



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



2018 Calendar

February 24—Saturday 11:00 Parma Library
Chili, salad, Bread Speaker TBA
March 16—17—Hosta College Piqua, OH
25th Anniversary get reservations in early
April 28—6:00 PM Dayton Nursery & Garden Center Norton, OH, Finger Food,
Tom Dayton Speaker
May 31—Thursday 6:30 PM Bonfire hot dogs,
Emerald Forest Nursery
June 16—June in Cahoon Bay Village Plant Sale
June 20-23—AHS National Convention - Philadelphia
July 13-14—Hosta Tailgate in Columbus
July ??? Hope to have a hosta auction
August 11 - 11:00 Hosta Swap - home of Marilyn and Carl Schmid in Wooster
August 18 or 25 - Craft Project - home of David and Beth Bowe in Chagrin Falls
October 7 - Possible Joint Meeting with Midland -TBA
October 20 or 27 Annual Meeting - Pine Lakes Clubhouse in Strongsville

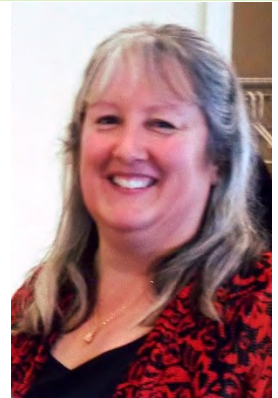
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President's letter

Barb Rauckhorst,
President NCHS



Hello Hosta Friends,

I am writing this as the holidays are fast approaching. The weather is not exactly conducive to thoughts of gardening, but the days will now be getting longer, and spring will surely be here much quicker than we thought. In the meantime, there are so many gardening catalogs to study and online sites to check out. Try something new this year. Perhaps a perennial flower, or maybe a vegetable you've never grown before. Maybe start something from seed. Gardening brings with it so many different opportunities to learn and expand your knowledge.

Be sure to take advantage of all the opportunities that our group and the rest of the Hosta world provide you. We will have interesting and informative programs.

Hosta College will be here again in a few short months. Our "not to be missed" meeting will be our April meeting at Dayton nursery. Owner Tom Dayton will give the presentation. I have seen Tom speak on a few occasions and have been very impressed with how knowledgeable he is. We will participate in the leaf show with Midland Hosta Society again this year. The National Convention and Hosta Tailgating are always very popular. We are adding a campfire evening this year. I'm looking forward to this event because it will be a great way to spend time with all of you in a totally relaxing setting. I think everyone will enjoy this one!

Keep your eye on our calendar for details on our upcoming events. Have a wonderful Holiday season and I hope to see you all at our February meeting.



Many thanks to David Bibby for his great photos of the Annual Meeting. You can see more pictures that Mary Bibby has posted on the website. Thanks, too, to Mary for taking over the website.



Our speaker was Master Gardener Greg Cada who spoke about the “Evolution of American Homes and Landscapes”. He showed examples of how the styles of homes and gardens have changed from the Colonial period to mid-century suburban.



As your dreams of sugarplums, family and the special events of the Holidays fade and you start thinking about what is under the cold snow, as Barb said, study catalogs and check out websites. I have included information below about AHS which is one of the best resources for hosta info. Browse the Hosta Library. Learn about your favorite hostas and look for new ones. Check the websites for sellers both local and all over the country. It’s a great way to pass a gloomy January or February day.

You will note dates have been posed for Hosta College and the AHS National Convention. I have included Convention information and forms in this newsletter. For Hosta College, please start checking the website in early January to be alerted to registration dates, etc. <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc>. Note your membership in North Coast Hosta Society makes you as member of the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society (GLRHS) and registration starts February 3.



AHS Membership The American Hosta Society

(AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas.

There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four eNewsletters (emailed), and *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only). These Journals include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

Membership provides an opportunity to attend na-

tional meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.

Other membership benefits: A Biennial AHS Membership Directory. The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members. An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows. Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas. Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries.

For information about this program, go to <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm> Print and mail the appli-

1968-2018



Philadelphia

June 20-23

Philadelphia—
the City of Brotherly Love

Philadelphia—
the site of the first American Hosta Society convention in 1968

Philadelphia—
the city throwing the party to celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

The Delaware Valley Hosta Society invites you to Philadelphia not only for a convention that's full from start to finish, but also for all that the Philadelphia area has to offer.



Take some time to savor the *history* in Philadelphia, with its important place in our nation's history, and its important place in the history of the AHS! We'll visit gardens on historic properties, and you can take advantage of the optional Wednesday special tour to visit Old City (or take a few extra days at our hotel's great rate, with easy access downtown).

Philadelphia's *arts* culture may call you to visit one of the great museums. The optional Wednesday tour will include a drop-off at the Barnes Collection, where you can see treasures of impressionist art. And you'll be impressed by the hosta arts as well in the Hosta Show, where a special division will recognize hostas of historic importance.

If campus-hopping is your thing, take a stroll past one of the area's *great educational* institutions, several of which have important associated arboreta. Or save your leanings towards learning for the convention, where we'll present a full curriculum of hosta-focused presentations and discussions, and tour seven spectacular private gardens that feature not only the best in hosta cultivars but also the best in unusual companion plants.

We've stuffed our vendors' space full of the coolest shady sales folk, so *shopping* should be in your plans. For pants, not plants, just down the road is the incredible King of Prussia shopping complex. An innovative Friday schedule for the AHS auction should also keep your charge cards active.

We can't neglect the most august events of each and every AHS convention: recognition of the recipients of the three big awards: the Alex J. Summers service award, the Eunice Fisher hybridizer's award, and the Benedict garden performance award. After all, the AHS is a society—of people!

All this is served up with a heaping help of Philly *food* and *fun*. Check out the online meals page to see how much food is included! We'll make sure you have a good time. We're making every day, and every night, special.

And as a very special treat, we're inviting everyone to join us for a visit to the incomparable Longwood Gardens (for only a \$38 supplement). You'll have plenty of time to visit the garden from late afternoon through nightfall, when you'll see the incredible \$100 million renovated Main Fountain Gardens in a spectacle of sight and sound.



You'll definitely want to stay at the DoubleTree (Philadelphia-Valley Forge) so you don't miss a minute of the fun! Visit our website to link to the hotel's reservation system, which ensures that we get credit for your stay.

On the reverse you'll find an all-in-one registration form, or go to the website to submit your registration electronically. Invite a friend, either at for the full experience or for our half-price "Hosta Widow(er)" rate. As a special incentive, the AHS is holding a sweepstakes, rewarding two early-bird registrants with a full reimbursement of the base registration price! See the website for details, and sign up today!

Join us, for...

Phifty in Philly!

www.ahs2018philly.org



2018 AHS Convention Registration Form
June 20-23, hosted by Delaware Valley Hosta Society
DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia – Valley Forge
www.AHS2018Philly.org



Instructions: in Word, type in or check shaded boxes, then print or save file for emailing. Or print blank form (PDF or Word document) and complete by hand.
Each registrant must complete a separate form!

Registrant information

Name (as you wish it to appear on badge) _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____ Home Work Mobile* (Check one)

** If possible provide one smartphone number per travel group, capable of receiving texts, email, etc. We will keep phone and email information private.*

AHS member? Yes No Local society member? Yes No Society: _____

Registration fees: see www.ahs2018philly.org/register for detailed description of categories.

Check one **Registration category (bold)**, plus any *additional items (italics)*. Then calculate and pay the total.

Full Registration includes: Wednesday Vendor Gala; Thursday Breakfast, Lunch; Friday Breakfast, Box Lunch and Tour Garden Buses, Dinner; Saturday Breakfast, Box Lunch and Tour Garden Buses, and Dinner Banquet. To receive early registration rate: payment by *check only*.

Partial "Hosta Widow(er)" Registration includes Wednesday Vendor Gala, Thursday/Friday/Saturday breakfasts, and Saturday Dinner Banquet.

- | | | |
|---|--------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Full Registration (pay by CHECK ONLY before Jan 31) | \$ 299 | Paid by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration (pay by credit card* or check) | \$ 315 | <input type="checkbox"/> Check to Delaware Valley Hosta Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partial "Hosta Widow(er)" Registration | \$ 150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Late Registration Penalty (after May 1)</i> | \$ 35 | Exp date _____ Security code _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Longwood Gardens supplement (worth every penny!)</i> | \$ 38 | Name on card _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Judge's handbook (see Judges' Clinics below)</i> | \$ 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Discover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wednesday Optional Barnes/Philly bus trip</i> | \$ 30 | Note: Multiple registrations, mailed together, may be combined on a single charge if desired. |

Total of checked boxes \$ _____

** You may pay by credit card prior to January 31 at this price, covering the cost of electronic transactions.*

Meals: see www.ahs2018philly.org/meals for menus.

Friday/Saturday boxed lunches: Vegetarian Meat options (Check one)

Saturday banquet: Short ribs Salmon Crab cake Vegetarian Will not attend (Check one)

Please note if you have any particular dietary restrictions: _____

Please contact the hotel if you have significant concerns about meeting any restrictions.

Scientific presentation, Wednesday evening: space is limited to 70 attendees.

Do you wish to attend Warren Pollock's scientific presentation? Yes No

Hosta Show and Judges' Clinics

Are you an AHS judge? Provisional Senior Master (Check no more than one)

Are you willing to serve as: Judge Clerk Either Helper (Classification, placement, show docent, etc.)

I plan to attend: Clinic I Clinic II Clinic III Clinic I *first-timer* (must purchase Judge's handbook)

(Tentative schedule: Clinic I is Wednesday evening, Clinic II is Friday afternoon, Clinic III is Thursday morning)

Hotel Information: You MUST make reservations DIRECTLY with the hotel to receive convention rates.

Visit www.ahs2018philly.org/venue or call the hotel at 610-337-1200 and reserve under code AHS-2018 0619 ("Hosta Convention").

Convention room rate valid for bookings until May 29 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Submission Information

For payment by check, mail to: Convention Registration, 1411 Deer Meadow Ln, Garnet Valley, PA 19060.

For payment by credit card, send form by mail as above or email the electronic form to the registrar at skfugate@earthlink.net.

By doing so, you authorize us to charge your credit card for the total amount above.

Refund policy

Please notify the registrar at skfugate@earthlink.net if you must cancel. Full refund offered before April 30. 50% refund between May 1 and June 9. NO REFUNDS after June 9. Registrations may be transferred without charge up to June 9; please contact the registrar.

Hostas Are More Than Just Interesting Leaves

Have you looked closely at the scapes lately?

by Jim Wilkins (Reprinted from the Mid-South Hosta Society newsletter and others in the Hosta Network)

With each passing season I notice more and more the differences among hostas. Part of that skill has been acquired by looking at more than just the leaf.

Don't misunderstand me. The most dramatic and significant impact of hostas comes from the leaves. However, by emphasizing the foliage, we may miss the subtle beauty and some fun. As a hosta society we honor the leaves. If one of our hybridizers were to create a hosta with a yellow or red flower, all of us would likely want such a plant. But if its leaf was not unique, it would not win an award in the seedling class at the cut-leaf show.

Consider the flower scapes. Some are rigid and some arch. Some have orderly ridges. Some are very tall compared to the plant's height. Others may be so short as to have all or part of the blooming under the plant's foliage. Some plants have several flower scapes per division. The color of the flower scape often mirrors the color of the central part of the leaf and petiole.

The hosta "bloom" Some hosta leaves have a waxy coat called "bloom," which is what makes blue leaves blue and which, after time, may melt off and create dark green leaves. Have you noticed that flower scapes and even seed pods also have a bloom?

The bloom on a scape persists long after the bloom on the leaf is gone. Flower scapes can also have red pigment. This can vary from a light stippling to an intense uniform color such as seen on H.



'Sparkling Burgundy.' In some cases the purple color extends to the seed pods. This is the case with H. 'Purple Passion,' making it a very striking plant when the seed pods are left on

the scape. Several of my seedlings from H. 'Kikutii' var. *caput-avis* have purple flower scapes. One of them has a very unusual modification; development of the purple appears to be photo (light) dependent. The portion of the scape below the foliage is green and that above the foliage is purple.

Some flower scapes have leaves arising from them. These vestigial leaves or scape foliations can be very striking. They often mimic leaves that arise from the crown. Herb Benedict had once commented that they

are often seen in young, vigorous plants, and become insignificant in established clumps. Splashed vestigial leaves can be a useful guide as to which flowers are apt to produce variegated progeny.

We regularly talk about flower color, shape, size and fragrance. Other flower attributes might distinguish one hosta from another. Do most of the flowers arise from one side of the scape or are they regularly distributed around the scape? Do spent flowers readily drop off the scape or are they retained until they shrivel and desiccate? Are the flowers closed? This can be very beautiful because the flowers are not pollinated and seem to be retained longer before dropping off.

Orientation of the individual flowers has great influence on the beauty of the bloom. Some flowers droop with their open end down, while others face straight

Remove the scape? Miss most of the interest! Some hosta growers remove their flower scapes just after they emerge, and miss most of the interest. Many hostaphiles remove their flower scapes as the last few flowers are spent. This, it is felt, puts more energy into the plant and promotes more rapid growth. It is also good to remove the scape unless you want to grow the seeds, before the seed pods ripen and the seeds are spread all over the garden. It can be difficult discriminating between a volunteer seedling and one of your prized hostas.

By cutting flower scapes early, you will miss some beauty and interest in the seed pods. Some are a lovely dark purple, some are striped, some are gold, some are large, and some might have a waxy coat or bloom.



Dr. Wilkins (a retired dermatologist) from Jackson, Michigan, is a past president of AHS (1998-2001), a past International Registrar for the genus hosta, and recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award in 2007. Among the cultivars he introduced are 'Curtain Call,' 'Fort Knox,' 'Leading Lady,' 'Spartan Glory,' 'Ultraviolet Light' and 'Wolverine.'

GARDEN GOSSIP: BY CINDY HUGHES

Best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Check the Calendar, Mark your Dates , Pay your Dues and be sure to volunteer to help with one of our functions. The events planned for 2018 have varied meeting times to accommodate those who cannot make the usual Saturdays.

We all look forward to a winter that is kind to our hostas; a spring with plenty of rain and no late frost or hail and to seeing each other again in February.

“God bless us, every one!”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

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

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 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 .

2018 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

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

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

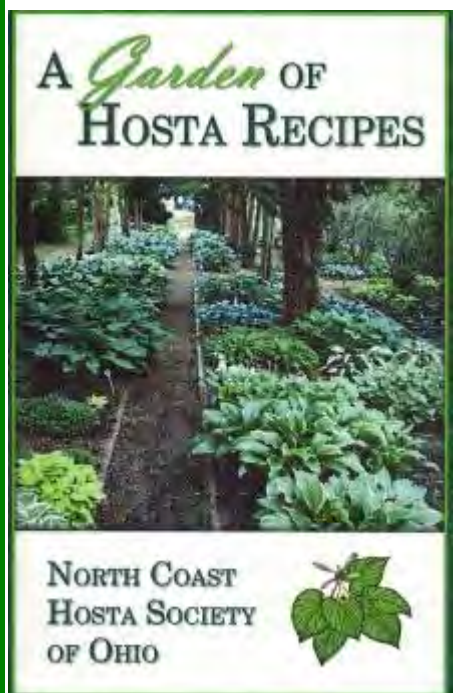
E-MAIL _____

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)
and Facebook page (North Coast Hosta Society).

Sign up for the tailgate committee



At the Annual Meeting Gene Smith showed a garden sculpture of two cute frogs carrying a flower pot that he made. He said there are patterns available. Contact Gene if you are interested.

FIRST CLASS



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