



**Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 4 Issue 5**



President's letter

Barb Rauckhorst,

Hello Hosta friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you about one of our beloved members passing. Stan Bowe has passed due to complications from lung cancer treatments. There will be a service at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, 506 S. Franklin, Chagrin Falls, Ohio on Saturday, October 10 at 11am. Stan has been a member of NCHS for many years, as is his son, Dave and daughter-in-law, Beth. We are so sorry for the family's loss. They have named two charities for donations in Stan's name. North Coast Hosta Society is one of them. This is such a generous gesture that is very appreciated by our club. Thank you to the Bowe family.

It was a hard decision to cancel the remaining club events earlier this summer, but with declining interest, declining attendance, and concerns about Covid 19, the board decided it was in the best interest of the club.

Things are now no clearer about what will happen with this virus. I will soon contact the board about what we should do for 2021. Libraries are still not allowing meetings in their meeting rooms and that is a large part of our yearly get-togethers and programs. We had a



very successful auction despite Covid concerns. And the plant swap was a lot of fun even though we didn't have the usual sized crowd. I have not heard of any member reporting that they think they may have gotten Covid 19 from either of these events and I am very glad about that. We did not serve food and most everyone was considerate, practiced social distancing and proper mask wearing. All of which, I believe, helped keep everyone virus free! I am hoping we will be able to at least do outdoor activities such as this in the coming year.

Please continue to be safe and stay healthy so we can be together as soon as this virus is no longer the threat that it is now. I miss you all.



Thanks to Dave and Beth Bowe who hosted the **Yankee Swap and Picnic** in July. (Seems like forever ago!) It is always a treat to see their wonderful selection of hostas, including Dave's new introductions.



Nice model of social distance and masking

Chris Pappas and Ann Marie Michenmacher having a good discussion—maybe about some hosta???



Ed Hughes: I hope, I hope this is one I want!



Denise Mullins admires her steal..

Marilyn Ruff has her choice while Diane Morris watches to see what happens next.

That really looks special, Barb.

Chris's swap pick included a nice plant, and one of the cast labels that Marilyn Ruff has for sale.



Ask the Expert....Collecting & Drying Hosta Seed

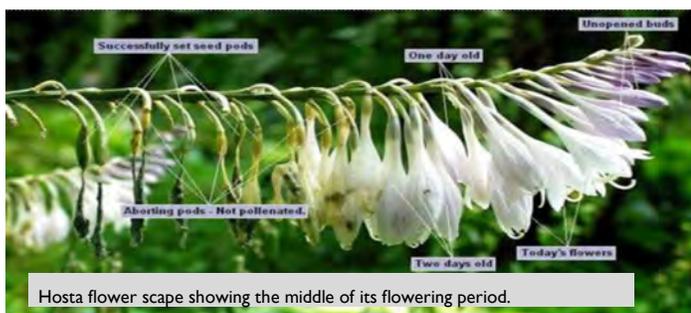
by Don Rawson of

Comstock Park, MI - from the October 2019 issue of *Michigan Hosta Happenings*

Q: Can I grow hostas from seed? A: Yes, you can! Growing hostas from seed is fun and easy. Most hostas produce plenty of good seed and growing seed-lings during the long winter months is a lot of fun. While there are a few guidelines, basically it's just a matter of planting the seed, watching it germinate, providing enough light, and watering occasionally. Not much different than growing green beans, sweet corn, or flowers. Another reason growing hostas from seed is so much fun is because you can develop your own new hybrid, since hostas don't come true from seed. That means that every seed will produce a new and distinct variety. It's very rewarding to create a brand new hosta which has no one has ever seen or grown before!

Q: From which hostas should I collect the seed? A: First off, if you want to collect hosta seed from your garden, don't cut the scapes off when they're done blooming! Secondly, when it's time to walk around and collect the seed, there's one thing to keep in mind: generally, only a streaked pod parent (the mom) can pass along variegation, so if you want variegated seedlings, you should collect seed from streaked hostas such as 'Galaxy', 'Ice Age Trail', and 'Sea Prize'. In addition, hostas with speckled leaf centers such as 'Allegan Fog' and 'Revolution' will often pass on the speckled coloration to their seedlings. Other hostas which have a "stable" variegated leaf pattern, such as 'Great Expectations', 'Patriot', and 'Paul's Glory', will not usually produce any variegated seedlings- they will all be solid colored (blue, green, or gold). There's nothing wrong with that, but many gardeners prefer variegated hostas over those which aren't. If you do not want to collect your own seed, you can purchase it on-line from several retail sources.

Q: How can I know when the seed is ripe? A: The seed should be allowed to mature before harvesting. Six weeks after pollination is usually enough time for the seed to develop, but eight weeks is better. So, if you know when your hosta bloomed, you can determine when the seed will be ripe. Seed pods will gradually turn yellow in the fall, which is a good sign they're ready to pick. Don't wait too long! Once the pods turn brown and start splitting open, your seed will fall out and be gone forever.



In addition, plump juicy pods are a favorite snack for deer, mice, and chipmunks, so better to pick them as soon as they're ripe.



Seed on late blooming hostas may not be ripe even in late fall. In

this case, the entire scape can be cut off, brought in-doors, and placed in sugar water.

Q: How do I dry the seed and clean it? A: The pods can be picked and placed in paper lunch bags or envelopes. The parentage should be written on the envelope and stored in a cool, dry place. Separating the seeds from the pods is quite easy once the seed has completely dried, which may take a few weeks. Many of the pods will split open on their own and the seed will drop right out. Another method is to put the pods in a sieve. The pods are crushed enough to let the seeds fall out into a dish. Then the pods are discarded, leaving behind the clean seed. Mature, viable seeds are dark brown or black and have a plump kernel at one end. On the other hand, white seeds and those which are light brown never fully matured and are no good. They won't germinate and should be separated from the good seed.

Q: How do I label the seed? A: Write the pod parent (the mom) first. The pod parent is the plant from which you collected the seed. Then write the pollen parent (the dad). For example, 'Galaxy' X 'Big Daddy'. If you did not do an intentional cross, then the seed was open pollinated (OP), which means the cross was made by the bees, wind, or by some other natural means. Growing open pollinated seed is just fine, but often it doesn't take long before such an enthusiast becomes interested in making his own crosses.

Q: How long can I store the seed and when can I plant it? A: You can plant the hosta seed right away or store it to grow at a later date. You do not need to cold treat it or wait for a specific period of time. Just keep it in a cool, dry place. If you plan to wait for three months or longer before planting the seed, it can be placed in an airtight container (such as a glass jar) and placed in the freezer. Hosta seed stored in the freezer should have the parentage and year written on each packet. The seed, if dried and stored properly, should last for years. Then when you're ready, you can remove it from the freezer, plant it, and have fun watching it grow to become beautiful new varieties you will surely enjoy!

A lot of this and that.....

Re Fall Clean Up

I have been reading the arguments on both sides. Some want to clean up all the old foliage; some say leave it. Personally, I like to clean up and not leave a home for slugs or any other critters.

I did read a good hint from Petite's to rid the garden of existing weeds and then sprinkle Preen® granules to prevent new, cold-weather weeds from sprouting and taking hold during the fall and winter months.

Re Pot Storage

Everyone has their favorite method depending on the type of pots, location and storage space/facilities.

We have a combo method. Plants in ceramic pots go in the garage or on and under a large picnic table covered with a tarp. Others hold nursery pots in them, so we pull out the plant pot and tip the ceramic pot on its side. (We have lost more pots to tree branches falling on them than to cold weather). Now that we have the fence in one area, (breaks the west wind and gives some protection), we put the extra black nursery pots along the fence and cover them with pine needles.

Re: Hosta Flowers

There are hosta lovers who can't stand the flowers and they come off ASAP. Others enjoy the color, form and perfume.

As my Covid project this summer I have been taking pictures of hostas as they flower. It has proved very interesting as I note the different shapes and styles of flowers and scapes. Here are a few...

'Smash Hit'



'Summer Rainbow'



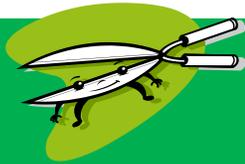
'Cathedral Windows'

'Sparkling Burgundy'



'Humpback Whale'





GARDEN GOSSIP:

BY CINDY HUGHES

I do sincerely hope we will be able to find facilities to hold outdoor events, at least, in 2021. Please note that dues have been forgiven for 2021. You can still probably contact Carl Schmid if you need any of our co-op supplies. And make arrangements.

It might be on the late side to gather seed, but many people are interested this year as we are looking for additional activities. I thought the article on collecting etc. would be helpful and you can keep it for another year

Check out the AHS Facebook page and website. Enjoy surfing for new hostas —there is always room for one more!

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 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 .

2020 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

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

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

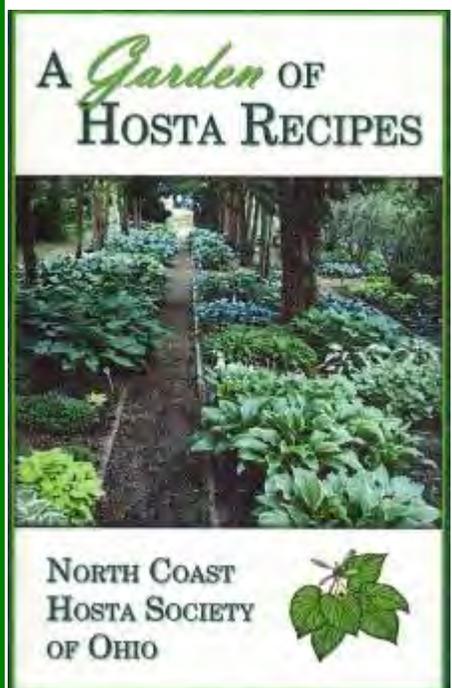
E-MAIL _____

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 Club

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



INVITE A FRIEND

See you in 2021

Stay Well

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