

# MICHIGAN HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the Michigan Hosta Society



**2019**

## Save the Date!

### May 25

Workday and Board Meeting  
Hidden Lake Gardens  
Tipton, MI

### June 22

Leaf Show and Plant Sale  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

### August 18

Workday and Annual Meeting  
Hidden Lake Gardens  
Tipton, MI

## Did you know?

Hostas are named after Dr. Nicholas Host, a physician to the emperor of Austria.

Some varieties of hosta are grown as a leaf vegetable and are especially popular in Japanese cuisine.

## Letter from the President

Dear MHS Members,

Spring came early to my part of Michigan, as many of you probably experienced yourselves. It was cold and damp. The hellebores were outstanding, and my



Grey Gitzen (left)

hostas broke dormancy early and often. What a growing year it was going to be; but then came the hot weather, and everything came too quickly. What seemed to start as an ideal growing season for my favorite plant became a guessing game. When it came time to select leaves for our annual leaf show and sale, it took me two days to find 25 that were worth showing, and some of them were undersized.

Our leaf show and sale in June was a success (as usual). Many thanks to Sarah DaPra for chairing the leaf show, as well as Marty Overhiser who headed the judges panel. Also thanks to Lisa Quiggle and Bob Bararducci for the great selection of plants for the plant sale. We have our dates locked in with MSU for 2019 — June 22nd!





## In Memory of Jan Everson

**1938 - 2017**

A lovely bench was placed in the spring of 2018 along the banks of the calm Hosta Hillside lake in memoriam of the late Jan Everson.

How long has it been since you have visited Hidden Lake Gardens? Or perhaps you have yet to make that amazing day trip? The “Hosta Hillside” is looking great and it now can be viewed from either the road or lakeside. A teak bench dedicated to our late Jan Everson — newsletter editor, cartographer, former Board President, and so much more — was installed for our May meeting. It has a peaceful, clear view of the lake and the Hillside that Jan would have loved.

Why don't you join us this August 19, 2018 at Hidden Lake Gardens for the annual meeting of the Michigan Hosta Society? There will be a work session in the morning followed by lunch, the meeting, and a plant auction. We always have great plants available!

Lastly, I want to thank Bev Wolfe for all her efforts on behalf of the Michigan Hosta Society, as one of our representatives on the Great Lakes Region Hosta board for many years. She represented us well.

Have a great summer, and I hope to see you at an MHS event soon!

Sincerely,  
Grey Gitzen  
Michigan Hosta Society President



Bob Everson reflects on the new bench dedicated to his wife Jan.





## Notes from the 2018 National Hosta Convention

by Marty Overhiser

The tour gardens at a national hosta convention are always the best. Each in its own special way reflect the interest of the gardeners. The 2018 convention (June 20 - 23) was in the northwest Philadelphia area. Thursday the leaf show was judged and then open to the public. Late afternoon and evening we were bused to the Longwood Gardens. If you are ever near Longwood, do take the time to visit. The historic Main Fountain Garden was revitalized in 2017 at a cost of nearly \$100 million ([www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org)).



The Friday and Saturday bus rides started early and were long, but gave us time to rest and talk. The convention was very special for my wife Lucy and I. We have four grown children in MI, NJ, VA, and GA. Two of our “kids” did the whole convention with us and

the other two joined us on Wednesday for a family reunion at the hotel. Consider inviting your kids or grand kids to join you at a national convention (2019 WI, 2020 MN, and 2021 MI).

Back to the private gardens. They ranged in size from 1/3 acre city lot to 10 acres. We had attended the National in 2006 when it was



also at Valley Forge. Back then the Barbara and Robert Tiffany Garden (old mill property) was on tour so the plants were young, and they also had just experienced a flood. The garden has evolved and been redesigned to include about 1000 hostas, companion plants, and great structures. The Parsons' garden included a very large collection of garden art.



Check out the American Hosta Society publications to read about the tour gardens!

When I go on a national, regional, or state hosta tour I list ideas I might replicate in my garden, and now and then I will even implement an idea. Here are some garden ideas I noticed in PA that you might consider:



- Hardscapes – Use similar or like materials, make a design statement with walks & stairs. Bed edging is a challenge.
- Structures – for chickens, raised beds with hoops and netting, raised beds made from stacked flat flag stones, resting places, shade pergolas, and plant mini hostas in rock gardens or containers.

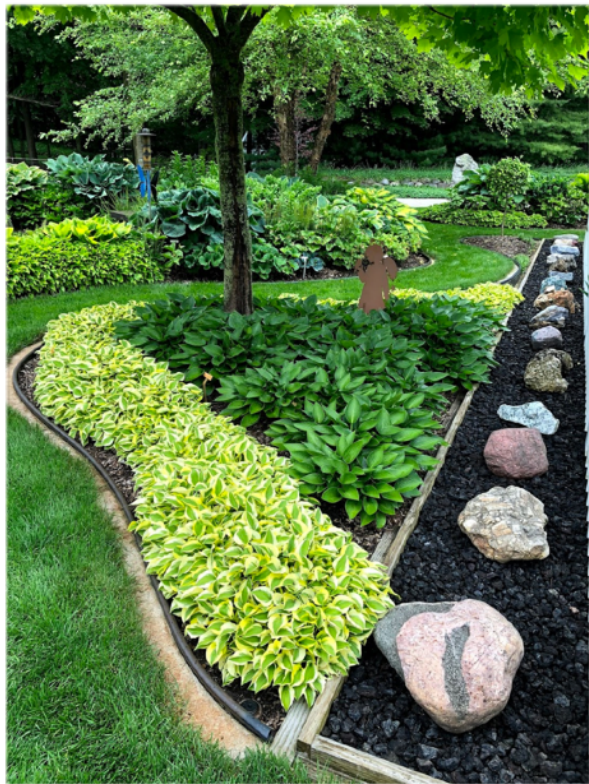
- Garden art – Develop a theme, use industrial or farm equipment, and add sounds to the garden (water, chimes, bells, music).
- Hosta – Label plants, map beds, name beds for special collections (“Blue Bed”), name and arrange beds by classification list (“II-3 Large Yellow”), mass plantings that look like tapestry, locate large eye catchers (‘Liberty’, ‘Leading Lady’, ‘Sagae’) at long views, and look for sports and wild seedlings.



- Companion Plants/Trees/Shrubs – Japanese maples look great in hosta beds, as do redbuds and magnolias, and bamboo spreads like wild fire. Check out Hydrangea serrata ‘Blue Bird’ too.



- Containers - Troughs/containers can be made of most anything, succulents work well with hostas, raise up and cluster containers.



- Deer Control – High deer fencing. Low fencing with a dog also works well.



## *West Michigan Hosta Society Garden Walk*

*by Michael Greanya*

This year, the West Michigan Hosta Society hosted the annual Garden Walk. Six gardens were well groomed and open for everyone to visit and enjoy. While the weather initially was not cooperating, by 10:00 a.m. the rain had stopped and the rest of the day was cool and overcast. The rain was confined to the south side of Grand Rapids, while visitors who started their tour on the north side of Grand Rapids definitely chose the correct route. K Gardens also opened their nursery with a special one-day substantial discount on most of their hosta inventory. It was quite amazing to see how many plants people were able to cram in their vehicle and still have room for passengers just beginning their garden tours.

The Michigan Hosta Society would like to thank the following families who opened their garden for the day for us to tour: Noah and Bonnie Schwartz, Don and Pam Rawson, Mike and Kay Maitner, Dean and Julie Deppe, Ginny Pearce, and Bob and Brenda Sinke. A lot of time, effort, and expense goes into getting a garden ready to be visited by so many people. We are very grateful to these families and all who attended this year's Garden Walk.

We hope you will join us for the 2019 Garden Walk next June. More information will be forthcoming in upcoming newsletters!

# Hosta Registration

by Michael Greanya

In the coming weeks, the American Hosta Society (AHS) will be rolling out new changes to the Hosta Registry webpage ([www.hostaregistrar.org](http://www.hostaregistrar.org)) that you should hopefully find very helpful. The AHS has recognized the importance of consolidating information related to hosta and has teamed up with the Hosta Growers Association ([www.hostagrowers.org](http://www.hostagrowers.org)) to provide a “one

AHS Hosta Registrar. There are specific criteria and information that must be addressed in the application and once approved by the Registrar, the hosta becomes an official registered cultivar. However, not everyone registers their cultivars with the AHS. Hosta ‘Wheee!’, for example, is not a registered hosta. So, you will not find Hosta ‘Wheee!’ or other unregistered hosta on the Hosta Registry website.

Currently, the Hosta Registry website will tell you who registered the hosta; when they

## Hosta ‘Marla’ (2003)

Registrant: D. Courtney  
Originator: D. Courtney

Introducer: D. Courtney  
Nominant: D. Courtney

PLANT DESCRIPTION			
Plant Width (in)	Plant Width (cm)	Plant Height (in)	Plant Height (cm)
19.00	48.26	20.00	50.80
Plant Habit	Growth Rate	Plant Size	
upright	medium		
LEAF DESCRIPTION			
Leaf Length (in)	Leaf Length (cm)	Leaf Width (in)	Leaf Width (cm)
5.50	13.97	3.25	8.25
Vein Pairs	Leaf Color Center	Margin Appearance	
7	white with darj green veins	heavily rippled	
Leaf Color Margin	Margin Varigation Width (in)	Margin Varigation Width (cm)	
dark green			
Petiole Characteristics	Leaf Texture Top	Leaf Texture Bottom	
dark green	slightly shiny	dull	
Leaf Appearance	Leaf Shape	Leaf Base	
twisted	ovate	tapered	

stop shopping” type of website where you can find much more information about specific cultivars than ever before.

First of all, you need to understand what the Hosta Registry is and why it is so important to us as interested hosta growers. Before a hosta can be named and officially registered with the AHS, the originator of the cultivar must file a registration application with the

registered it; the size of a mature clump; the size, shape, color of a mature leaf, as well as the number of vein pairs; and information about the scape and the flower. This not the most glamorous type of information that most people would find useful, but it is invaluable when you need help identifying a specific hosta, or if you are a leaf judges who judges leaf shows.



For those nearly 6,000 hosta currently registered, the Hosta Registry website is about to become a very valuable tool for you to use. Soon you will be able to visit the website, type in the name of a cultivar you want to find out information about and begin to find out a lot more about it than ever before. In addition to all of the information listed above, you will now find pictures of many registered hosta; so if you want to see what a particular plant looks like, simply go to the official hosta registry webpage and take a look. The AHS has spent several years collecting and taking photographs of thousands of hosta that will be added to the registry website over time. So even if there isn't a picture of a plant you are looking for now, it may be added later when more information is added.



You will now be able to find the full Leaf Classification list on the Registry website. Leaf judges use the classification list to determine where a leaf entry in a leaf show is placed and this is based on a coded system that places the leaf by size, color, variegation, streaking, leaf size by length and width etc.

Having this information at the show judge's fingertips along with seeing a picture of the leaf if they are not familiar with it makes this a valuable resource to them.



Finally, the site will have the ability to list all of the hosta nurseries that are members of the Hosta Growers Association who carry the cultivar you are looking for along with updated price information. You will be able to click on a link taking you to that grower's website and order it directly from them. The Hosta Growers Association is paying for the upgrade to the Registrar's website so this is hopefully a win/win for the American Hosta Society, the Hosta Growers Association, and mostly for you, the consumer of this information. So start looking for the upgrade to the website soon and keep coming back to use it.



## *Hosta Hillside Spring Cleanup* *May 19, 2018*



Quite a few volunteers showed up this year at the Hosta Hillside Spring Cleanup! Several beds were weeded and fresh mulch laid down. Boy, is there a lot of work

yet to be done, so join us for the next workday Sunday August 19, 2018!



Following the grunt work came a potluck lunch and a "ticket auction" with a variety of hostas, other special plants, and bird feeders. Lisa Quiggle graced us with an interesting

presentation about her fun home experiments cloning plants with TurboKlone, an inexpensive and readily available device on Amazon.com.





## Fall 2018 Hosta Hillside Workday

by Michael Greanya

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Michigan (6214 Monroe Road Hwy, M-50, Tipton, MI 49287) for our annual workday at the Benedict Hosta Hillside. Following our



clean up of the Hillside, we will move to the big tent set up near the parking lot for our picnic luncheon (donations accepted). Following the picnic, we will have a short business meeting and then commence with our hosta auction. Our auction is a major source of funding for the Michigan Hosta Society. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone could bring plant donations for the auction.

We are not planning on mulching the Hillside during this workday. Weeds are abundant and many beds have hosta that need deadheading. We are going to try to prioritize beds that have the worst problems with weeds and deadheading and start with those beds first.

When you arrive, please stop at the table in the parking lot at the top of the Hillside first and get a donut before you start so that you will have your sugar rush necessary to plow through the assigned work detail. Then ask for a bed assignment. It is important that we get just a few people in each bed so that we can spread out across the entire Hillside. Please bring your gloves and maybe



your Felco's, possibly a trowel in case a weed has deep roots, and anything else you might have that you use in your own beds to simplify the task. We should have 5-gallon buckets provided by Hidden Lake Gardens.



On another note, for the past several years, it has been a goal of the MHS to collect as many of Herb Benedict's hostas as possible. We would like to establish the largest



collection of Herb's hostas in the country if possible and display them in a collection in his hybridizer bed at the Hillside. We need your help.



Below, you will see a list of Benedict cultivars that we need. There may be some that have been inadvertently omitted, so if you have one not on the list and it is not in the Hillside

right now, we would like to have a piece of it. If you can help us add to our collection,

please email Mike Greanya at [mfg10@comcast.net](mailto:mfg10@comcast.net) and let him know what you plan on bringing to the workday. This will allow us to plan space and make a label for your donation. We appreciate your help greatly with this very worthy task.

We had hoped to have the Hosta Happenings Newsletter distributed by now, but we have new people at the helm trying to learn the system. As you may already know, Jim Wilkins resigned from newsletter editor at the end of 2017. However, we were successful in finding a volunteer — Marla Greanya — who has experience assembling a newsletters. She has volunteered to assist us by putting together



the design and layout of the newsletter, but she has no hosta experience so articles will need to be sent to her for inclusion, please!





BENEDICT HOSTA WE NEED

'Alligator Shoes'	'Blue Jewel'	'Dorothy Benedict'	'Grandaddy Red Legs'
'Amethyst Chip'	'Blue Lollipop'	'Dorothy's Brass Band'	'Green Blade'
'Amethyst Facet'	'Blue Pebbles'	'Dorset Clown'	'Green Feather'
'At Attention'	'Blue Sliver'	'Emerson's Small One'	'Gretchen Harshbarger'
'Autumn Joy'	'Blue Steel'	'Evening Prayers'	'Groovy'
'Awesome'	'Blue Urchin'	'Ewa Yoto Moto'	'Gunther'
'Baby Blue'	'Blue Valentine'	'Fan Dance'	'Heartache'
'Bashful Polly'	'Blue Vamp'	'Flower Song'	'Hebe Blue'
'Benedict's Heart's Desire'	'Blue Whirls'	'Frills'	'Hello There'
'Benedict's Jelly Bean'	'Blue You Bet'	'Geneva'	'Herbie'
'Benedict's Regal Rhubarb'	'Blueberry Swirl'	'Go Dorothy'	'Hideko Gowen'
'Benedict's Wild Fire'	'Bob Olson'	'Golden Bouquet'	'Hideko Tajima'
'Best Yet'	'Bold Intrigue'	'Golden Cascades'	'High Style'
'Black and Blue'	'Bubbles'	'Golden Eagle'	'Holly's Gold'
'Blast Off'	'Buttercup'	'Golden Hawk'	'Holly's Velvet Piecrust'
'Blue Butterfly'	'Candelabra'	'Golden Picture'	'Hooter'
'Blue Chip'	'Connie'	'Golden Torch'	'Hot Flash'
'Blue Clown'	'Cool Blue'	'Golden Wiggler'	'Hot Lips'
'Blue Dream'	'Coquette'	'Goody Goody'	'Humdinger'
'Blue for You'	'Country Gentleman'	'Grand Finale'	'I Bluit'
'Blue Hearts'	'Crested Surf'	'Grand Gold'	'Imperial Potentate'
	'Curly Top'	'Grand Slam'	'Iszat U Doc'
	'Cutie'		

'Jelly Belly'	'Now'	'Satin Bloomer'
'Jim Wilkins'	'Now and Then'	'September White'
'Kerplunk'	'Odd Ball'	'Show Off'
'Klondike'	'One Man's Treasure'	'Simply Sharon'
'Larry Englerth'	'Outrageous'	'Slim and Trim'
'Late Jewel'	'Over the Waves'	'Slurpy'
'Lavender Lace'	'Painted Lady'	'Sunlight Child'
'Lederhosen'	'Party Time'	'Sweet Bo Peep'
'Lemon Twist'	'Pitty Pat'	'Sweet Jill'
'Lime Wrinkles'	'Plain Jane'	'Sweet Marjorie'
'Little Jack Frost'	'Pumpkin Pie'	'The Wind Blew'
'Little Jill'	'Purple Passion'	'Then'
'Little Slam Bang'	'Purple Perfection'	'Tinker Blue'
'Lorna'	'Purple Verticulated Elf'	'Tom Boy'
'Lover's Leap'	'Rainbow Delight'	'Tsuma Tjima'
'Mean Mama'	'Red Wing'	'Velvet Bows'
'Mellow Yellow'	'Reddy Eddy'	'Whirlybird'
'Momma Mia'	'Rhapsody in Blue'	'White Dove'
'Mountain Pride'	'Robyn Duback'	'White Princess'
'My Child Insook'	'Roy's Pink'	'White Swan'
'My Friend Nancy'	'Ruby Benedict'	'Wilson Lake'
'My Love Dorothy'	'Run Around'	'Yellow Bird'
'Nifty Fifty'	'Salute'	'Yellow Blade'
'Noel'	'Sarah Fackey'	'Yoshie'
'Nooner'		





## *Regional Hosta Society Events*

### **Eastern Michigan Hosta Society**

Meetings are held at the Mayfield Twp. Hall, 1900 N. Saginaw, Lapeer, MI 48446. This is our regular meeting place located just south of the point of M-24 and N. Saginaw (the driveway just north of the Cemetery).

9/13/18:

Plant Exchange  
@ The Major's

10/11/18:

Speaker/topic TBD  
@ Mayfield Twp. Hall

10/8/18:

Annual Board Meeting  
@ Whitey's in Davison

12/13/18:

Christmas Party  
@ Mayfield Twp. Hall

For the most up-to-date information visit the EMHS blog at:  
[www.easternmichianhostasociety.blogspot.com](http://www.easternmichianhostasociety.blogspot.com)

### **Southwestern Michigan Hosta Society**

9/23/18:

Meeting; Speaker TBA  
@ Romence Gardens

10/28/18:

Meeting; Mason Bee Homes, Winterize  
@ Romence Gardens - Part II

### **Ed Elslager Hosta Hybridizing Group**

11/4/18:

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

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

[www.HostaHappenings.com](http://www.HostaHappenings.com)



## *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.

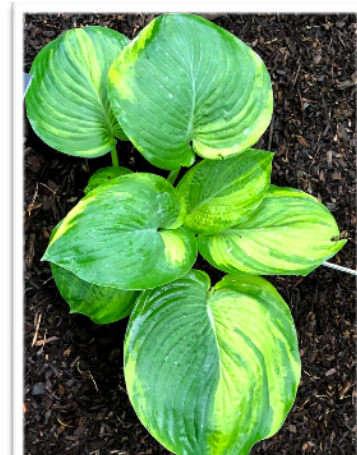
Total remitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

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

Make checks payable to: The Michigan Hosta Society





### *A note from the Editor...*



I'm Marla Greanya and this marks my first newsletter with MHS. My father Michael Greanya, member of MHS, graciously and subversively volunteered me as your new MHS Newsletter Editor. I have minimal knowledge of hostas, but I have created several newsletters for animal shelters where I've been employed. I'm currently working in veterinary medicine as a vet tech (nurse). I would appreciate your help with any articles, interesting tid-bits, pictures, suggestions, or any content for future newsletters. I can be reached at [Marla.Greanya@gmail.com](mailto:Marla.Greanya@gmail.com). Thank you! A special thank you to Cathy Myers for the photos and to those providing articles in this publication.