

# Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association

www.FGNA.org

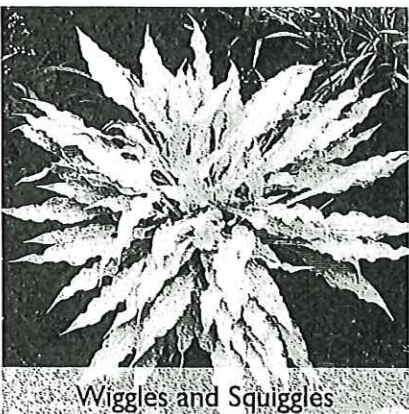
SUMMER 2022

Volume XXI, Issue 2

The FGNA is a 501(c)(3) organization formed to enhance the community in which we live. Every residence on and between the North-South boundaries (Oakland and Washington Streets) and the East-West boundaries (State and Mercer Streets) is a member invited to join any and all events. No dues are required and activities are funded by voluntary donations. Board member terms run for two years.

## Hostas: They Ain't **JUST** Your Momma's Shade Flowers Anymore.

By Sue Anderson, 1900 block of E. Jackson



If you walk around FGNA in the spring or summer, you are likely to encounter numerous homes with hostas growing in a garden. It is the third most sold perennial in this country. The common hosta is about 3' high and 2" wide with deep green leaves and soft purple flowers in late summer. Hostas are native to Japan, Korea and China. By the mid-1800s they had found their way to the US. Today there are hundreds of species and thousands of cultivars. *The Hostapedia* (c.2009) lists over 7400 hosta names and that was over 13 years ago. Many more cultivars have arrived since that publication.

I first discovered hostas when I lived in a house on Grove Street (one of my many 'hood homes I've lived in; but that's another story for another day). We had a long driveway covered by a huge maple tree. Having gardened most of my life I was intrigued to learn what might grow in this dense shady area. I discovered hostas. My husband and I fell in love with this versatile hardy plant. Every home we have owned since has had a hosta bed.

Hostas are identified by color, leaf description, flowers, seed pods and mound sizes. Leaves come in many shades of green, blue-green, white, and gold and can be as small as a teaspoon to the size of a dinner plate. Leaves can be edged, veined, centered, splashed, or streaked in a different color causing them to be called variegated. Variegated means they are streaked in a different color. Some are broad; others are tall and twisted. Flowers, which are funnel or trumpet shaped, come in all shades of purple to white. Some more recent cultivars are even fragrant. The stems of the leaves and flowers can be many colors, from deep red to variegated. The mound size refers to the width and height of the mature plant. Hostas are sized into five categories: miniature (<6"), small (6-10"), medium (10-18"), large (18-28") and giant (>28"). Seed pods are mostly green or chartreuse, but a few come in maroon, crimson, or blueish purple. Some hostas are sun tolerant (4 hours in full sun). The gold and green leaved ones handle the sun best with blue ones the worst. A full list of sun tolerant and fragrant hostas can be found on the Hornbaker web site.

How hostas are named is an extraordinarily complex process involving the genus (hosta), the scientific species name, whether it is a cultivar, a sport, or internationally developed. There is also a common name which often sells the plant better. Most of us know the common name such as "Sum and Substance" or "Blue Angel."

Care for hostas is easy. Plant in shade or partial shade. Hostas are hardy but they like water. Remember to water them especially in extreme heat or drought situations. If their leaves are dropping, they need water. You can divide them by digging up a clump and then using your shovel to cut through the root ball. Place in water for a short time and replant. I hope you found this informative, and that you will venture beyond the medium dark green

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### FGNA Gear

Contact Todd  
@tnt98@comcast.net or  
309-828-8863

- Bandanas—\$5
- Calendars—\$5
- Hoodie—\$20
- Koosies—\$2
- Long Sleeve T Shirt—\$15
- Recyclable shopping bags—  
1 for \$3, 2 for \$5
- Stickers—\$2

### FGNA Goals:

- To celebrate and preserve our neighborhood's unique character and history.
- To promote communication and a sense of community between neighbors.
- To give our neighborhood a voice in city decision-making.
- To keep neighbors informed about city projects that may affect them.
- To keep the neighborhood safe and traffic under control.
- To help our neighborhood schools and businesses thrive.
- To share expert information about topics of interest, such as gardening and home restoration.

## Prez on the Edge

By Amanda Hill, Mercer



I am finally feeling like summer is just around the corner which has me thinking about summer vacations lately. My family was fortunate enough to take two family road trips in the last two years. We have a big scratch-off map of the USA hanging in our kitchen and we have a goal to scratch off every state together as a family.

In 2020 our oldest nephew graduated from high school in Texas, so I decided we'd plan a road trip and make a family vacation out of it. I didn't really know what to

expect with two little ones, but I planned lots of stops along our way and made sure to pack a lot of snacks. It was honestly one of our favorite vacations ever. We were able to scratch off four states on this trip - Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and of course Texas. Our first stop was to hike at Meramec State Park in Missouri - we also made a stop in Joplin and experienced breathtaking views in the Wichita Mountains in Oklahoma - check out the Holy City wildlife refuge here. In Texas we spent time with family, but also made sure to hit Dinosaur World and Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose - my dino lover could see real dinosaur fossilized footprints in the river beds here! On our way home we hit up the Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel (wow!) in Arkansas and spent some time in Branson, which I likened to a family friendly Vegas.

We loved road-trippin' so much, we decided to do it again last summer. Our 2021 summer vacation took us on the road with our close friends and their two children to Niagara Falls. We decided to rent a passenger van so the 8 of us could all ride together. We scratched four more states off on this trip - Indiana, Ohio, New York and Michigan - We did drive through Pennsylvania, but we didn't feel the gas station stop was enough to justify a scratch off, so we look forward to exploring there again in the future. We hit up Amish country in Shippshewana, Indiana, had a blast touring the island of Put-In-Bay, Ohio on Lake Erie, and of course our time in Niagara Falls was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We stopped in New Buffalo, Michigan for some beach time on the way home. Exploring the Great Lakes really opened up my eyes to the beautiful beaches and scenery we have right here in our neck of the woods.

This year, as we have seen the gas prices climb, I am looking for fun things to do with the kids close to home. I think we will try to get Iowa scratched off this summer with a camping trip to Maquoketa Caves State Park. We also live in a great community with plenty of fun staycation activities to do. We love visiting all of the museums and nearby zoos. Sugar Grove Nature Center is a favorite and we hope to hit Wildlife Prairie Park again this summer.

What kind of fun plans does your family have for this summer? Whatever you do, I hope you are able to make it a fun and memorable summer!



Cheers FGNA!

*Amanda*

## 2020-2022 FGNA

### Board Members

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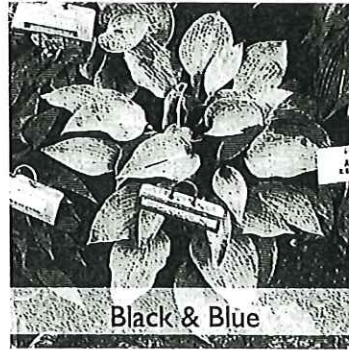
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hosta to the many other varieties. Our very own AB Hatchery usually carries several varieties.

If you are a hosta enthusiast, please share pictures of your favorite hosta on the FGNA FB page. Stop by our home anytime. I would love to share my hosta gardens with you and talk hostas.

**Hosta Gardens near us:**

- The Hosta Garden at Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL
- Illinois Central College Arboretum, East Peoria, IL
- University of Illinois Arboretum, Champaign, IL
- Dubuque Arboretum, Dubuque, IA
- Vander Veer Botanical Park Hosta Glade, Davenport, IA
- Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO
- Hornbaker Gardens and Nursery, Princeton, IL

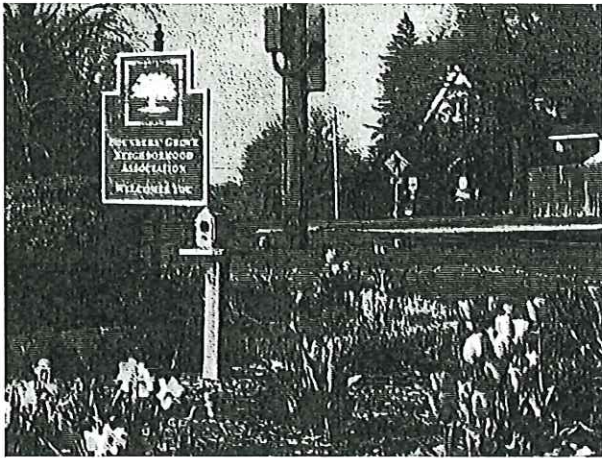


**References:**

- American Hosta Society
- *The Hostapedia* by Mark R. Zilis
- *The Hosta Handbook* by Mark R. Zilis
- Hornbaker Garden and Nursery web page

# How Does FGNA's Garden Grow??

## ....with helpers like you!



Seeking volunteers to assist with maintaining the Founders' Grove flower garden this season.

Minimal time and experience needed. If you enjoy gardening, this garden is a first impression and great way to welcome all to our neighborhood.

Location: corner of Washington Street and Towanda Avenue (across from Washington School)  
If interested contact Todd: [tnt98@comcast.net](mailto:tnt98@comcast.net).



Did you know?? When you go to DonnyB's gourmet popcorn shop, mention you are from FGNA and get 20% off!! Shopping local and living in our 'hood has its perks!!



Receive 20% off your purchase when you mention this ad.

**20% off**

1220 Towanda Ave, Bloomington

[-dennybpopcorn.com](http://dennybpopcorn.com)  
 - 309.827.3511

**JULIA DAVIS LAW FIRM, LLC**

JULIA DAVIS  
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

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309.661.0406

## Social News

By Todd Trainor, 1200 block of E. Grove

I hope reading this brings sunshine as well as consistent warmer temperatures with healthy vibes to the 'hood. Get the mower ready and the lawn furniture out as spring has arrived finally! I am sure all of you are ready to open the windows for some fresh air before the humidity creeps in and the A/C is flipped on for the season.



We had a fabulous turnout with more than 50 energetic youngsters to visit the Easter bunny and collect candy-filled easter eggs on a sunny-breezing Sunday afternoon on the grounds of Oakland School.

Please be on the look out for new faces within the neighborhood. There have been a lot of homes selling, which means new neighbors!! Try to reach out with a friendly hello and welcome them! Let them know how great Founders' Grove is and what we have to offer.

We have planned a few different events for the season and of course the traditional ones. Be sure to check out the "Clip-N-Save" of this edition, [fgna.com](http://fgna.com), and FGNA Facebook.

If you are considering purging no longer needed items, get ready for the FGNA annual yard sales! Submit your list of 5 categories to [fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com) by Monday, May 30. The reasonable cost of \$4.00 gets you a yard sign to borrow, maps of the locations, also a group sale classified ad in the Pantagraph. The dates are June 03 & June 04, 2022.

FGNA Socials have started back up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month @6pm. If you are interesting in hosting, reach out and I can pencil you in for an opening we may have.

Until next time,

Todd


For more than 20 years, the **Back 2 School Alliance (BTSA)** has worked with District 87 and Unit 5 to bring schools and communities together by putting backpacks and school supplies into the hands of students who need them. Centennial Christian Church is partnering with the BTSA by being a collection station in Founders' Grove Neighborhood.


We are collecting now for the 2022-2023 school year. We appreciate whatever school supplies you can donate. We will begin collecting school supplies now through Sunday, May 22. Centennial Christian Church will be open to receive your school supplies Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. You may also bring school supplies on Sunday May 15 and May 22 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.


BTSA is in need of ANY school supplies, but these items are in great demand:

- Backpacks
- Pencils
- Pens
- Composition Notebooks
- Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Colored Pencils


Centennial Christian Church is located at 1219 East Grove St. If you prefer to make a financial donation, please make your check payable to Centennial Christian Church with "BTSA" in the memo line and send to Centennial. All proceeds will be forwarded to the BTSA. Please call the church office (309) 828-2185 should you have any questions or if we can assist you. Thank you so much!

  
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your old house expert

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# FGNA—The Good Life: Volunteers of Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association

By Todd Trainor, 1200 block of E. Grove

Meet the volunteers of Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association Board of Directors! I am proud to call each of these astonishing individuals my friend and partner-in-crime in bringing events to the 'hood for all to enjoy!



Amanda Hill/President:  
wife, mother of two and  
pet mom.



Rochelle Gridley/VP:  
wife, mother of one  
and pet mom.



Matt Lollar/  
Secretary/ Block  
Captain  
Coordinator:  
boyfriend, father of  
two, pet dad.



Neil Gridley/  
Treasurer/  
Webmaster:  
husband, pet dad



Rhonda Massie/Social  
Media: girlfriend/friend  
to all



Sandra  
Underwood/  
Newsletter Editor:  
pet mom, most  
talented member.



Bob Dawson/E-list  
Coordinator: hus-  
band, father of two.



Todd Vincent/Member  
At Large: husband,  
father of two, gramps,  
pet dad.



Connie Boznos/  
Member At Large:  
wife, mother of one,



Me/Social Chair:  
husband, father of  
three, Papa, pet dad.  
*(Editor's Note: Most  
devoted FGNAer)*

Be sure if you see any of these individuals in the 'hood, at the store, the nearest watering hole, the gym, or anywhere else, let them know how much you appreciate their dedication and positive energy given to this FABULOUS neighborhood.

## Neighbor-to-Neighbor Classifieds

*Local services available in your own backyard!!*

**Bridget Lollar, text 779-875-8450**

15 years old, Offering Pet sitting. Prices will vary depending on how many/what type(s) of pet(s).

**Katharine Graehling, penguinqueen14@hotmail.com**

Offering pet sitting, babysitting, care giver, working with special needs kids, and yard work.

Seeking or wanting to offer a service? Neighbor-to-Neighbor Classifieds is a free one-time service available to you! Contact: [sandra.underwood@frontier.com](mailto:sandra.underwood@frontier.com)

# FGNA Summer Fun Happening Here!!

## Garage Sale

Friday and Saturday, June 3 and 4

Get ready to shop your 'hood or be one of the many to sell your treasure trove!!

- ⇒ To get your sale listed, submit your list of 5 categories to [fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com) by Monday, May 30.
- ⇒ Just \$4.00 gets you a yard sign to borrow, maps of the locations, & a group sale classified ad in the Pantagraph
- ⇒ Sign and map pick up will be Thursday, June 2 at Centennial Christian Church during the FGNA Quarterly meeting, 1219 E. Grove St.

## Summer Solstice

Saturday, June 25, starting @ 4:00 p.m.

**\*\*New Location\*\*** Hosted by Jeremy & Sonya Embry, 1320 E. Grove St

- ⇒ FGNA will provide pulled pork sandwiches, bring a dish to pass and beverages of choice.
- ⇒ Enjoy games, including bean bags (water balloons if the weather allows)
- ⇒ Porta potties will be available onsite

## 4th of July Parade and Brunch

Monday, July 4 @ 9:00 a.m.

Hosted by Mike and Nancy Schulz, 1322 E. Grove St

- ⇒ Meet at the corner of Grove and Woodland, decorate your bikes, wagons, strollers & pets!
- ⇒ After the parade, stay for brunch and bring a dish to share for brunch!

## Clip-N-Save Calendar

Dates and events listed below are to the best of FGNA board knowledge at the time of print.  
Stay connected to FGNA Facebook, email, or contact a board member for updated information.

- May -

**Sat. May 21:** FGNA Architectural Walk; 10:00 AM—  
Cost: \$10.00. Registration is required.

**Tues. May 24:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m.  
1219 E. Washington St.

- June -

**Thurs. Jun. 2:** FGNA Member Meeting; 7:00 p.m.  
Centennial Christian Church. 1219 E. Grove St. Guest  
Speaker: Gina Hunter, Topic: Edible Insects. Garage Sale  
sign & map pick up

**Fri. & Sat. Jun. 3 & 4:** FGNA Neighborhood Garage  
Sales

**Fri. Jun. 10:** FGNA Social; 6:00 p.m. Host: Martha Tyner,  
104 Kreitzer Ave.

**Thurs. Jun. 16:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m.  
1413 E. Grove St.

**Sat. Jun. 25:** Summer Solstice Picnic; 4:00 p.m. Hosts:  
Jeremy & Sonya Embry, 1320 E. Grove St. Bring dish to pass

**Tues. Jun. 28:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m.  
1219 E. Washington St.

- July-

**Mon. Jul. 4:** Fourth of July Parade; 9:00 a.m. Meet at the  
corner of Grove and Woodland. Bring dish to pass.

**Fri. Jul. 8:** FGNA Social; 6:00 p.m. Host: TBD

**Thurs. Jul. 21:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m. 1413  
E. Grove St.

**Tues. Jul. 25:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m.  
1219 E. Washington St.

- August-

**Sun. Aug. 7:** Vinyl Hullabaloo; 2:00 p.m. Host: Matt Lollar,  
1304 E. Grove St. Check FGNA Facebook for further details.

**Fri. Aug. 12:** FGNA Social; 6:00, Host: TBD

**E-Mail Updates:** Get on our E-LIST by contacting Bob Dawson, [Bob@DawsonI.com](mailto:Bob@DawsonI.com) or sign up at any happy  
hour for breaking news, upcoming events, and announcements (FGNA never shares email addresses).