

Hope you're enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having and the chance to get out and work in your garden as much as we have, now that spring has finally arrived. The grass keeps growing, as do the weeds. We haven't had a lot of rain lately but the hostas are sure looking gorgeous this year. Great year to be having our hosta show!

Don't forget our perennial plant sale this Saturday, May 20th, at Churchill's Market parking lot in Perrysburg! We will set up the sale beginning at 6:30 AM. The sale will open at 8 AM. and run until noon – or until sold out!?!? Look forward to seeing you there!

At the bottom is our July 8th bus trip reservation form for our visit to the Northern Mecca Daylily Gardens. Cost is \$40 each for members, and \$45 for non-members. Get your reservation in by Tuesday, June 20th, to Karen Centers, bus trip registrar. First come, first served. All reservations will be confirmed as they are received by Karen via telephone. If you have any questions about the bus trip, call Karen at 419-885-4387.

Our hosta show "Rivers of Leaves" will be Sunday, June 18th, in the Terrace Room of the Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Garden. The Conference Center will be open by 8 AM for you to begin preparing your entries. The show will be open for public viewing from 1 – 4 PM.

The show schedule is attached. If you would like to get entry tags before the show, we will have them at the Plant Sale on May 20th, or call Charlene at 419-874-8964 to arrange to pick them up.

If you have any questions about the show, contact Sarah DaPra, Show Chair, Tele: 517-750-1864, Email: ashwoods@aol.com or Phil Parsons, Show Co-chair, Tele: 419-256-7246, Email: mpparsons@centurylink.net

It's Show Time!

Yes, it is indeed show time and we hope to see all of you at the show. A copy of the show schedule is attached, and provides the information you need to know about the show.

Now what do we need for you, a loyal Hosta Society member, to do to help make this year's show a huge success?

First, **Bring Leaves.** Yes, that is the most important thing. A show cannot be a success unless it has exhibits. We hope each member will bring at least five leaves or other exhibits. Those other exhibits can be educational displays, container grown hostas, and trough or container gardens. We need them all to have a great show. You say you don't know what to do? Don't worry. There will be people at the show to help new exhibitors prepare your treasures properly.

Second, **Bring Yourself.**

Third, **Volunteer.** We always need more volunteers to assist with classification, placement, hospitality, and many other jobs. Seek out the Show Committee Chairs and offer to help. Don't worry that you do not know what to do. You will get training, even though it may be on-the-job! You will learn a lot and have lots of fun in the process. There are two main purposes to having a Hosta Show. The first is to educate both the public and members. The second is to get to know fellow members better. Both will be accomplished if you come to the show and participate.

Finally, **Have Fun**. If you will just come to the show, this will be easy!!!!

Entry Tags

It is usually much easier to prepare your tags ahead of time than at the show when everything is so hectic. When you prepare your entry tags, please remember to fill out your name, address, and other information on both the **top and bottom** portions of the entry tags. Be sure to print clearly, or use address labels.

When you arrive at the exhibit preparation area, first sign the Exhibitor Registration Form and **secure an exhibitor number**. This number should be placed in the appropriate place on each entry tag. There are different size containers available. Select the container that makes your leaf look its best (no tiny leaf in a big container. etc.). Stage your leaf in the container, cutting the petiole to an appropriate height that makes the leaf look its best. Use cotton balls to position the leaf at the best viewing angle in the vase. Then attach the entry tag as instructed at the show.

Classifying Your Hosta Leaves Correctly

Hosta leaves must be classified by both **section** (size) and **class** (color and pattern). This information is placed on the entry tag when you enter your hostas in a show. Many people feel intimidated in trying to determine just which section and class their hosta leaves belong in. However, it is easy.

The American Hosta Society provides a **Hosta Show Classification List on their website**, <www.hosta.org>. (After accessing the site, place your cursor on Show Judging.) The list provides not only the show classification data for all named registered hostas, it also provides the registered leaf length and width data for each. This information can help you to determine if your leaf is mature size-wise.

If you do not find your named hosta on the list, it probably means that your hosta is not registered. In that case, you would exhibit it in the non-registered hosta section, Section XII and the class would simply be the first letter of the hosta name.

If you don't have access to the internet, there will be copies of the Hosta Show Classification List available for your use at the show.

Selecting Leaves for the Show

This is probably the most important step. First, study the Show Schedule and the AHS Point Scales for Judging printed in the schedule for each division. The Point Scales are the attributes that the judges use to evaluate a leaf or any other type of exhibit. By being familiar with the Point Scales, you will be better prepared to select leaves that will score well in the show. The schedule also provides all the specific rules that apply to any given division. If a leaf or other exhibit does not meet the requirements for the division or if the exhibit has significant flaws based on the point scale attributes, then it is best not to select that particular specimen.

All of the above having been said, if you have a leaf that is pretty and that you think will be of interest to the show public, **bring it anyway**, even if you know it might not win a ribbon! A hosta show is primarily for education.

Cutting and Grooming Leaves

Leaves are best cut early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Evaluate your leaves as best you can a few days prior to the show and tentatively select the ones you would like to bring to the show. Leaves may be cut several days prior to the show but the later you cut them, the fresher they will be. The petiole (leaf stem) should be cut as long as possible. You can remove excess length later during preparation of the exhibit for show. A sharp knife should be used to make a clean cut. After cutting, hold the leaf up to the light to further inspect for major holes, damage or other large flaws that you may have missed. If significant flaws are found, you may want to select another leaf. After cutting the leaves, place them in cool water in a cool place out of strong sunlight and drafts. This will help to keep your leaves fresh for the show.

Specimen cleanliness is the first attribute that a judge notices. Take care to properly clean leaves of all exhibits prior to entering them in the show. An entry should have no dirt or other debris, insects, or spider webs anywhere on the leaf surface or on the petiole. Pay particular attention to the point where the leaf meets the petiole where trash often becomes lodged.

Carefully wash the leaf in cool water but do not scrub. Often on smooth surfaced leaves, you only have to gently swish the leaf in the water and the dirt falls off. On leaves with quilted surfaces, you may use a moistened Q-Tip, small soft paint brush, or a cotton ball to remove dirt from the valleys and creases. Be very careful not to damage the leaf surface in any way.

Blue leaves are especially hard to clean and prepare for show because the delicate glaucous coating on the leaves is easily damaged. Be very careful when cleaning those blue leaves. On blue leaves with very rough surfaces, it is almost impossible to remove all the dirt without causing damage. The judges would prefer a little dirt than damaged surfaces in this particular case.

Identity Crisis

We understand that many of you have hostas growing in your garden that have lost their identification tags. It is easy to understand how it can happen. Squirrels and small children love to move them around, they fade over time, and sometimes they just never get put on in the first place.

While you may be tempted to bring your nameless leaves to enter in the show, we ask that you refrain from asking the Classification Committee to identify them on the day of the show.

The point of the show is to display named varieties of hosta that are well-grown, **true to name**, and typical of the characteristics registered for that variety. It is very frustrating to the classification committee when it has to try to puzzle out the identity of many leaves during a time when we need to be making sure that all the other entries get put in the right place for the show. Time is short and there is much work to be done around show time.

Our goal is to educate you about hostas. Seeing literally hundreds of varieties of hostas side by side is a great way to learn to differentiate between them. Even if it is a common hosta, there is always a need to have well-grown specimens on display.

One important thing to remember is that not every hosta that comes up in your garden even has a name! One of the things that makes hostas so great is the diversity which results from nature at work. Hostas cross pollinate, creating seedlings that literally have no names. They are often beautiful, and many of our greatest hostas are the result of this process of nature. Unless you

are a serious hosta collector and just must have each variety tagged and cataloged, then don't worry about it too much. Just enjoy your nameless hostas for their beauty and diversity.



We received information from Kitty Gibson from the Perrysburg Garden Club that they are having a garden tour on Saturday, June 17th, in Perrysburg from 11 AM – 4 PM. Tickets are \$10 each available for sale the day of the tour at any of the following tour gardens: Sue and Larry Mullins on 30140 Morningside Drive, Luann and Larry Croy on 30110 Morningside Drive, Tom and Suellen Moore on 29553 Duxbury Court, Kirk and Julie Werkman on 866 Locust Street, Nancy and Paul Smithers on 1055 Locust Street, Myra McClure on 940 Cherry Street, Steven and Margery Kramer on 317 Sycamore Lane., Linda and Brian McMahon on 542 Tonbridge Court., *plus a bonus garden* Norma Stark labrynith on 345 W. South Boundary Street.

Have you been keeping your journal on our tissue culture plant H. "Pure Heart" that you received at our April meeting??? Phil Parsons selected a wonderful hosta for our Tissue Culture Program again this year, didn't he?? Thanks, Phil!! Don't forget to bring your potted hosta and journal back to our August 19th daylily auction, September 23rd or October 14th meeting to be eligible to participate in the tissue culture program next year.

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

Live life to its fullest!!!!

Frank and Charlene

BLACK SWAMP HOSTA AND DAYLILY SOCIETY

2017 BUS TOUR - SATURDAY - JULY 8th

We will be traveling to several gardens on the Northern Mecca Daylily Tour plus a garden center buying stop on Saturday, July 8th.

The bus will be **leaving the parking lot of Toledo Botanical Garden at 5434 W. Bancroft Street (between Reynolds Road and Holland-Sylvania Road) SHARPLY at 7 AM.** The gates will be open by 6:40 A.M. so plan to be there **no later than 6:45 AM.** so we can get the bus loaded and be ready to roll **sharply at 7 AM.**

Looks like we have a full day of unique gardens to see! First we'll be going to Mike and Sandy Holmes' River Bend Daylily Garden in Xenia, then to Valley of the Daylilies of Dan and Jackie Bachman in Lebanon. Dan was our guest speaker at our March meeting. The Bachmans will be providing lunch for our group. Adjacent to Bachmans' garden is Tom & Rita Isgro's Twilight Garden Daylilies that we will also tour at this stop. From Bachmans' we will travel to Dayton to see Pleasant Valley Gardens owned by Tom Polston and Doug Sterling. Our final stop will be a buying stop at Stockslagers Greenhouse Garden Center in New Lebanon. We plan to be back in Toledo about 6:30 – 7 PM.

Please return registration form below to reserve your seat by TUESDAY, JUNE 20th. Cost of the trip is \$40 each for members, and \$45 each for non-members. **Seats are available on a first come-first served basis with a paid reservation.** Upon receipt of your paid reservation, Karen Centers will give you a call to confirm that she has received your reservation. If you send in your reservation and do not hear from Karen within a week, give her a call (419-885-4387).

If you have any questions, please call Karen at 419-885-4387. Please send your registration along with your check payable to "BSHDS" to Karen Centers, Registrar, 5634 Glasgow, Sylvania, OH 43560. If something comes up and you will not be able to make the trip, please let Karen know so if we have a waiting list, the next person can be contacted to fill all the seats on the bus.

SORRY, NO REFUNDS!!!



2017 BLACK SWAMP HOSTA AND DAYLILY BUS TOUR, SATURDAY, JULY 8th

YES, I/WE WANT TO GO! HERE IS MY CHECK FOR _____

NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____

FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES, PLEASE PROVIDE:

FAMILY CONTACT _____

PHONE NO. _____