

# MICHIGAN HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the Michigan Hosta Society



## *In this issue of Hosta Happenings...*

Summer is now behind us and we are well into fall now. Our gardens are on their way into hibernation as the hard



frosts we have had took their toll on our garden plants, sending them to nothing but mush. But our gardening efforts shouldn't stop just yet. In this issue of Hosta Happenings, Don Rawson offers tips on what we should be doing now with our garden beds before the snow flies.

His tips should not only help you put your beds to sleep, but also give you some ideas and tips about what you can do now for your garden next year. So why not get out there now and make your job easier in the spring by cleaning up your gardens now.

A large group of dedicated volunteers from the Michigan Hosta Society showed up at the Benedict Hosta Hillside in August to help clean up the beds and catch up with friends we only get to see a few times a year. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to all who gave up a day of their time to come to the Hillside for our annual get together.

Kay Anderson — who is one of our regional

2019

## Save the Date!

### March 15-16

GLRHS Hosta College  
Piqua, OH

### May 25

MHS Workday & Board Mtg.  
Hidden Lake Gardens  
Tipton, MI

### June 12-15

AHS National Convention  
Green Bay, WI

### June 21-23

GLRHS Tailgate Weekend  
Cleveland, OH

### June 22

MHS Leaf Show & Plant Sale  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

### August 18

MHS Workday & Annual Mtg.  
Hidden Lake Gardens  
Tipton, MI

Board members on the Great Lakes Regional Hosta Society — gives us some insight into what and how our Great Lakes Board prepares for Hosta College. There are some new things planned for Hosta College next year and Kay will explain what's new for next year's event.

In the next issue of Hosta Happenings, we would like to begin a new feature we are calling "Ask The Hosta Expert". There may be things you do not know much about with regards to our Friendship Plant.



Please send us your questions and we will try to get one of our experts to answer your questions. You may send your questions to Mike Greanya at [mfg10@comcast.net](mailto:mfg10@comcast.net).

You should find many other short articles and reminders in this issue. We hope you enjoy it!

## ***Hostaholics Taking Over Michigan in 2021!***

*By Ed Steinbrecher*

Get excited and be ready! No excuses for not attending! The Southwest Michigan Hosta Society and West Michigan Hosta Society, with the help of Michigan Hosta Society, are proud to bring the American Hosta Society (AHS) National Convention back to Michigan.

For the first time ever the convention will be held on the beautiful west side of Michigan. Plan on seeing and enjoying:

- A delightfully relaxing stay in the conventions host hotel, Radisson Plaza Hotel downtown Kalamazoo,
- Nine spectacular private gardens starting from the southern tip of Kalamazoo to the northern reaches of Grand Rapids,
- Tours of Walters Gardens, North America's leading wholesale grower of perennials.

Come early and stay late to enjoy the many areas of interest of West Michigan. Frederik Meijer Gardens, Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum, Gilmore Auto Museum, Kalamazoo in Bloom parks, wineries, breweries and the sandy beaches/dunes of Lake Michigan to name a few.

Stay tuned for updates. If you want information or would like to help volunteer please contact:

Ed Steinbrecher ([swmhskazoo@gmail.com](mailto:swmhskazoo@gmail.com))

Don Rawson ([donrawson1@gmail.com](mailto:donrawson1@gmail.com))

***Don't miss it!***  
**Ed Elslager Hosta Hybridizing Group**

11/4/18

Annual Seed Exchange &  
Don Rawson's Presentation on  
"Hybridizing for Leaf Substance"  
Mathaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor

[www.hostahappenings.com/HYBRID.htm](http://www.hostahappenings.com/HYBRID.htm)

## Benedict Awards

By Michael Greanya

Michigan can be proud that two of our hosta hybridizers have cultivars that are in the running for the American Hosta Society's Benedict Medal, the highest award given in recognition of hosta that demonstrates superior performance in the garden. Winners of this award must have a hosta that is so spectacular, that it can be recognized from a distance and is appreciated in the landscape. It is not easy to win the Benedict Medal. A nominated cultivar must undergo rigorous competition and it must advance through a series of votes and receive enough votes each time that it finally can be considered for the Medal. If the hosta fails to receive enough votes in each tier of judging within 5 years, it will not advance and is dropped from the awards. Only one cultivar will receive the award annually.

Given the steps necessary to even be considered for the Benedict Medal, it is quite an accomplishment when a person's hosta that they have hybridized reaches the point where their cultivar can be considered in

the final round of voting for this coveted award. And so, congratulations are in order for 2 of our very own hybridizers, Clarence Owens of Jackson and Hans Hansen of Zeeland, for reaching the final level of voting! Their hostas will now compete for a chance to win the Benedict Medal. Voting will conclude in November and the winner will be announced at the AHS convention in Green Bay, Wisconsin in June.



Hans is not a new-comer to the awards. He usually has several of his hybrids competing in the Benedict Awards. Right now, he has four of his hosta in the final round of voting and they include H. 'Dance With Me', H. 'Prairie Sky', H. 'Neptune', and H. 'Rainbow's End'. These are all very deserving hosta and the Michigan Hosta Society wishes Hans the best of luck with his entries.

Our other hybridizer, Clarence Owens, did much of his work hybridizing in the 1980's when hosta were in their infancy and just becoming popular. A few of our local pioneers began crossing genes to begin transforming hostas into what they are today. One of his crosses resulted in a blue, somewhat corrugated and cupping hosta



that he named so affectionately for his wife Betty Lou. Today, H. Blue Betty Lou is well known across the country for its beautiful blue which holds well into the summer. When Clarence was presented the award, he was so excited that this hosta made the cut into the final tier of voting simply because, "it was the hosta he named for his wife". Congratulations Clarence. We all hope you do well in the voting!

## *Hosta College planners at work for 2019...*

*By Kay Anderson*

The Board of Great Lakes Hosta College met on Friday September 21, 2018 at Dow Agro Sciences in Indianapolis, IN. We were given a two hour tour by Broch Martindale, a member of the Indianapolis Hosta Society, and an employee at Dow Agro Sciences. He informed us

about the procedure for new herbicides, pesticides, and GMO seeds to be brought to market. This is often a ten year process from inception, testing, and finally marketing. Of-

ten times if a product is not more cost effective than a prior product doing essentially the same thing, the new product is scrapped. Agro Sciences has 42 greenhouses in which they can mimic any

weather anywhere in the world. Security was tight and everyone had to show ID to prove we were US citizens. Only in one room were photos allowed to be taken.



Saturday's board meeting was held in the conference room at Springhill Suites in Indianapolis. The meeting was called to order at 8 am and adjourned at 3 pm. A new Executive

Board of Directors was elected. Marcia Sully from Buffalo, NY is President, Nancy Beadles from Mill Creek, IN remains Vice-President, Mary Coakley of Commerce Township,

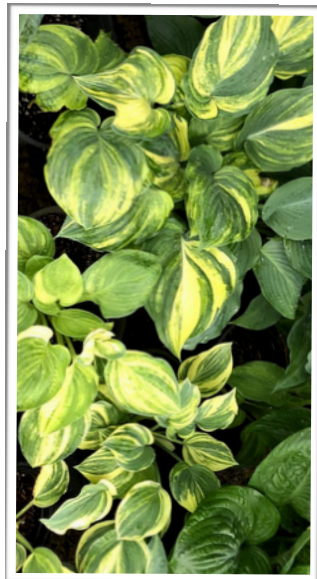


MI is the new Secretary, and Kay Anderson of West Olive, MI is now Treasurer. We welcomed five new board members who replaced eight members who stepped down. Three



clubs were unable to find replacements for their retiring delegates. This means that the responsibilities for putting on Hosta College is done by just 18 delegates. Several now have more than one job responsibility. If you will be attending Hosta College next spring and are willing to volunteer to help in some capacity,

please let one of your delegates know before you attend. If you have never attended Hosta College, please check out the website and our newly created Facebook page.



Hosta College will be held March 15 and 16, 2019. New next year, we have hopes of offering a

youth class for ages 13 - 16 and related to an adult who is also attending Hosta College. Details are being worked out for youth registration and class offerings. An informational report was shared detailing next year's June 21 - 23 Tailgate hosted by the North Coast Hosta Society in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

Bob Iames has been confirmed as the speaker for the Saturday evening banquet. Bob has many years of landscaping experience. We look forward to having such a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

Please check the web site frequently for updates and new posts ([www.ihostohio.org/glhc](http://www.ihostohio.org/glhc)).

The class offerings for Hosta College 2019 will be posted on the web site by January 12.

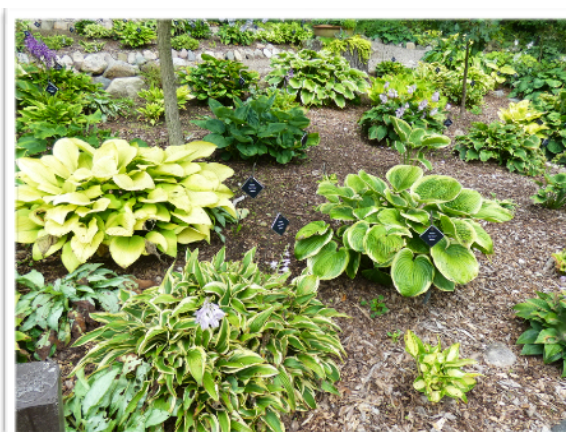
## *Fall work day 2018*

*By Michael Greanya*

In August, about 50 people showed at Hosta Hillside at Hidden Lake Gardens up for our annual fall cleanup of the Hillside, and afterwards, our business meeting and plant auction.



Our fall get together is about so much more than just work. It was also a great time for everyone to catch up with one another and share ideas and stories. It is a great time for socializing with all the friends we have made over the decades. By the end of the morning cleanup, Hosta Hillside really looked nice and the many visitors who stroll along the paths



looking at all the different hostas will surely appreciate all the work that goes into making it such a pretty and serene place to enjoy.

Around noon, everyone convened to the tent just beyond the parking lot for a picnic lunch that was so magnificently prepared and assembled by Sarah DaPra.



She spends a great deal of time and effort getting all the food and beverages purchased, prepared, and transported it to Hidden Lake Gardens. Sarah has done this for many years and all of us at Michigan Hosta Society want to thank her for everything she does. The



picnic is always a big hit, and the famous Hinkley Donuts that are set up at the top of Hosta Hillside for the cleanup workers keeps them going throughout the morning.

Following the picnic lunch and after a short business meeting, the Clarence Owens Distinguished Service Award was given out. This award is not presented every year, but when the time is right and one individual from the Michigan Hosta Society stands out above all others, the award is given to a volunteer who has:

- (Made) outstanding contributions to the Benedict Hosta Hillside,
- (Has provided) outstanding service to the organization, and
- Promotes hostas through public education.

The award this year was given to

**Lisa Quiggle** who has demonstrated all of these qualities and then some!



She has always been at the Hillside working hard on everything, from cleaning up a bed she takes responsibility for, to planning future redevelopment of the existing hosta beds, and so much more. She has been a Board member of Michigan Hosta Society and is currently the Secretary of our organization. And, she takes every opportunity to educate our mem-



bers by giving talks to our group as well as the Hosta Hybridizers. I hope you will congratulate her personally the next time you see her for a job very well done!

After the Board meeting, everyone was prepared for the plant auction. There were many plants to be sold and our auctioneers



Ed Steinbrecher and Bob Sinke did an excellent job keeping order and getting top dollar for each plant. The money collected from the sale of the plant auction is a major funding source for our organization, so we want to thank everyone who bid and for those who ended up winning their precious pits of hostas. The auction raised a great \$1,526 for MHS.





## Tips for fall cleanup

By Don Rawson

Fall is a great time to be in your garden! After the busy summer days, you can slow down and reflect on the season's growth. Stand back and just look. Do you have plants that are crowding out others? Large hostas towering over smaller ones? Or maybe two cultivars becoming intermixed (especially important for plants similar in appearance).

- Tip #1: Make a list of plants that are crowded and should be transplanted next spring.



Now look for plants that are doing poorly. Are some hostas scorched by the sun? Blues that have turned green? Yellows faded to white? Or is one struggling in too much shade? Those hostas with white centers like 'White Christmas' and poor growers like 'Great Expectations' do best in bright sunlight. Hostas with wide yellow centers including 'Paul's Glory' are more colorful in the sun. Are any deprived of water and nutrients due to root competition?

- Tip #2: Make a list of plants that are growing poorly and should be relocated next spring.

Most hosta gardeners divide their plants to enlarge their garden or to trade



with friends. Now is the time to evaluate each clump, its health, and maturity. You can record the number of eyes so you will know what's available when they pop up next spring.

- Tip #3: Record plants which are mature enough to divide.

And those slugs... are you feeding them well?



They go for the thin, tender leaves. Don't worry about the others. When July comes

next summer, those little rascals will head for the leaves that are full of holes this fall.

- Tip #4: Record hostas damaged by slugs and concentrate your slug control methods on those specific plants next summer.

Now that your lists are done, it's time to get moving!

- Tip #5: Save some hosta seeds to grow and then remove those dead flower stalks.

They aren't attractive during the winter and will be dropping a lot of seeds which creates a



weeding chore next summer. Select seeds from your favorites, especially those that are streaked and most likely to produce other streaked seedlings. Gather the seed pods when they begin to turn yellow and let them dry in a paper bag. When they start to split open, shake out the seeds and throw out the debris. Plug in the grow lights and you're ready to go!

What about a mulch for the winter? A fall application of well-composted manure or leaf mold around the perimeter of the plant will enrich the soil for next spring's growth. And

your juvenile plants, along with those recently transplanted, will benefit from protection against the cold weather. A coarse material, such as evergreen boughs, bracken fronds, straw, or pine needles can help prevent heaving during the early spring thaws. Don't rake up those large dead hosta leaves.

- Tip #6: Apply an enrichment mulch, and for young hostas, a protective mulch.

And last of all,

- Tip #7: Prepare a new site if you're a real hostaholic!

Fall is a great time to collect organic matter—grass clippings, leaves, vegetable garden leftovers, wood chips, watermelon rinds and corn cobs... all to be tilled into a new spot and composted during the fall, winter, and spring. The soil is moist and workable. The temperature is comfortable. And you have all those months to dream and plan where each new hosta will go. Soon, you will be getting the mail order catalogs and placing hosta orders. Meanwhile, grow, seedlings grow!

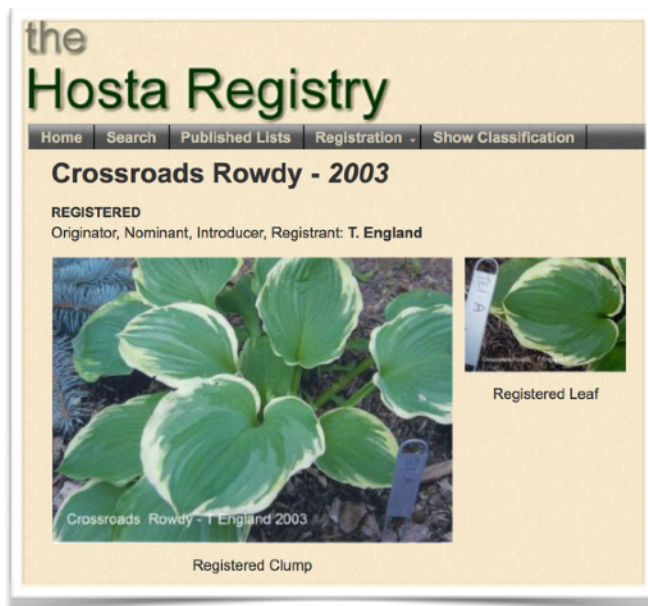




## Hosta Registry goes live!

By Michael Greanya

In the last edition of Hosta Happenings, we reported on the changes being made to the Hosta Registry website that can be found at [www.hostaregistrar.org](http://www.hostaregistrar.org). The American Hosta Society is responsible for the nomenclature of cultivars within the genus *Hosta*. The naming of a hosta along with the size of a mature clump, the size and shape of the leaves, as well as its color are all recorded and must be approved by the Registrar in order for that plant to become “registered” and recognized by the AHS.



This website is the place where the list of registered hostas are kept for public viewing and the place to go should you ever have a question about a specific hosta cultivar. Keep in mind while surfing that you may run across some hostas where there is little recorded information about them. ‘Hosta Wheel’, for example, has never been registered with the

AHS and so there are no pictures or leaf dimensions etc. of that plant.

At the time of our last publication of Hosta Happenings, the Hosta Registrar’s webpage had continued to be in a beta stage for testing and its contents were unfortunately not available for us to view... until now. GOOD NEWS — the website has now gone live and you can pull up your favorite hostas to see what has changed.

Now, when you type in the name of the plant, you will see a tab with the original registration details that has always been there; however, the format is a little different and much easier to read. You will also likely see pictures of the plant, its leaf, and in some cases the flower too (the AHS has been diligently taking additional photos and adding them the website when they are missing from a registration). You will also see a tab for Show Classification. This information, which includes Section and Class of the Leaf; Leaf Length; Leaf Width; and Leaf Color is extremely important to Leaf Show Judges who evaluate and award ribbons based in part on the Leaf Classification.

The final tab you will see on the newly revamped webpage is for the Hosta Finder. Clicking on this tab will take you to a list of vendors who sell a particular hosta along with the price each vendor is asking. Conveniently, you can click on the vendor’s webpage and order directly from them if you so choose to buy one. Give the new website a test drive and see if you like it!





# ***MHS Annual Treasurer's Report, August 2017 - August 2018***

*Compiled by Patty Creal, Treasurer*



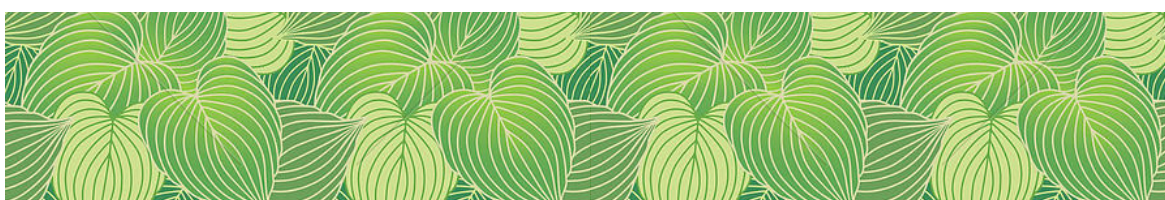
|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Balance on account as of August 2017</b> | <b>\$16,468.36</b> |
| Adjustment, internal bookkeeping error      | <u>-\$40.00</u>    |
|   | <b>\$16,428.36</b> |

| <b>Deposits</b>   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Memberships   | \$1,543.00                         |
| Work day, August 2017   | \$3,058.00                         |
| Plant sale  | \$290.00                           |
| Lunch donations   | \$176.00                           |
| Auction   | \$2,592.00*                        |
| *(split between Scholarship fund and Hillsdale fund — \$1,296 each) |                                    |
| Memorials to Jan Everson  | \$690.00                           |
| Interest on checking  | \$17.08                            |
| General donation  | \$10.00                            |
| May work day raffle   | \$180.00                           |
| MSU plant sale 2018   | <u>\$3,140.00</u>                  |
|   | <b>\$8,638.08</b>                  |
| \$300 change monies for auction, plant sale and raffle              | <u>-\$300.00</u>                   |
|   | <b>2017/2018 income \$8,338.00</b> |
|   | <b>NETTOTAL \$24,766.36</b>        |

| <b>Expenses</b>                           |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Board expenses                            | \$1,135.26                 |
| Newsletter and postage ,door prize        | \$498.71                   |
| Stationary and stamps                     | \$58.55                    |
| AHS best seedling award                   | \$50.00                    |
| Plaque award engraving                    | \$10.00                    |
| Michigan Corporation fee for 2018         | \$20.00                    |
| Liability Insurance Premium               | \$498.00                   |
| August 2017 work day                      | \$487.54                   |
| Lunch                                     | \$181.66                   |
| Balance on tent, table, and chairs rental | \$305.88                   |
| August 2018 work day - tent deposit       | \$296.00                   |
| Dues to GLRHS                             | (\$183.00 x 2)<br>\$366.00 |
| MSU Garden Day donation                   | \$500.00                   |
| MSU Hosta Show & Sale 2017                | \$27.15                    |
| MSU Hosta Show & Sale 2018                | \$1,973.31                 |
| Plants to sell, \$1,800.00                |                            |
| Table rental, \$68.00                     |                            |
| Lunch, \$65.00                            |                            |
| Show expenses, \$40.31                    |                            |
| Garden walk 2017 refreshments             | \$200.00                   |
| Garden walk 2018 refreshments             | \$152.88                   |
| Work Day – May 2018- Lunch expenses       | <u>\$42.62</u>             |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                     | <b>\$5,180.76</b>          |
| <b>Balance as of 8/16/18</b>              | <b>\$19,585.60</b>         |

**Fund balances**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Scholarship      | \$5,375.00  |
| Hillside         | \$10,841.83 |
| Benedict Tribute | \$135.96    |

**Savings Account balance as of 6/26/18****\$15,665.64**



## *Membership in the Michigan Hosta Society*

If you wish to find out more about Hosta, please consider joining the Michigan Hosta Society. We welcome new members and friends who share our interest in hosta and their many uses in the landscape. The society maintains a large hosta display at Hidden Lake Gardens near Tipton, where many varieties of hosta can be seen. "The Benedict Hosta Hillside" is one of only two nationally designated Hosta display gardens.

### Activities of MHS include:

- ▶ A summer tour of gardens that feature Hosta
- ▶ An auction/sale of hostas contributed by members
- ▶ Speakers and educational programs
- ▶ Local chapter meetings
- ▶ A workday and information sharing at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton where the Society has a demonstration garden
- ▶ A listing of MHS members who retail Hosta
- ▶ A yearly membership directory

Members receive the Michigan Society Newsletter "Hosta Happenings," as well as the newsletter of the Great Lakes Regional Hosta Society. If you are interested in joining please complete the attached application form.

You may also want to join The American Hosta Society. They have two colorful journals each year, and an annual national convention featuring a Hosta Show, garden tours, scientific programs and a plant auction.

Contact: [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)

## *MHS Membership Application*

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name of 2nd member: \_\_\_\_\_

First name of 2nd member: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:

\_\_\_\_\_

Choice of **either** black and white newsletter via First Class US Mail or full color newsletter via e-mail. All the pictures are in color and there are often bonus pictures not included in the mailed version. Please check one: Mail ☐ E-mail ☐

Check if you wish to receive an updated membership directory when published: ☐

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$15 per household for up to two people, good for 2 years.

Total remitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Michigan Hosta Society  
2509 Wembly Lane  
Troy, MI 48084-1280

Make checks payable to: The Michigan Hosta Society