

Greetings:

Spring is in the air, and officially arrives this coming Saturday, March 20th, at 5:37 AM EDT. The crocus and snowdrops are sure putting on a show this week! Aconites are also up and just about ready to pop.

We did a lot of spring clean-up in the garden last week and can't wait to get outdoors this coming week when it warms up a little bit again.

Information received from Charlie Harper on the upcoming ZOOM meeting mentioned in last month's EFLASH:



Our first 2021 meeting will be held on April 17th, noon to 2 PM. Ginny Pearce, a recent guest from Grand Rapids, MI, will be showing her favorite pictures of outstanding hostas and hosta gardens, along with a wide variety of daylily seedling eye candy. She is a long time hosta gardener and daylily hybridizer, who has won photography awards from both the American Hosta Society and American Hemerocallis Society.

The meeting location? Your easy chair!

Due to Covid restrictions on large, in-person meetings, we will use Zoom, the video meeting app most used by business, education, and social clubs. Unfamiliar with Zoom? Not to worry, Mike Anders will be giving a show-and-tell training session a day or two prior to the meeting. Remember, grade school children use Zoom every day. Try it,

you may just like it! Works on computers, iPads, and smartphones. And, it's free!

Please email Mike at anders@findlay.edu to let him know if you would like to participate in the training session.

The link to the ZOOM meeting, the meeting ID, and the passcode will be sent out several days before April 17th.

Twenty-eight Black Swamp members have signed up for the Virtual Hosta College this coming week-end. You should have received a confirmation this week along with your sign-in information.

We want to welcome our newest Black Swamp members, Nancy and Stephen Goldberg from Sylvania, who joined earlier this month.

Our own **Charlie Harper** is now serving as **President of Region 2 of the American Daylily Society!!** Congratulations, Charlie!!!

Did you know REGION 2 of the American Daylily Society is having their ANNUAL VIRTUAL AUCTION FUNDRAISER?

Please join us in our annual fundraising event. Thanks to the generosity of our many donors and the participation of our region members and friends, we are able to raise money to help to fund our region activities. Our volunteers work hard to make this a fun event for everyone.

Coming soon will be a list of the Auction items. Black Swamp contributed a \$50 gift certificate to Ogden Station Daylilies - which is owned by Black Swamp members Jerry and Lisa Marlatt - for the auction. Jerry has been hybridizing since 2014 and has introduced some very interesting daylilies!



Region 2 Virtual Auction
March 26, 27 and 28

Donations of daylilies and other biddable items welcomed! The deadline for receipt of donations is March 12. Contact Rhonda Vereeven (purpleirises1@yahoo.com) with daylilies or Pat Titus (pigsnbaskets@hotmail.com) with other items.

Website for Region 2 is www.adsregion2.org. Click on EVENTS to see more information on upcoming events.

Here is info on Region 2's Summer Meeting:



Join us in
Illinois for
Daylily Fun
in **2021**

See a preview of
the Tour Gardens
on our website!

Region 2 Summer Meeting - July 9-11, 2021

Featuring:

- Oak Hill Garden (Bonnie Nichols)
- Garden of Sandy Gabriel
- Front Porch Daylilies (Lori Doolin)
- Garden of Sandy and Don Shull
- Washington Park Botanical Garden

Schedule of Events and other details available on our website, <http://2021Region2.com>

With the uncertainties created by Covid-19, the details for this event are still very fluid. Please be sure to check their website for the latest information pertaining to this event.

As reported last month, the American Hosta Convention this summer in Kalamazoo, MI will be a **virtual** convention. The website for the Virtual American Hosta Society National Convention is now up for your viewing pleasure!!!



**American Hosta Society
National Convention,
Kalamazoo, MI**

July 15 – 17, 2021

Register now and see more information on Website: ahs2021.org

Welcome! It is with great excitement and pleasure that the Southwest Michigan Hosta Society and the West Michigan Hosta Society are partnering to bring you the first ever **Virtual 2021 American Hosta Society National Convention**.

Register early to reserve your gift plant: Hosta Silly String. Registrants will also receive exclusive online access to: Speakers, Workshops, Clinics, on-demand, professionally recorded virtual garden tours, Ed Elslagar Seedling Competition, Hosta leaf show photo contest (unsanctioned), and more! Be sure to check back often for updated details on events.

Eileen Hoffman, along with several of our members, has been keeping our FACEBOOK site fun to read! Thank you, Eileen!

And in case you haven't heard about the Hosta of the Year for 2021.....



With the increasing number of hosta, cultivars being introduced each year it is increasingly difficult for nursery owners and gardeners to choose just the right hostas for their sales areas and gardens.

To this end the American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA **Hosta of the Year** in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants

in all regions of the country, are widely available and in sufficient supply, and will retail for about \$15.00 in the year of their selection.

2021 Hosta of the Year Rainbow's End



Hosta 'Rainbow's End' is glossy, super variegated foliage making it a very unique selection. The thick, bright yellow leaves have very interesting dark green veining. The different variation of veining on each leaf make 'Rainbow's End' truly something special. As the summer progresses, the center brightens to a creamy white. This hosta is medium sized with the foliage reaching 11 inches and red scapes reaching 16 inches with lavender flowers in late summer. Hostas add great color and brightness to the dark areas of your shade to part shade locations. Hostas are an easy to grow perennial and are great used as border plants, unique specimens, and in woodland gardens.

Past "Hosta of the Year" winners:

2020 H. 'Dancing Queen' (K. Terpening/A. Scheer 2005) grows 22" high by 40" wide with bright yellow wavy leaves in spring. Pale lavender flowers in summer. **Hosta 'Dancing Queen'** is a twinkling star of the shade garden with its bright yellow leaves, ruffled edges & mounded habit. Unlike other yellow **hostas** which emerge or turn chartreuse, '**Dancing Queen**' emerges bright yellow and remains yellow all season long. The large leaves have a prominent pie crust edge, adding even more pizzazz to this colorful **hosta**.

2019 H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' (Chastain) grows 12" high by 24" wide with wavy green leaves and an irregular cream center. Lavender flowers on white scapes in mid-summer.

2018 H. 'World Cup' (Beilstein/Zillis) grows 30" high by 48" wide with deeply cupped gold corrugated leaves that reach up to the sky. It also has nice white backsides that stand out due to its upright habit. Pale purple flowers in summer.

2017 H. 'Brother Stefan' (Petryszyn) grows 22" tall by 36" wide clump of thick, heavily corrugated, golden foliage edged with a wide border of blue-green. 24" tall scapes topped with white flowers in late spring.

2016 H. 'Curly Fries' (Solberg) grows 5" high by 16" wide. Features very wavy, narrow, super thick agave-looking leaves that give a "spidery" appearance. 24" tall scapes topped with lavender flowers.

2015 H. 'Victory' (Zilis/Solberg) grows 30" high by 70" wide. With leaves that have a shiny green center with a margin that changes from greenish yellow to creamy white by early summer. Smooth texture with thick substance. Near white flowers on tall scapes in mid-summer. An outstanding specimen or background plant. Vigorous.

2014 H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' (Walden West) grows 22" high by 46" wide, with dark blue-green seer suckered leaves with heavy substance. Probably the most deeply cupped foliage of any hosta cultivar makes for a distinct and unique specimen. Near white flowers in mid-summer.

2013 H. 'Rainforest Sunrise' (Farms/Anderson) grows 10" high by 25" wide, with gold leaves that are margined with a nice dark green margin. Nicely corrugated even at a young age, the glossy cupped leaves also have thick substance. Pale lavender flowers in early summer.

2012 H. 'Liberty' (Machen 2000) grows 39" high by 39" wide this sport of the popular 'Sagae' features a wider more dramatic margin. Like 'Sagae' the margin changes from yellow to creamy-white by mid-season. Lavender flowers in mid-summer.

2011 H. 'Praying Hands' (G. Williams 1996) grows 14" high by 16" upright growing mound of intensely folded and rippled dark green leaves 7" long by 2" wide, surrounded by yellow. It flowers in August with lavender flowers on 18" scapes.

2010 H. 'First Frost' (R. Solberg 2002) grows 16" high by 36" mound of intensely blue-green leaves 7" long by 5" wide, surrounded by yellow margins that become white as the season progresses. This sport of the ever popular H. 'Halcyon' flowers in July/August with lavender flowers.

2009 H. 'Earth Angel' (Hans Hansen 2002) grows 16" high by 39" wide, with heart shaped, blue-green leaves 12" long by 9" wide, surrounded by creamy white margins. Pale lavender flowers arise on 30" scapes in July. This is a sport of H. 'Blue Angel'.

2008 H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' (E. Deckert 2000). grows to 8" high by 19" wide, with thick substance, nearly round, blue-green leaves 2 1/2" long by 2 1/4" wide. In July the plant is topped with dense clusters of pale purple flowers on scapes that rise to 12".

2007 H. 'Paradigm' (Walden West 1999) grows 20" high by 46" wide, with corrugated gold leaves 11" long by 9" wide, surrounded by dark green margins. Near white flowers arise on 32" scapes in July-Aug. This is a sport of H. 'Abiqua Recluse'.

2006 H. 'Stained Glass' (Hansen 1999). grows to 20" high by 45" wide, with heart-shaped leaves 9" long by 7" wide. The leaves are bright yellow with an irregular dark green margin. In August the plant is topped with 3" long fragrant, near-white flowers on scapes that rise to 30". It is a sport that arose from H. 'Guacamole'.

2005 H. 'Striptease' (Thompson 1991) grows 20" high by 40" wide. Satiny, dark green leaves have a narrow ivory center approximately 1" wide. There is an irregular white stripe between the ivory center and the wide green margins. Pale violet flowers appear on 24" scales in July. This is a sport of H. 'Gold Standard'.

2004 H. 'Sum and Substance' (Aden 1998) grows 36" high by 80" wide. This is a huge mound of chartreuse leaves that can each become 18" long by 14" wide. Site in brighter morning light and the leaves will be a bright golden yellow. In July, lavender flowers appear on scapes 50" high.

2003 H. 'Regal Splendor' (Walters Gardens 1987) grows 32" high and 60" wide. This is a vase shaped mound of heavy substance, 10" long by 7" wide, blue-green leaves, with creamy white margins. Lavender flowers are produced on 60" scapes in August. This is a sport of H. 'Krossa Regal'.

2002 H. 'Guacamole' (Solberg 1994) grows 24" high and 54" wide. The 10" long by 8 1/2" shiny gold heart shaped leaves have irregular narrow green margins. Leaf color becomes a brighter gold with increased light exposure. Fragrant flowers 3" long are produced on 38" scapes in August. This is a sport of. 'Fragrant Bouquet'.

2001 H. 'June' (Neo Plants 1991) grows 30" wide, and 12" high. The gold centered, blue-green margined, heart shaped leaves are 6" long, by 4" wide. Lavender flowers appear on 20" scapes in August.

2000 H. 'Sagae' (Watanabe 1995) grows 30" high and nearly 70" wide. The leaves are 13" long, by 10" wide, and are blue-green with a yellow margin that fades to cream. They are slightly cupped with an undulating margin. The plant has an interesting upright vase shape.

1999 H. 'Paul's Glory' (Ruh/Hofer 1987), grows 17" high and 26" wide. It has pointed heart-shaped, leaves 7" long by 5" wide. The leaves emerge a golden yellow, then later in the season, turn a parchment white with an irregular blue-green margin. Lavender flowers arise in midsummer on 24" scapes.

1998 H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' (Aden 1982) grows 18" high by 36" wide. Heart-shaped leaves 8" long by 6" wide, that emerge a golden yellow, then turn apple-green with an irregular cream margin. The crowning glory of this Hosta is that in August the plant is topped with 3" long fragrant near white flowers on scapes that rise to 36".

1997 H. 'Patriot' (Machen 1991) grows 23" high by 50" wide. Dark green leaves are 8" long by 6" wide with a wide, creamy white margin. Lavender flowers appear in July on 30" scapes.

1996 H. 'So Sweet' (Aden 1986) grows 22" high by 50" wide. Leaves are 9" long and 7" wide with a white margin. Large numbers of fragrant near white flowers open on 35" scapes in August.

If you have any info for the next E-FLASH, be sure to send it to us.

Hopefully later this year we will be able to have a get-together of Black Swamp members once restrictions are lifted.

Live life to its fullest, but Stay Safe – and Stay Healthy!!!

Frank and Charlene



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