



# COHS HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Spring 2020

## From the President

Hi Hosta Lovers,

2020 is starting off as the year of cancellations. Our April meeting is canceled and hosta college was canceled. All the hosta meetings around the country have been canceled.

We do not know how long this virus is going to last. Hopefully we can have our Hosta show June 6, but at this point we don't know what is going to happen. We want to get this information out to everyone so they know the Central Ohio Hosta Society is still alive.

I thought I would give you some ideas of what to do in your gardens at this time of the year. Spring is happening and hostas are ready to come up. The pips are coming out or the ground. Now is the time, if you haven't done it already to put some fertilizer on the hostas. Don't over do it. Also, it's time to start working on the slugs before the hostas get up. We try to keep some slug bait out all the time in the spring. Let them fill up on slug bait before they start on your hostas.



Walk around the garden and look at the hostas. Clean up last years dead leaves so the slugs can't find a place to hide and lay eggs. Look for damage like varmints digging around the hostas. We had a few with holes under the hostas with roots chewed. I think it was chipmunks but may have been voles, moles or field mice. We had some chipmunks running around last year. I think they were the ones digging. Squirrels could also dig up hostas. Then it's also time to get to work on the weeds while they are small!

Take a look at your irrigation system and check to see if everything is still working. It's easier to do when the hostas are small, or not up yet.

Watch for bugs and spray for them. Last year we had some cut worms making holes in the leaves. They chew narrow long holes in the leaves.

2019 American Hosta Society  
Convention  
Green Bay, Wisconsin  
Jeanne Barbee  
'Victory' and 'Powder Keg'  
on head table

*continued,*



If you are thinking of dividing some of your plants, now is a good time to do that. Dividing them while they are small is easier on the plants. When you divide a full grown plant, lots of the leaves will die back. After you cut the roots the smaller root system will not support the larger leaves.

Well, I hope this coronavirus will end soon and things get back to normal. So, stay home and work in your garden. Working in the garden is good exercise. Getting out in open air and sunshine will help. It also gives you a good mental attitude and forget about all the virus news.

So practice Social Distancing. Watch the Central Ohio Hosta Society on Facebook. I hope to get more on it. If you have some nice pictures of your garden send them to me and I will try to get them on Facebook. Now stay home, be safe and this will all pass so life can get back to normal. Hope to see you at Hosta functions later.

Dick Barbee - President



2019 American Hosta Society  
Convention  
Sweepstakes Winner  
Jeanne Barbee



### **From the Vice President**

#### **COVID-19 Senior Time Out: Growth in Many Directions**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am in "senior time out (STO)" along with my husband and many other fine folks. We restrict our outings to daily walks at Hoover Reservoir and other parks and limit grocery shopping while maintaining social distancing. At Blendon Woods Metro Park we saw an albino squirrel and a Bald Eagle flying over the dam at Hoover Reservoir.

As an avid shopper for plants in the spring, this STO has been a challenge because I love to get my hands in the dirt. Plants provide instant color and gratification. Dig a hole and plant the purchased plant was a long-standing and acceptable practice in my world until STO.

After going through withdrawal and convincing myself growing plants from seed "is my thing", I challenged myself to "Grow through whatever you are going through". Up until this time, my experience with growing plants from seeds and using a greenhouse was very limited. STO has pushed me to use what I have, learn and explore different gardening options. In the presence of STO, along with my seedlings, I am growing in my garden skills and knowledge.

Cathy Mojzísik, Vice President



### **From the Treasurer/ Membership Chair**

I am happy to report the Central Ohio Hosta Society continues to attract new people. We lost 5 members at the end of 2019 but gained 4 new members by the end of January 2020 with current membership at 109.

Twenty people have not renewed their membership which ended December 31. If you have received an email notice from me, please renew by sending a check or should you not want to renew, please let me know that as well.

Barbara J. Myers - Treasurer/Membership



## Hosta College 2020: One for the Books

Preparations for Hosta College 2020 held at the Upper Valley Career Center (UVCC) in Piqua, Ohio were almost complete including finalizing the list of auction items. Registration closed at 323 enrolled and ready to attend the event.

Then the world was introduced to a coronavirus, COVID-19, and its propensity to spread and inflict harm. To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread in Ohio, Governor DeWine cancelled the 2020 Arnold Sports Festival held in Columbus and encouraged people to avoid large crowds. Following the confirmation of cases in Ohio, on March 9, 2020 Governor DeWine declared a state of emergency in Ohio to allow state departments and agencies to better coordinate their response. Quickly social distancing was becoming the new norm.

As the COVID-19 events unfolded, the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society (GLRHS) Executive Board members were in discussion regarding scenarios and actions relative to Hosta College 2020 and daily contact with the UVCC administration. Actions included purchasing hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes for use at Hosta College 2020. Discussions included finding another banquet speaker because of Ohio state employee travel restrictions relative to COVID-19.

On March 10, 2020, the UVCC administration held an emergency meeting and deemed it necessary to cancel Hosta College 2020 as a precaution to protect the health and safety of their students, faculty, and staff. Their contingency plans included cancelling all outside events to minimize the risk of potential exposure including populations from different states. Following the cancellation communication with the GLRHS president and receipt of the UVCC written notice, the GLRHS Board worked with local clubs to notify members via emails and posted the UVCC official cancellation letter on the Hosta College website. Board members contacted individuals with limited access to the internet by telephone in an effort to communicate the cancellation of Hosta College 2020. Refunds were issued following the cancellation notifications.

On behalf of the GLRHS board, thank you to everyone who registered to attend Hosta College 2020 and response to the cancellation notice. We look forward to seeing you at HOSTA COLLEGE 2021 on MARCH 19-20, 2021. Please visit the Hosta College website for updates ([www.ihostohio.org/glhc/](http://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/)).

*Cathy Mojsisik, COHS Representative, Great Lakes Region Hosta Society Board of Directors*

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### *From the Secretary*

#### **Spring in Ashville (Ohio)**

It's been a beautiful spring so far. The forsythia has bloomed especially pretty this year. The White Star Magnolia didn't get zapped by a cold snap and the warmer days have motivated us to get outside and enjoy the sunshine.

I've started some herbs and zinnia seeds. Cooking with fresh herbs really makes a big difference in the dishes I prepare.

A friend came and sprayed some of my beds with Prowl, a chemical to suppress weed seeds from sprouting. I didn't want to put chemicals in the flower bed where I feed the birds. Since our last meeting when we had the young man from Wild Birds Unlimited, I have upgraded the quality of the birdseed I purchase. The birds really loved the seeds he shared with us! I have birds who like a gourmet diet!

It's been disappointing to have Hosta College and the OGC Convention cancelled, but we have to be grateful we are healthy. I've been toying with the idea to stop competing in flower shows and the virus has helped me head in that direction. Enjoy your garden!

*Kathleen Hall - Secretary*







## 2020 Hosta Show Update

At this time, we still plan to have the hosta leaf show on Saturday, June 6, 2020. We are hoping club activities are back to normal by this time; however, if necessary, we could reschedule the show for later in the summer.

Our theme for the show this year is "Old Glory," based on the photograph of *Hosta* 'Old Glory' that won the People's Choice Photography Division in 2019. This theme is especially appropriate in times when our country is rallying together to survive a new and frightening enemy virus. One of the themes in the Artistic Design Division is "Home of the Brave." We are grateful for all of the local and national heroes who are working in the front lines to keep us as safe as possible. We all have to be brave to do our part and care for others.



*Hosta 'Old Glory'*



COHS 2019 Leaf Show  
Sweepstakes Winner  
Beth Veldey

I am grateful to have my garden to enjoy while we are staying at home this spring. The late winter white snowdrops and yellow eranthis flowers have bloomed, and their foliage is maturing just as the early yellow daffodils 'Tete a Tete' and the blue scillas are coming on strong. Flowering trees, forsythia, and pussy willows are bursting out in bloom, as well as the dandelions.

With the sunshine and warmer days, the horns of those early hostas are poking up out of the mulch no matter how much I tell them to stay safe underground for a few more weeks. So maybe those first leaves may get damaged or even frozen to the ground, but we will celebrate whatever beautiful leaves to grow later.

*Karen Ciula, Leaf Show Chair*

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## When to Hang Your Hummingbird Feeder



In the spring, the annual hummingbird migration to their summer destination begins! These gorgeous birds travel from their winter homes in South or Central America and Mexico towards the refreshing breezes in the north.

The Ruby-throated hummingbird will leave Mexico and Central America, where they are concentrated and there is stiff competition for food, to North America where there is less competition as they spread out to spend the summer in their breeding grounds. They have the capability to fly over 2000 kilometers (1243 miles) non-stop.

Hummingbirds expend a tremendous amount of energy during their migration journey. Weather conditions will alter hummingbird migration by affecting the time when flowers will bloom and the supply of nectar is available. In this event, it is very important to have feeders ready for them. Follow the Spring 2020 migration map (<https://www.hummingbird-guide.com/hummingbird-migration.html>).

This will give warning of their arrival and when to hang your feeders. This will vary according to the state you live in and the species of hummingbirds you will see.