

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

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WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING REGISTRATION

MADISON, WISCONSIN CONVENTION



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President's Message

With another growing season under our belts and with a beautiful fall concluding, it is time to look forward to upcoming events. The Winter Scientific meeting, sponsored by the MRHS, is coming up fast. This year's WSM will feature a new location at the Lisle Wyndham which is about 20 miles further south but just as convenient to the major roads. It will also feature several speakers new to the WSM including hybridizer Ron Livingston, former AHS President Kevin Walek, and AHS Journal photo Czar Ken Harris. Of course, we will also hold our popular hosta seed silent auction orchestrated by John Van Ostrand.

There is always something special about being able to get together with old friends during the heart of winter and talk hostas for awhile. I hope that if you have never attended the Winter Scientific Meeting that you will do so this year.

The Southeast Wisconsin Hosta Society will host the 2011 Midwest Regional Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. If that group's past work as a convention host is any indication, it will be a memorable event. The 2012 convention will be held in Rochester, Minnesota. My concern is, we need some of the other local societies to step up and host future Midwest conventions. It is wonderful to be a guest of others but courtesy dictates that eventually one needs to return the hospitality. If your group has never hosted a Midwest or has not done so in quite a number of years, perhaps it is time for your society to jump into the rotation. It can be a very rewarding experience.

Lou Horton

Check the expiration date on the back of this newsletter. Don't miss out on the next issue. It will include the 2011 convention registration form and the convention schedule.

Remember -- due to our bulk mailing practices, you must contact Barb Schroeder if you will not be at your normal mailing address. The post office will **not** forward our newsletters.

Barb can be contacted at barbschro1@gmail.com
or by letter at the address on the front cover.

Got a Deer Problem?



From hostas and yews to arborvitae and white pines, a growing Northland deer population has been giving homeowners and gardeners fits in recent years. The problem of hungry deer can be a headache for homeowners and an economic disaster for tree farmers, nurseries and foresters. And deer deterrents on the market until now tended to wash off in any rain. But a Duluth scientist has developed a way for plants to absorb hot pepper concentrate into their roots and up into the leaves, rendering them too hot for deer to munch.

Tom Levar, a forestry and horticulture specialist for the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute, developed the idea using a chemical first used to treat muscle soreness in racing horses and, later, human athletes. The benign chemical, called DMSO, absorbs quickly through animal and human skin and into the bloodstream. Levar found out that it passes through plant "skin" as well, and then combined DMSO with several bitter and otherwise unpleasant tasting chemicals. Pepper concentrate offered the best combination of being easy to use, natural and extremely effective. "You can use it when the plant is first put in the ground or incorporate it into the soil with established plants," said Levar, adding that the plant will even emit a peppery smell. People "don't notice the smell as much, but the deer sure know what it is... It's not really clear which is the better deterrent, the smell or the hot taste. Usually it's one bite and they move on."

The pepper concentrate, called capsiicum, is natural and doesn't harm the plant. The stuff also works great to keep dogs, cats, rabbits, mice, voles, moles and gophers from eating plants and young trees, Levar noted. In tests at an Alexandria, Minn., tree farm that had suffered huge losses of young conifer trees to field mice, the repellent proved 100 percent effective. Michigan-based Repellex, USA already has purchased the licensing rights from the university and has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval, expected late this year. Company officials expect to have Repellex Systemic Animal Repellent on store shelves in March. Gardeners can simply dig a few pellets into the soil around the base of the plant and, when it rains or plants are watered, the natural process of plant nutrient transfer will suck the stuff in. It will be available in tablet form at first and eventually sold in granules that can be simply shaken onto the ground around the plant.

Levar said Repellex Systemic will last three months or more, and company officials say the tests are showing full effect for an entire growing season. "This really changes the whole (deer repellent) industry because it's inside the plant. Everything else out there was really a short-term solution that washed off and had to be re-applied repeatedly," said Elizabeth Summa, president of Repellex USA. "It's going to cost a little bit more (than spray-on deterrents) for a single application. But because you don't have to reapply it, it's going to be much less expensive in the long run." Levar notes that Repellex Systemic shouldn't be used on edible plants "unless you want your strawberries to taste like hot peppers," he joked. "You'd definitely be able to taste it."

Excerpt of an article published in Duluth News Tribune

DeEtta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award

It was a distinct honor for my wife Becki and I to be able to present this year's coveted DeEtta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award at our annual convention in Des Moines, Iowa this summer to Fred and Audra Wilson. Fred and Audra have been generous supporters of all levels of the hosta world through their generous contributions of time, talents, and resources to promote and further the world of hostas. Audra has served on the board of the Russ O'Hara Hosta Society, the MRHS, and they have generously contributed hostas to auctions to support the societies to which they belong.



Their garden was open as an optional garden on Sunday. This may be the last time this beautiful garden will be open for tours as the maintenance is becoming too much for them to keep up. As a testament to hostas as the friendship plant Audra was giving everyone that visited that Sunday a piece of any hosta they wanted. When Becki and I visited Audra said she wanted to give everyone a plant so they can enjoy them as much as she and Fred have.

I wanted to take a picture of them with the Award and they had already hung it up in their home in a prominent place where they can enjoy seeing it. They were truly honored to be this year's recipients.

It is a distinct honor to receive the DeEtta Montgomery Award. It is the MRHS's way of saying thank you for serving the society. Too often people serve the society and the hosta world in general and receive little appreciation. The award was established to thank members that have given generously of their time, talents and resources to further the world of hostas and the



MRHS. The first award was presented during the 2007 convention in Davenport, IA to DeEtta Montgomery. DeEtta epitomized service to the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society and the MRHS. She generously contributed to their support. Had she survived her bout with cancer, she would certainly be extolling the virtue of hostas, as she had been doing for many years. Her brother Dean Pyott graciously accepted the award in her absence.

In 2008 Roger Koopmans received the award. Roger was past president of the society and an enthusiastic supporter of hostas and the society. The 2009 recipient was Floyd Rogers, the editor of this beautiful newsletter that you are reading. Floyd has created our beautiful newsletter making it into a magazine style publication, with full color throughout.



Receiving this prestigious award is an honor for any member of the MRHS who has contributed to further the society. Any member can make a nomination by contacting a board member. Decisions are made at the board meeting in January that is held in conjunction with the Winter Scientific Meeting.

Tom Micheletti

Growing Minis in the North

by Bob Solberg, Green Hill Farm

Hostas are generally easy plants for Northern gardeners to grow. Even the fragrant flowered hostas, *H. plantaginea* and it's children, are usually manageable if given a warm sunny location and lots of water. However, now that the miniature hosta craze is sweeping Hostadom, gardeners everywhere are finding that minis are not always the easiest hostas to grow.

There are really two types of miniature hostas, those that have "small" genes that keep them small and those that are small because they do not grow very well. Many white-centered minis and some yellow ones fall into this latter category. If you have trouble keeping these little guys alive it is probably not your fault, they are just not vigorous plants.

All minis, by virtue of their small size alone, do have some disadvantages over their larger hosta cousins. They have shorter, and often much smaller in diameter roots than large hostas. Therefore, they can not send their roots deep into the soil where the moisture hides in the dry season. Thus, they need to be watered more frequently, but they also need better drainage, so that the water can get to those little roots easily. Many gardeners add very small gravel to their beds and even use it as a mulch. (You may want to try turkey grit made here in Mt. Airy, NC.) It is like having a scree bed but with much more fine particle organic matter, moist but well drained.

Short roots, coupled with small dormant buds, also present a problem in winter. Newly planted minis may heave out of the ground and have their exposed buds become permanent damaged. Older minis may grow out of the ground, or have the ground compact around them, leading to the same disastrous result. I like to use the small gravel mulch to help with this, (it also keeps the leaves for getting splashed with dirt when it rains), compost or pine bark fines.

If you water your miniature hostas more often, then you must fertilize them more as well. Many sophisticated mini growers do not fertilize their minis at all, starving them into the smallest size possible, and then wonder why they lose one every now and then. Little hostas need fertilizer too, especially a little bit of liquid fertilizer every few weeks during the growing season. In your good, well drained soil, it should percolate down into the root zone quickly and thoroughly.

Minis would also like a little more light than you probably want to give them. Babying them in deep shade may be loving them to death. Plus, if you are watering and fertilizing more, they will need more light to photosynthesize more, and grow better. It has been my experience that Northern gardeners generally could grow all their hostas in more sunlight. Just do not cook them, remember minis will dehydrate faster than large hostas because of their shorter roots.

All this extra this and extra that is leading me to say that minis grown well need their own special place in the garden. Maybe you need a special bed of specially prepared soil with small rocks scattered about to moderate temperatures and retain moisture (a rock garden?). Somewhere safe from surface tree roots that can easily strangle them and steal their water and nutrients. Somewhere safe from voles that can devour an entire mini in just one bite. Maybe minis are best grown in containers.

In a container, light, soil, water and fertilizer can all be completely controlled. Voles can be foiled and tree roots cut if they dare to penetrate the holes in the bottom of the pot. In the South, we love containers for all these reasons and for almost all of our hostas. We can, however, just leave them outside in the garden all winter without a care in the world. Northern gardeners can not.

There is no need to send your minis south for the winter however. They are easy to overwinter right in your back yard, or in your garage. If you choose to over winter your containers in a garden shed or in your garage, allow your hostas to freeze below 25 degrees two or three times and then bring them in. They should be moist at that time and there is no need to water them except to keep them from getting totally dry. I would put some snow on them occasionally (something I would never recommend to Southern gardeners) to keep them from drying out. Make sure the dormant buds are well underground when you bring them in and add mulch or gravel as necessary.

You can leave your minis outside, if the container can handle the freezing and thawing, by burying them in the ground and giving them a light mulching. If they are in nursery pots you can sink them “pot in pot” and just pop them out again in the spring. You can also put them on their side in a protected place and cover them with pine branches or white plastic and wait for the snow to insulate them. They are better off dry in the winter than wet. (Just make sure you put those pots upright before your hostas emerge, or they will be “goose neck” plants all next season!)

Finally, choose miniature hostas that grow. The smallest and prettiest are not always the most vigorous. Ironically, ‘Pandora’s Box’, for years the most popular of minis, is a difficult plant to grow. I have seen fantastic clumps of it but it needs a little extra care and maybe a special spot. Minis that are fast growers can be divided almost annually to keep them small. Most just pull apart, so it is easy and fun to give the extras to a gardening friend.

So good luck, and if you need a little moral support, I am available. Feel free to email or call.

hostanancy@gmail.com



H. 'Pandora's Box'

Japanese Maples, Great Companion Plants

By Lee Coates

Dazzling, Delightful, More Elegant, and Secret Passion are not only great hosta names, they also describe our gardens. With each passing year gardeners become increasingly sophisticated in what they introduce into their gardens. Hybridizers and nurserymen are working at a feverish rate to supply gardeners with an ever-expanding palette of plant material to work with. Be it plant, shrub, or tree our desire as gardeners for this new material almost always exceeds the supply of new material.



We gather as hosta lovers but it is evident that our interests go far beyond one genus. Follow any group through a garden and they will swoon over the conifers, flowering shrubs, perennial borders, trees and combinations of plant material as well as the hostas. The incorporation of a wide range of plant material and hardscapes into a space defines us as gardeners rather than plant collectors.

One species of plant that is making popular inroads into many gardens are the Japanese maples. This family of plants (*Acer palmatum*) contains hundreds of varieties with a wide variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. They can be grown in full sun yet tolerate some shade. They have a small compact root system so they work well in combination with other plants.

Having been given the opportunity to vend maples and conifers at many of the hosta conventions over the past few years I receive the same questions about growing requirements from many attendees. Will these trees grow here? Do

they need shade? Why does my neighbor's tree grow and mine always dies? These are some of the questions I receive.

Here are the recommendations I make to potential customers. Japanese maples are hardy to zone 5 with protection. While they might look dainty they are tough and can withstand temps to minus 20 degrees. They need to be planted in a location protected from the harsh winds. With their compact and shallow root systems they cannot absorb enough moisture after the soil freezes to keep the limbs from desiccating during winter.

Most varieties like full sun or at least six hours of full sun per day. If placed in shadier conditions maples will not grow as fast or exhibit their normal foliage brilliance. It is the exhibition of these bright and unusual colors which becomes a Japanese maple's crowning glory. With the hundreds of varieties of maples spring foliage can include a wide range of colors; pinks, purples, reds, oranges, gold, yellows, greens, or combinations of those colors. Many varieties exhibit color changes during the growing season then evolve into an explosion of fall color. Providing unique colors to the garden early and late in the growing season when color from other plant material is not available is one of their most desirable traits.

Japanese maples like a well drained yet constantly moist environment but will not tolerate wet feet. Amend heavy soils with lots of organic material and mulch well with almost any organic material. The decomposing organic mulch is the perfect fertilizer. If you feel the need to fertilize at all do it lightly early in the spring. Maples fertilized later in the year respond well to the fertilizer but will push rapid growth that will not harden before dormancy and will result in die-back during the winter.



If you live in an area that is not a suitable environment for having maples in your garden consider growing a maple as a container plant. Incorporate a small maple with mini hostas, small ground covers, or maybe even a miniature conifer in a combination planter. All the maple will ask for is a well drained growing medium that stays consistently moist and is a little on the acidic side.

The container will need to be placed in a protected environment during the extremes of winter. Maples roots start to show damage at temperatures below fifteen degrees. When plants in the container go dormant you will need to place the container in a location where the temperatures stay between twenty and forty degrees for the duration of winter. Pots can be sunk into the garden and mulched well or placed in an unheated building to satisfy the plant's requirements for dormancy. Check your container for moisture every couple of weeks and water as necessary to maintain slight moistness throughout the dormant season.

Place your container back outdoors prior to the plants breaking dormancy. This allows your container to come back to life at a normal pace. Should you experience a late season cold snap the container can be placed back in a protected location until danger or frost has past.

If it was ease of growth, range of size, or the unique colors of foliage that attracted you to hosta as a great garden plant, then you will be in for a treat as you discover that Japanese maples possess those same characteristics. Their only truly limiting factor is their hardiness and that can be overcome by a resourceful zone challenged gardener. You will find that Japanese maples can and will complement your garden!

The Schanke / Barnhart Garden

Bob Schanke and Jack Barnhart have lived in their Pleasant Hill Iowa home for 20 years, both having retired and having 24/7 time available. Bob, a retired Professor of Theater from Central Iowa works at maintaining the yard, while Jack, retired from social work had focused on “projects” (see below). For them, retirement does not mean just sitting back and relaxing.



Their yard is heavy shaded with extremely large and dense trees, and drops over 50 feet from house level, that’s both their house of residence and now semi-famous treehouse. Jack notes that while there are less than 50 varieties of hosta he’s been dividing them over and over again to where they now total around 4,000 plants. From one good healthy hosta he’s been able to get six or more growing divisions; as long as there’s some root they’ve grown. Evidently, their soil is rich as they’ve grown well in just the dirt, not needing any special amendments or chemicals.



Following Jack’s retirement 10 years ago he found a project that kept him busy for a few years, actually for over six years, building an unforgettable treehouse in their back yard, 40-50 feet up in the air. The treehouse has electricity and cable for their TV, a microwave, refrigerator, and is nicely decorated inside with a rooftop deck above the treehouse for a commanding view of their landscape. Jack also built a walkway leading from the rear of the main house to

the treehouse, definitely better than climbing a ladder or multiple stairs to get to their cottage in a tree. Definitely notable was that Jack's carpentry skills are top notch and the walkway and house are stable and solid. Quite a precarious and major undertaking for someone to start after well past their 60th birthday. Nothing like hammering nails into lumber and tree while hanging from high up tree limbs.

From either the house or well constructed wood footbridge you can look down and see the small ravine running through their property below, highlighted by large numbers of *Hosta* 'Gold Standards' and other yellows. On one bank sits a professionally installed waterfall feature constructed of Colorado red rock, dedicated to Momma.



Bob and Jack's gardens and treehouse, or perhaps aerial cottage being more aptly descriptive, has housed both parties and charity events, drawing in hundreds of visitors and thousands of dollars benefiting their local food pantry and homeless youth centers.

Further information and photos can be viewed online at: www.treehouseadventure.com

Don Musak, Mississippi Valley Hosta Society



Renaldo's Garden



As our bus pulled up in front of Reldon's home, the bus driver had us all wondering if we had turned on the wrong street. Not only were we scratching our heads, but it appeared the bus driver was too. Getting off the bus and being directed to the driveway, we all followed each other wondering where we were headed and what lay ahead. The front gave no clue as to what was to unfold. Once we found the path and the welcoming sign of "Renaldo's Garden", we were eager to see the magic he had created. You see, as of August 2009, this yard had no idea it was going to be a lovely garden and be on the Midwest Regional Garden Tour the very next July.

In August 2009, all Reldon's hostas and companion plants were happy and content at their home in Corning, Iowa. But that was soon to change. Reldon started digging and potting up his 600 plus hostas to transport them to Ankeny, Iowa for the winter. He made many 200+ mile round-trips to and from Corning to Ankeny in a pick-up truck to get the hostas to their new home. Now it just needed the master's touch.

Reldon found himself where many of us have started in our own gardens. He had a blank canvas with all the components needed to work with for a shade garden...high canopy trees for dappled light and a creek running at the back for atmosphere. Most of us take our time and have years to work on new areas, but this had to be ready for July. What a challenge he had ahead of him!



As we walked the path and entered his garden, which was nestled between the house and creek, I knew immediately he had a talent for design.

It was not the 'WOW' factor nor huge hostas that attracted me, but an overall feeling of peace and beauty. As I looked forward I could see the meandering paths that led to different areas of the garden.

Many of the eye-catching color groupings consisted of hostas, containers of hostas, inspirational sayings written on rocks, and companion plants such as sedums, grasses, heucheras and more. Several areas include a chair, swing or bench to sit; a quiet, peaceful place for reflection...or to talk with your friends.



I enjoyed Reldon's artistic settings and the use of containers for accents. He had so many different pots...big ones...little ones...bluish ones...reddish ones! They were nicely arranged at different heights, placing many of them on the stumps of the trees that he had cut down. Sometimes there would be three and sometimes more in a grouping. Many of the plant combinations he used were based on 'family' relationships. One of his favorite includes "Halcyon", 'June', 'English Sunrise' and 'Remember Me'.

Personally, my favorite spot was the wooden chair sitting at the edge of the gardens overlooking the creek. With just the sound of the rippling water, the knowledge you were surrounded by a beautiful garden was magical.



I was lucky enough, after the convention, to again visit and spend more time in Reldon's garden. I could see the additional improvements he had already made. As this garden matures, it will get better and better. Signs of his hard work were still evident, and I could see that the potential for this garden is endless but for one thing...it may be up 'For Sale'. It may be a good thing he has used containers for all his hostas. He may have to move them again.



Judi Pohorsky



Alan and Emily Munson's Toad Hall Garden



Toad Hall Garden has a lightly forested arboretum of approximately four acres along the roadside with the house and swimming pool set at the far edge of the Munson's extensive tree collection. The house is situated at the top of a steep ridge and overlooks a steep drop to the rear of the property which is heavily forested with native hardwoods. The whole property is approximately twelve acres. The gardening efforts began in 1975.

Their extensive tree and woody plant collection includes dwarf conifers, viburnums, and magnolias. Their plant collection is diverse including about 150 hosta varieties and a number of day-lilies. To my eye the most stunning feature was just beyond the swimming pool and along the east bluff which was covered with a deep carpet of *Hosta ventricosa* in full bloom during our visit. While I have seen large plantings of a single cultivar in other garden settings, I have never seen such a large grouping of a single cultivar before. This is likely a glimpse of how they must appear in their native habitat.



H. 'American Gothic'

The entire site is not precisely devoted to gardening but individual garden areas are to be found throughout the site. In one we found a fairly mature copy of the convention gift plant, *H. 'American Gothic'* - a sport of a seedling of 'Color Fantasy' x 'Sea Drift' featuring a blue-green center and wide yellow margin which becomes white later in the season.

This garden was the site of the convention picnic which was served out of the owner's spotless garage. After the meal there was a delicious homemade desert which was very special. Some of the group toured the extensive residence. I remember our bus driver saying that the master bedroom suite was larger than his whole house which I can well believe. There was an entirely furnished ice-cream parlor. The house was somewhat reflective of the whole site, having different pockets or environments featuring thematic collections from the Munson's travels and various interests. The house was certainly as much of a pleasure to view as were the grounds.



Submitted by John Van Ostrand



Ted and Ann Davidson Garden



Hostas Are Great! So says Ted Davidson when summing up his collection of approximately 250 hosta. Ted and Ann have lived in their current location for 39 years.

The quarter acre lot has limited shade which has impacted the number of hosta they can add to their collection. Ted says they only add three or four hosta each year and the challenge they face each spring is choosing which hosta to add to the collection on their wooded hillside.

The hosta bug bit Ted and Ann in 1972 when they began collecting in earnest. Russ O’Harra was an early mentor and they tried to focus their collection initially on O’Harra specimens before branching out to include other varieties. Ted credits other growers as a key benefit to membership in local hosta and garden clubs and tries to learn as much as possible from other hosta growers.

An emphatic NO was Ted’s answer to whether or not he would change his garden if he had to do it over again. There aren’t too many gardeners who wouldn’t change something in their garden if they had a chance.



H. ‘Arc de Triomphe’

Text from convention booklet



Pauline and William (Bill) Niebur Garden

Most hosta growers confess to similar challenges when describing their gardens: deer, shade, slugs, bugs, erosion and strong water runoff, but the Nieburs' have added an inner city lot, enormous deer pressure from the adjoining forest and large spaces needing scale and character to their list of adversaries.

Bill is the global head of the Research and Development department for an agricultural seed company and he is a PhD trained plant breeder. The Nieburs' began their Foster Drive project in 1998 after returning from an assignment in Europe and they began transplanting and collecting hosta in 1998 to bring color to a very shady environment. Today the evolving collection of approximately 50 hosta represents the first phase of a plan to diversify the garden through new varieties and species to add depth and interest to their garden.



After 12 years of gardening at their current location, the Nieburs' would like to build greater biodiversity through selective additional plantings and landscaping to help with the erosion and rain water problem. Barry Laws, their mentor, friend and advisor, has worked with them to address many of the most pressing issues. It is their hope that by meeting fellow gardeners through the hosta society they will identify new ideas to help their garden bloom with creativity.

Bill's favorite hosta is *H. 'Mouse Ears'*, "as they just find a place to prosper and co-exist without interfering with others or calling attention to themselves."

Text from convention booklet



Russ' Legacy



The history of this garden is well known, as many of the guests on tour knew both Russ and Rosanne. Daughter Joan moved back to Des Moines from a high-rise in Minneapolis six years after Russ' death. By that time the garden was in a state of extreme neglect, with deer bedding down in the garden every winter. Joan didn't think there was much hope of returning the garden to its former glory, but gradually she came to realize that the garden could be brought back and she doubled her efforts to get it into shape.

Joan acknowledges many hardscape problems with the garden today, including uneven walkways and a heaving driveway. As for the landscape, the soil is in dire need of amending, as much of it has reverted to clay. However, the biggest problem she has with the garden is trying to live up to the standard of excellence set by her father. Joan says she can almost hear Russ whispering in her ear, telling her what she is doing wrong. But every once in a while, she imagines him thanking her for keeping his dream alive, and that is the

fuel that keeps her going.

The hosta in the garden are primarily those in place when Russ was the gardener. Joan's sister, Mary, has kept many of Russ' hosta growing in her Minneapolis garden and has shared them with Joan to fill any open spots that may exist.

Joan confesses not to know the names of many of the hosta in the garden, but she loves the interplay of size, color and texture. Her plan for



the future is to "make the garden the most beautiful,

healthy, happy garden it can be." Joan's intention is not to make the garden a shrine to Russ. She does, however, pay homage to her father for his enduring vision of the garden and his artistic flair.



One aspect that differentiates the O'Harra garden is Rosanne's willingness to open up her home and show off her collections of stained glass and antiques. She considers the house and the garden a package deal. So before or after your tour of the garden, stop in the house - Rosanne would be delighted to show you around.

Text from convention booklet

Rick and Teresa Innis Garden

Due to the owners' participation in the convention, this garden was open for tours after the MRHS convention only.

The Morning Glory is what we call our little place in the country. The house is a 1908 Sears & Roebuck catalog home, brought in by railroad. We have owned the property for 21 years, but just retired there three years ago.

Our garden fits in nicely with the American Gothic theme. We have approximately 300 hostas, accessorized with early 20th century stuff: a chicken coop, veggie garden, authentic outhouse, and lots and lots of rocks.



Text from convention booklet

Editor's note:

Look carefully at the picture on the right. Notice the fence along the hosta bed. It is constructed using sheets of steel which are the waste product of a stamping operation. Creative, amazing and beautiful! I wanted to hire a flatbed and visit the stamping plant.



American Hosta Society HVX Research Update

The American Hosta Society is dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in the nursery trade.

The AHS Board of Directors works hard to define and balance the activities and focus of the Society. Most ongoing activities are delegated to specific committees that function under the guidance of the Committee Chair and report to the President and the Board of Directors at regular intervals. In addition, many committees report their progress at AHS meetings and publish their findings (particularly in the areas of basic sciences and nomenclature) in The Hosta Journal.

To read about the entire HVX research project go to: www.hosta.org/HostaVirusX.html
More photos are available at: www.hosta.org/PDF/HostaViruses.pdf

Cynthia Miller Wilhoite, AHS VP Genus Hosta



Hosta 'Gold Standard' with HVX

Hosta Virus X is a member of the plant virus genus *Potexvirus*. Potexviruses characteristically become highly concentrated in infected plants and are very stable outside the plant cell. They are not spread by insects, mites, fungi, nematodes, seed or pollen. Viruses like HVX are known to be spread only by vegetative propagation of infected mother plants or by infected plant sap that enters a healthy plant via non-lethal tissue damage (wounding). This mode of virus spread may possibly occur during normal gardening and commercial production, but there is no empirical evidence of its occurrence or probability. This research project is designed to provide research-based information.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The study was designed by the AHS to address the hosta gardener's questions about Hosta Virus X. There are major concerns about this virus in both the home garden and in the ornamental horticultural industry. Our research project was designed to provide empirical data useful to the hosta gardener. An attempt is made in this study to clarify the method of HVX transmission and to understand the dynamics of Hosta Virus X spread, so steps can be taken to protect plants and gardens from the virus.

Transmission of Hosta Virus X (HVX) Under Normal Conditions of Hosta Cultivation and Commercial Production

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF RESEARCH

Hosta Virus X (HVX) was first identified and described at the University of Minnesota in 1996 (Currier and Lockhart, 1996). Since then, HVX has been found to occur widely in the U.S. as well as other countries throughout the world where hostas are grown. The danger posed by HVX to both hobby and commercial hosta cultivation has led to a need for a scientific study of the dynamics of HVX spread, in order to provide hosta growers and producers with the information needed to manage the disease.

Principal Investigators:
Dr. Benham E. Lockhart, PhD, Professor
Grace Anderson, Master of Agriculture
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

WHAT IS THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST HVX?

Know whether the original sources of plants you buy test for HVX. Your retail source for hostas will know where its plants come from and if the original sources test for HVX. Wholesale vendors provide this information to their customers.

AREAS THAT WARRANT FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- Root/soil contamination issues. We found that clean plants could be contaminated by soil and infected debris. We need to study what occurs and why.
- The effectiveness of different cleaning solutions on tools exposed to HVX (important for field crop production).
- Latent development of the virus. Test plants left in the field will be monitored and tested for up to three years to address this issue. We will observe plants inoculated with different isolates of HVX, plants of varying ancestry infected with the virus and plants inoculated by different mechanical means.
- Methods of harvest and propagation by growers.
- The role of harvesting and wash water in spreading the virus.
- Whether HVX is truly hosta-specific.

QUESTION: Are all HVX isolates transmissible?

We collected and mechanically transmitted 15 isolates of HVX. We again noted that the success of **transmission** was not only **dependent on mechanical injury** with new or old infection, but **also on the season** in which the contact occurred.

QUESTION: Are there any HVX resistant hosta varieties?

While this question warrants further study, we were able to infect with HVX all hosta varieties tested under the proper conditions in either the field or greenhouse. At this time **we believe all**

hostas are susceptible to the virus. We understand this to mean that certain varieties are not more or less susceptible. It is the timing of exposure to the virus that will result in infection.

QUESTION: What is the best way for home growers and nurseries to test for HVX?

ELISA testing through Plant Disease Clinics and certified labs is the most reliable method of testing. The new **rapid test strips** are reliable and portable. The strips can be used in the field or greenhouse and work with leaf or root material.



HVX-infected *Hosta* 'Sum and Substance'

QUESTION: Can HVX be transmitted during normal cultivation?

Experiments were done to determine if HVX can be transmitted mechanically via tools, hands, fingers, plant debris in soil, or by root contact. In completed experiments, the virus was transmitted via tools and in soil infected with HVX plant debris, but not via fingers or uninjured root contact.

QUESTION: If HVX can be spread by the described cultivation practices, how long does the virus remain on tools and in soil?

Infected plant material kept in the refrigerator at 39°F (4°C) remained infective for more than nine weeks. Fresh infected plant material was always infective. Soil with HVX plant debris and root material was infective for more than two years. **It is necessary to remove all infected live plant debris before reusing soil.** Broken roots and plant parts can infect new plants.

QUESTION: If HVX remains infective on contaminated tools or in soil, what practical measures can be used to eliminate it?

All tested methods of decontamination— household detergent (Dawn), 70% alcohol and 10% solution of household bleach—were effective in eliminating infectivity of the virus. The decontamination process included intense scrubbing and cleaning of tools, hands, and pots to remove plant material, soil and sap. Viral material was visibly dislodged. **It is not enough to simply dip tools in cleaning solution. Tools must be scrubbed free of all dirt and debris.**

QUESTION: Is HVX transmission dose-dependent (titer-dependent)?

No difference in infectivity or speed of infectivity was related to the source or dose of the virus isolate. A significant difference in the rate of infectivity was dependent on the stage of plant growth. The virus was most easily transmitted **prior** to flowering and when the plant was rapidly growing in spring. **We were not able to transmit the virus while the plants were flowering in late summer/fall or dormant.**

Scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011, a Phase 2 Research Project will study the HVX transmission issues in more detail. Contact Rob Mortko for more information on how to participate.

Rob@HostaGuy.com

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Mid-West Regional Hosta Society

July 9, 2010 -Des Moines, Iowa

The annual meeting of the Mid-West Regional Hosta Society was called to order by President Lou Horton at 7:22 pm on Friday, July 9th. After reading the names of the winners of the silent auction being held that evening to benefit the MRHS, the following were brought before the membership:

Barbara Schroeder, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the membership to accept the report. Details from the Treasurer's Report will be printed in the Fall issue of the MRHS newsletter, "Hosta Leaves."

CathyWitkowski reported on the results of the Leaf Show.

Two items pertaining to the MRHS By-Laws were brought to the membership for a vote. Both Proposed By-Law Changes had previously been distributed in the newsletter as required by the By-Laws.

First, the membership moved, seconded and unanimously approved to allow the Treasurer to keep track of membership and receive new members (rather than Secretary.)

Second, the membership unanimously approved changing the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30, to January 1 to December 31.

Lou Horton mentioned that a Hosta Virus X report pamphlet, summarizing the results of research to date, is available to MRHS members and members should contact him to get one.

Sally Stewart gave a presentation on behalf of the committee organizing the 2011 MRHS convention to be held in Madison, Wisconsin in July of 2011. After her presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth H. (Betsy) Rogers



By-Laws
Midwest Regional Hosta Society
July 9, 2010

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as “The Midwest Regional Hosta Society”.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Society was organized exclusively as a nonprofit educational society formed to foster and promote knowledge of and interest in the genus Hosta. The Society shall engage only in activities consistent with organizations that are exempt from Federal Income Tax and whose contributions are deductible under Internal Revenue Code Provisions.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- Section 1 Membership in the Society is open to the public, without reservation, upon application for membership and payment of the applicable membership dues.
- Section 2 The membership of the Society shall be divided into the following classes: Family, Life, Charter and Honorary.
- Section 3 The dues of all classes shall be set by the Executive Committee. Dues are payable by the year, becoming due and payable on January 1 and are based on the calendar year.
- Section 4 The honor of Charter Membership is bestowed upon all members who joined the Society prior to January 1977.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCE

- Section 1 The fiscal year of the Society shall be from January 1 to December 31.
- Section 2 The Society shall be supported by membership dues, donations, plant auctions and other fundraising activities.
- Section 3 No funds of the Society shall be used for salaries or other compensation for officers.
- Section 4 A budget shall be prepared annually by the Treasurer.
- Section 5 The proposed budget for the oncoming fiscal year shall be presented for review and approval at the annual meeting. Expenditures under and approved budget may not exceed the total amount of approved expenditures in the budget unless there is an offsetting increase in income, or the expenditures are approved in advance by the Executive Committee.
- Section 6 Necessary expenditures incurred by members of the Executive Committee in the discharge of their duties to the Society shall be paid by the Treasurer, subject to approval of the President. Expenses of any other member of the Executive Committee must have preliminary approval of the President and the Treasurer, prior to expenditure, and be submitted to the Executive Committee for final approval.
- Section 7 In the event of the dissolution of the Society, all assets remaining after payment of legitimate expenses shall be contributed to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

- Section 1 The annual meeting of the Society shall be held at a site and at such time as determined by recommendation of the Convention Chairperson and approval of the Executive Committee. The host group shall schedule a general business meeting, a hosta garden tour, a hosta auction, an accredited cut leaf show, and a judge's clinic.
- Section 2 At least 25 members constitute a quorum.
- Section 3 Special meetings may be called by any member of the Executive Committee.
- Section 4 Scientific Meetings shall be called annually.
- Section 5 The minutes of the actions of the Society shall be recorded by the Secretary.
- Section 6 Monies received from the hosta auction shall be retained by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society.
- Section 7 The sale of other plants shall be retained by the host society.
- Section 8 Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, unless otherwise specified herein, shall govern all business meetings.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- Section 1 The officers of the Society shall consist of the following: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER EDITOR, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT and AHS REGIONAL DIRECTOR. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- Section 2 Vacancies other than the Presidency occurring between meetings shall be filled by appointment of the President.
- Section 3 The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society. The President shall appoint all Committee Chairpersons, shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and shall perform such duties as the advancement of the interests of the Society require. The President shall report on the state of the Society to the membership at the annual meeting and in the publications of the Society.
- Section 4 The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President. He/she shall perform any other duties incumbent upon the office.
- Section 5 The Secretary shall record the minutes of the Executive Committee including Internet minutes, Annual and Scientific meetings, and actions taken. The Secretary shall provide all minutes to the *Hosta Leaves* editor for publication
- Section 6 The Treasurer shall receive all funds from payments of memberships and all other funds of the Society, be responsible for all Society monies; discharge accounts payable by check and maintain adequate financial records, prepare and render an annual report at the annual meeting, and authorize publication of the annual financial report to the general membership. The Treasurer shall receive all new memberships, maintain a current membership list, and provide the same to the *Hosta Leaves* editor. When the Treasurer retires or resigns from office, or elects to serve more than two terms, the books must be audited.
- Section 7 The Regional Director of the American Hosta Society (AHS) shall also serve on the Board of Directors for the AHS, and act as a liaison between the AHS and The Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS). He/she shall communicate

between the Board of Directors of the AHS and the Executive Committee of the MRHS.

- Section 8 The Editor shall be responsible for publishing the official Society publication, *Hosta Leaves*. The publication shall contain material that is of interest to all members of the Society, and such material shall be in keeping with the purpose and intent of the Society. Publication will be on a timely basis.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

- Section 1 The President shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, chairpersons of Standing Committees, Historian and Parliamentarian.
- Section 2 The Nominations Committee shall consist of at least three members elected at the annual meeting prior to the elections.

ARTICLE VIII – TERMS OF OFFICE

- Section 1 The term of all officers who constitute the Executive Committee is two years. Two consecutive terms constitute maximum tenure for the President and Vice President, excluding appointment for vacancies occurring to fill unexpired terms. Elections shall be held annually as necessary.
- Section 2 All Committee Chairpersons, the Historian and Parliamentarian serve only at the appointment of President.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1 These bylaws shall be amended at any annual meeting when an amendment is submitted in writing to the Executive Committee and published in the Society publication prior to that Annual Meeting. This must be approved by a two-thirds vote of those members voting.
- Section 2 These bylaws shall be reviewed annually to assure that they continue to reflect the purpose and operations of the Society.

ARTICLE X – ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

The bylaws shall be declared adopted when approved by a majority vote of the members at an Annual Meeting.

Wanted

Host Societies for the 2013 and 2014 MRHS Conventions. If your local group has never or not recently hosted a convention, please consider doing your part by hosting one of these convention openings.

MRHS Budget versus Actual

7/1/2009 – 6/30/2010

Category	Actual	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget Recommendation	Change from 2009-2010 Budget
Convention	\$4,700.60	\$4,575.00	\$4,575.00	\$0.00
Income-Interest	\$3.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership	<u>\$4,572.01</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,660.00</u>	<u>\$160.00</u>
Subtotal	\$9,275.71	\$6,075.00	\$6,235.00	\$160.00
Grants	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	-\$10.00	\$0.00	-\$360.00	-\$360.00
Newsletter	-\$7,784.40	-\$6,500.00	-\$7,000.00	-\$500.00
Internet Site	-\$211.42	-\$200.00	-\$225.00	-\$25.00
Winter Scientific	<u>-\$4,018.08</u>	<u>-\$4,000.00</u>	<u>-\$4,450.00</u>	<u>-\$450.00</u>
Subtotal	(\$13,023.90)	(\$10,700.00)	(\$13,035.00)	(\$2,335.00)
Totals	<u>(\$3,748.19)</u>	<u>(\$4,625.00)</u>	<u>(\$6,800.00)</u>	<u>(\$2,175.00)</u>
Current Net Worth	\$27,307.20			

Additional Notes:

The good news is that our Convention for 2010 brought in \$2,000 more than we had budgeted (after expenses). If the rest of our budget goes as planned, we will have over 5 years before we have spent all of our reserves.

The Budget item for Grants and Miscellaneous is to support the AHS Online Auction Award the MRHS sponsors as well as the DeEtta Montgomery Service Award and AHS HVX research.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Schroeder
Treasurer

Winter Scientific Meeting Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is once again sponsoring the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 22, 2011 at a new venue – the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. Lisle is located twenty miles south of Schaumburg, where the Winter Scientific Meeting has been held in previous years. The hotel has given us a \$79.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations by calling 877-999-3223, and mention the “Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting” to guarantee the rate.

We have an outstanding program of speakers with interesting and timely topics:

Bob Solberg – What Ploidy Really Means to the Hosta Grower

Kevin Walek – The Hosta World from the Point of View of the Hosta Registrar – (The increasing problem of registering plants he thinks should not be registered)

Mark Zilis – Hostas of Distinction

Glenn Herold – Major Minor – (Utilizing hardy bulbs in the garden)

Again this year, the program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. The topics covered in these sessions will be:

Session A: So You Want to get Your Photo Published in the Hosta Journal (by Ken Harris)

Session B: What’s New with Hydrangeas (by Dave Wanninger)

Session C: Hybridizer’s Perspective – Are Our Hostas Going to the Dogs? (by Ron Livingston)

These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions.

Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a portion of the cost of the meeting.

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$50 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$60 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail before January 10, 2011, with the registration form to:

Kristine James
523 E. Calhoun Street
Woodstock Ill. 60098

Registrations postmarked after January 10 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.

Registration at the hotel will begin on Friday, January 21, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, and Saturday, January 22 from 7:00 am – 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, both Friday and Saturday nights, for all that good hosta fellowship.

Questions? Contact Lou Horton (630-293-7735) or email: lehorton85@ameritech.net

2011 Winter Scientific Meeting Registration Form

Make a copy of this registration form for your records. If you would like confirmation of your registration, list a valid email address or enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please **PRINT CLEARLY**. Fill out registration form completely.

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the member's household are also MRHS members.

ATTENDEE 1:

Name: _____ Member of MRHS Non-member
Address: _____
City: _____ If a non-member, do you want your
State: _____ \$10 surcharge applied to a one-year
Zip : _____ FAMILY membership in the
Phone: _____ Midwest Regional Hosta Society?
e-mail: _____ YES NO
 Please confirm my reservation by email

ATTENDEE 2: Address same as Attendee 1

Name: _____ Member of MRHS Non-member
Address: _____
City: _____ If a non-member, do you want your
State: _____ \$10 surcharge applied to a one-year
Zip : _____ FAMILY membership in the Midwest
Phone: _____ Regional Hosta Society?
e-mail: _____ YES NO
 Please confirm my reservation by email

Registrations postmarked after January 10 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.

Cancellations before January 10 will be sent a full refund.
We will be unable to issue refunds after Jan. 10, 2011.

Number of Members _____ x \$50 _____
Number of Non-Members _____ x \$60 _____
Number of Late Registrations _____ x \$10 _____
Total _____

Please make checks payable to MRHS.

Questions about registration? Contact Kristine: email dankrisj@mc.net or phone 815-337-4621

Mail your registration to:
Kristine James
523 E Calhoun Street
Woodstock IL 60098

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Show 2011 Madison, Wisconsin

By Irwin Johnson

All hosta enthusiasts are invited to the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention next July 7, 8, and 9 in Madison, Wisconsin. Many of our members across these mid-western states have never been to a hosta convention.

What is a hosta convention? A hosta convention is an event put on by hostaphiles which includes many enjoyable and educational activities centered around the genus *Hosta*. Convention attendees gather ideas and examples of ways to improve their gardens and learn more about this most popular perennial plant. These activities include:

Garden Tours-Attendees will tour five private gardens, where you will see hostas new to you, displayed and grouped in ways also new to you, with companion plants also perhaps new to you.

Leaf Show-We will have a hosta leaf show; after judging Friday afternoon you will be able to see which were judged the best, again providing you with ideas as to possible additions to your garden. There are more than 100 categories of hostas judged. There will also be artistic displays to admire, and a special category of new hosta seedlings and sports.

Plant Sales-Selling hostas will be vendors from North Carolina, Washington, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. You will be able to purchase hostas Thursday, Friday, and Saturday [after you have seen the hosta show and the five gardens]. Hosta resource books will be available, including Mark Zilis' Hostapedia.

Auction-We Will have an auction Friday evening [silent, and live bidding!], during which you can acquire even more new hostas.

Judging Clinic-We will offer Judging Clinic #1 Friday morning. This is the first requirement to becoming a hosta judge, and will cost \$10, or you can download the required materials on your computer at home.

Food-We will have a Pig Roast Friday evening, overlooking beautiful Lake Monona and the state capitol building; a banquet Saturday evening, with a cash bar; a buffet breakfast Saturday morning, and a box lunch Saturday midday.

Banquet-Our banquet speaker will be Ed Lyon, Director of Allen Centennial Garden on the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin. Speaking Friday afternoon, while the hosta show is being judged, will be Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture of Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin [an AHS Display garden]; and Robert Simiele, who links beautiful pictures of hostas with beautiful music.

HOSTATALITY-In the evenings, after vending Thursday evening, after the auction Friday evening, and after the banquet Saturday evening, we will have "HOSTATALITY," with water, soda, or beer, and snacks, on us!

We will be housed in the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 1 (800) 325-3535, or 1 (608) 251-2300, where the special room rate will be \$103 plus tax.

Questions? Irwin Johnson, (262) 786-1758, irwinjohnson@wi.rr.com, or, 13685 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

We invite you to join over 3,000 other hosta enthusiasts as members of the American Hosta Society. Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research having to do with hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families. Membership checks should be made out to "AHS," and mailed to Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948-7539. Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family. Joining AHS will enable you to attend our national conventions, next year hosted by the New England Hosta Society, 2012 hosted by the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society.

Advertise in the *Hosta Leaves*

Contact Floyd Rogers for publishing deadlines and more details. (630) 858-3538 or fmrogersf@noctrl.edu



Full Color Ads:			
Size	Single Issue	Full Year	Dimensions
Full page	\$275	\$475	6½" x 9½"
1/2 page	175	300	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	90	155	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	45	80	3½" x 2"
Black & White Ads:			
Size	Single Issue	Full Year	Dimensions
Full page	\$100	\$175	6½" x 9½"
1/2 page	55	95	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	40	70	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	30	50	3½" x 2"

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Floyd Rogers, Newsletter Editor
1819 Coventry Dr
Champaign, IL 61822
mrhs.editor@midwesthostasociety.org

BULK RATE
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REQUIRED

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Bulk Mail Issue

Because of the use of bulk mail (at a substantial savings), mail will not be forwarded. Members must, therefore, notify Barb Schroeder, the Treasurer, each time their address changes. This can be done via email (barbschrol@gmail.com), phone (217) 359-2868, or snail mail at the address on the newsletter cover.

Please check the expiration date on the label located above this notice.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

Our Regional Society is composed of over 300 members in AHS Region Five (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and many members from other states. We publish a twice-a-year newsletter, hold an annual convention each summer, and hold the Winter Scientific Meeting each January in Lisle, Illinois. To join, or renew membership, please send a check for \$20 (ten dollars per year) to Barb Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr., Champaign, IL 61822. Next summer's convention will be held in Madison, WI, 2012 in Rochester, MN. Our conventions include a Hosta Show; a Judges' Clinic; garden tours; speakers; vendors of hostas, companion plants, and garden art; a lively auction; a sit-down banquet and a buffet dinner; and lots of hospitality and fellowship!