. Replant the new 1-2 eye crown plant in a specially prepared site with just the right amount of sunshine.

I will often add peat moss, Promix, sand and/or aged horse manure in a partially raised plant bed. I do use Osmocote for expensive new plants. For older, established plants, I sometimes use 19-19-19 or a similar general garden fertilizer because of the cost. But for the newest, expensive plant, I spare no expense in the preparation of a good planting pocket.

With this method, I have developed dozens of new sports. It is always exciting to dream about your new little sport as to just what it will become. Then when it does develop, you can see just what you've helped Mother Nature do... only quicker!

This method probably isn't new or unconventional, but it works. I've tried to just cut off the new plant, eye, crown, or leaf, but it doesn't always work. You

end up losing your sport, or weaken it so much that it doesn't come up the next year.

The next time you see a new and unusual leaf or more on one of your hostas, remember this method to preserve it. Try it or adapt your own method, using some or all of the technique described here. You'll have fun trying! Not all are success stories, but you will surely not miss very many times with this method.

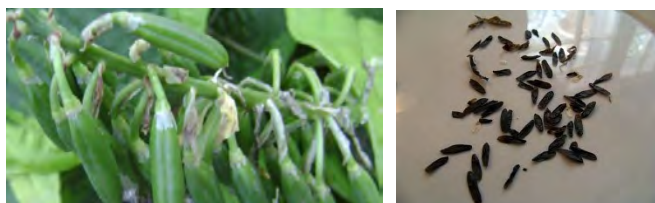


H. 'Gold Standard'

More on increasing your hostas without shopping!

Planting Hosta Seeds

Chances are you have at least a few hosta bloom scapes that set seed. The seed pod will crack open in due time indicating the seed has matured. The seed is generally viable if it's turned black.



Hostas do not obey the normal rules of genetics. You might think that if a variegated hosta is crossed with another variegated hosta then the offspring would be, for the most part, variegated. However this is not true, or at the least it is very, very rare. Hybridizers use "streaked" hostas as the pod parent for developing new variegated cultivars. These streaked breeding plants are somewhat unstable and command

a relatively high market price. But with all that said, you can still have some fun by germinating your own hosta seeds. Just realize that they will likely be a solid color even if originating from a variegated parent.

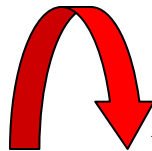
Here are a few tips for starting seed which can be a great winter time activity. The timing on starting seed is a variable with some folks starting in October or November while others wait until February. Start the seeds in flats with a clear plastic dome (or similar high humidity setup). Wash the flats and use a sterile soilless mix to minimize any potential fungal problems. Cover the seed lightly to a 1/8" to 1/4" depth. Germination typically occurs in 12 to 15 days.

Target an air temperature of about 75 degrees F. Heating mats can be useful when working in cooler basement settings. Lighting is critical when gardening indoors (although not relevant to the actual seed germination process in this case). Use supplemental lighting (cool-white fluorescent tubes) to give 16-
Continued on page 4.

Planting Hosta Seeds Cont'd.

24 hours of daily lighting following germination. Maintain the lights about 2" above the dome, or 2" above the plants once the dome has been removed. Never let the seedlings dry out. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Grow until the tops of the plants touch the dome. Then transplant (typically at the 2 or 3 leaf stage) and begin using a water soluble fertilizer. How much water soluble fertilizer you use will depend on how much you want to "push" the growth process. Before moving seedlings to the spring garden, don't forget to harden them off - just like a tomato plant that was started inside.

Written by Rob Mortko, the Hosta Guy, Made in the Shade Gardens; reprinted from the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society's newsletter, the Prairie Hosta Herald, September 2015.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

There are many good and more detailed articles on starting hosta seeds that can be found on the web. I suggest you do your own research and also take advantage of the knowledge of the hybridizers in our own North Coast Hosta Society.

Yikes! What's happening to my hostas!

By Dave Poos reprinted from the St. Louis Hosta Society

After the frantic pace of spring and early summer when mulching, edging and weeding consume all our energy, mid and late summer allow time to "smell the roses". On closer inspection some of our hostas look a bit off. Whatever has happened to our beautiful H. 'Alex Summers'? Half the clump is now all gold. Where has the stunning blue and green variegation that we love so much gone?

'Alex Summers' has decided to either put out a new distinct plant called a sport or revert back to the color and form of one of its parents. It didn't take much research to determine which scenario was most likely. Reviewing the parentage of the hosta through the AHS Hosta Registry (<http://www.hostaregistrar.org/>), we found that 'Alex Summers' is a sport of H. 'Gold Regal'.

The golden half of my clump certainly looks like 'Gold Regal'. The coloring, leaf shape and upright form are very similar. Reversion is a natural process which sometimes occurs in hostas. Some cultivars are more prone to this than others. All parts of the plant are healthy. It is just changing, one division at a time, returning to the make-up of one of its parents.

At first it will be one or two eyes, but if left unchecked, the entire plant will eventually revert. What to do? If the whole plant has changed, it is too late. There is no way to recover the original plant. But if just a part of the plant has reverted, then the solution is to remove the affected part. Trace the leaves back to the base of the plant and cut out the whole section (all the eyes) with a sharp knife. For small and medium hostas, if we have the time, we remove the plant

from the ground and pull the divisions apart. We then replant the original piece as we would any new hosta.

If the reverted piece is nice, such as the part taken from 'Alex Summers', we save it for use in pots or corners of the garden that don't get as much care and attention. If a large mature plant, it may be enough just to take off the affected leaves and stems. This is a temporary cosmetic fix. The reverted



leaves will grow back. Fall is the perfect time to perform this surgery. Just do the operation early enough that roots have time to get established before a hard frost occurs.

Above 'Gold Regal' to the right, 'Alex Summers'.



Hostaphile vs. Hostaholic?

Recently I read an article in the American Hosta Society Journal addressing this very issue, and I had to ask myself, which one am I?

I've been running the question through my head for the last few weeks, and haven't come up with any definitive answers. So when in doubt, make a 'pro and con' list.

In my mind, a hostaphile has numerous hostas, all neatly displayed and professionally labeled in their weed free gardens. He or she knows them all by name, their parentage, their sports, how big they get, the size of their leaves, the vein count, what colours they display at any given time of year, including flower colour, the name of the originator, etc., etc., etc. They can take you through their gardens and expound the virtues of each and every plant. They have hundreds of hostas, know them all by name without looking at the tags, and are forever on the lookout for new and exciting

hostas. Part of the thrill is in the knowledge. If you need a hosta identified because so-and-so's grandmother gave you this hosta, this is the type of hosta expert you need to find. They can help you out.

The downside is that when you were really only after the name of the hosta, you will get a twenty minute dissertation on where to plant it for optimum performance, what to expect at any given time of year, make sure you do this and make sure you do that. A hostaphile cannot fathom that your interest in these plants is not the same as his or hers.

A hostaholic can have all their hostas neatly displayed and labeled in their gardens, but can make do with venetian blinds for tags, quickly scribbled names using permanent marker, which is only permanent for a couple of years. He or she knows them all by name, and how big they get, but doesn't necessarily know

their parentage, their flower colour or any pertinent factors that identify that hosta. They can also take you through their gardens and expound the virtues of each and every plant, but if you are lucky enough to get the tour, chances are that the hostaholic will be pulling weeds as you go.



While they definitely love hostas, their minds are not 100% focused on showing their gardens. And even though they know each by name, if you were to take a picture or a leaf of a hosta to that person for identification, chances are good that they don't know. In their minds, they have a memory of where they are placed in the garden, rather than the plant itself. They have hundreds of hostas as well, probably more than a hostaphile, and not only are they forever on the lookout for new and exciting hostas, but they can move mountains in their efforts to acquire same. The thrill is in the acquisition, especially if the hosta is really new

to the industry, or not yet available in Canada. Nothing is more satisfying in knowing that no one in the country has this hosta.

In purchasing a hosta, a hostaphile will consider a particular hosta, check out its parentage, its size, its merits, and after careful deliberation, decide where it will go into their carefully prepared hosta beds should they be fortunate enough to acquire it. They can be quite meticulous in their choices. If a hosta has a certain parentage that the hostaphile knows does not do well in their area, they won't buy it. Move on to the next one!

A hostaholic will buy hostas willy nilly, doesn't care about maturity size because they plant their treasures far too close together, working on the premise that there is always room for another hosta.

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If they know that a certain family of hostas hasn't done well for them in the past, or doesn't do well in their area, they buy it anyway, thinking for some reason that 'this time will be different'. It rarely is! How many times have they bought "White Feather" or "Tattoo", thinking they will be the ones to have perfect specimens in their gardens, and be the envy of the hosta world at large? Too many to count!

So again, I have to ask myself, Which one am I? The answer is, both! At one time, toward the end of the summer season, I would take a day for myself travelling to every nursery and garden centre within a hundred-mile radius. If I saw a named hosta that I didn't have, I bought it. If I loved the look of it, I bought it. If it was on sale, I bought it. I would tell myself that it was okay to spend like this, because after all, we are seasonal collectors and have a very small window of opportunity to purchase.

Several years ago, I actually came home with the same hosta in triplicate. I bought it one place because I liked the look of it, and at the next garden centre, I didn't even consider what I had already packed into the truck before buying it again. And again! Definitely shades of hostaholic here! At the end of the day, I would unload my new treasures into a shady spot, thinking of all the planting I had ahead of me, and move on to something else for the time being. They were safe and snug where I had dumped them, and I would get to them sometime. I am ashamed to admit that I currently have about 100 hostas ... no, honestly, more than 150 ... that are currently awaiting a new home in my gardens. I tell myself that I am looking for the perfect spot, and that is partially true, but the fact of the matter is that my gardens are near overflowing and I don't know where to put them. New gardens are obviously needed! That is a hostaholic for you.

Age and wisdom has pushed me from being a total hostaholic who has to have them all, to being a partial hostaphile. I spent last winter researching the parentage of each and every hosta I own, and incorporated the information into my carefully detailed charts.



What I was surprised to discover was that over the years, I have gravitated toward a certain family or two of hostas. It is amazing how many of the Halcyon sports I own, totally by chance, and they do very well for me. I have made a concentrated effort on getting as many of the Striptease sports that I can acquire, but who knew I was doing it unconsciously with other hosta families. And by the same token, I own only one hosta in the montana family. Has not done well for me in the past, and the others that I have purchased have gone to 'hosta heaven'. Who knew?

So, hostaholic or hostaphile? Which one am I? Neither. I am of the new breed of hosta collectors.

We are not defined by a title, but by a condition (no, IT IS NOT A DISEASE). There is no cure and we don't care. The Latin term is wackohostitis and I wear the badge proudly.

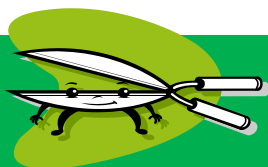
Jayne Christiani Hosta Vista, Baby!

PS. Other Latin terms to consider that I have jotted down over the years. I never got around to making the garden signs I wanted to do: ‘

‘Insectum Devourum’
 ‘Et tu Insectus?’
 ‘Plantaholica Incurabilis’
 ‘Plantum Whydibuyum’
 ‘Costa Fortunii’
 ‘Gardenitis Uncontrollus’

(Reprinted from the Ontario Hosta Society Newsletter Fall 2017)

GARDEN GOSSIP:



BY CINDY HUGHES

There was one other article in the Ontario HS Newsletter that gave some very good advice. Ray Rodgers acknowledges that we think about buying hostas in the spring but many problems don't show up until late summer or fall: Foliar Nematodes, Crown Rot/Petiole Rot/Southern Blight Anthracnose and melting out. Ray says: "In my opinion, nurseries specializing in hostas and are members of the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA), the American Hosta Society (AHS), regional and/or local hosta societies are more likely to be aware of the various conditions that affect hostas, and would be more inclined to take necessary steps to maintain quality plants. It may be advantageous for such businesses to promote their affiliations to help instill customer confidence. I feel the greatest probability of obtaining diseased and/or pest infested hostas is through buying, trading or being gifted plants from individuals that are unaware of the problems they may be passing on. If you plan to gift, trade, donate or sell hostas, please be absolutely sure the plants were healthy the previous year and you have no reason to suspect anything less this year. Keeping newly acquired potted plants away from all other plants, allows time to better evaluate their health. If no signs of disease or foliar nematodes are exhibited by mid-September, plant them in a disease and pest free area of your garden.

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

Fertilizer

Plant Markers

Slug Bait

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 repellant, 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 .

2018 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

Family Membership \$10.00 for one year - Calendar year Jan1 - Dec 31

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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

A Garden OF HOSTA RECIPES



NORTH COAST
HOSTA SOCIETY
OF OHIO



**Invite Other Plant Lovers to Join the
North Coast Hosta Society**

We had a great summer.

**Check out our Website (northcoasthostasociety.weebly.com)
and Facebook page (North Coast Hosta Society).**

Sign up for the tailgate committee

See you at the annual meeting



H. 'Shade Fanfare' - Photo by Hank Zimach

FIRST CLASS

